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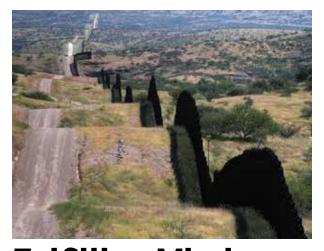
UNPRECEDENTED: Auxiliary Bishops Michael Pham and Felipe Pulido are ready to serve the diocese after their episcopal ordination on Sept. 28 at St. Thérèse of Carmel Church. For the first time, the diocese ordained two bishops at a time, one of them with roots in Vietnam. Now the diocese will have three auxiliary bishops, also a first.



Sessions Begin Parishes and schools hosting dialogues in October focused on the Eucharist. **Page 2**



School Safety Catholic educators dedicated to making campuses even safer. Page 4



Fulfilling Mission Catholic Charities assisting most vulnerable immigrants legally in the U.S. asking for asylum. **Page 5**



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#SOUTHERN

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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.

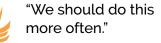
MORE FOR YOU

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



Parishes Hosting Synod Dialogues

By Aida Bustos



That's what many said after participating in small-group sessions at their parishes in the San Diego Diocese last year.

That's precisely what the Catholic Church is asking all faithful to do, no matter their rank: Come together, listen to one another, and discern what God is "asking us to do at this moment," as Cardinal Robert W. McElroy has said.

This process is at the heart of a synod that is occurring throughout October in the Diocese of San Diego and 6,000 miles away in Rome.

Locally, parishes and schools will be meeting again in small groups, this time focusing on the Eucharist. These dialogues once more will be held in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, and there will be special sessions at parishes and schools for youth.

The format will be the same as last year. Eight or so participants will sit around a circle, and take turns sharing their experiences, prompted by three questions, as the others listen. A notetaker will capture the key information, which will be summarized and submitted to the diocese. No one's names will be recorded.

And just like last year, the diocese will analyze the information and share key findings with the community early next year. Pastors will receive a summary of what their community members said, as well.

Some pastors have begun to make changes at their parishes to respond to the concerns expressed by their community members in last year's small-group sessions.

The Church's goal is for parishes, schools, ministries and dioceses themselves to adopt this "synodal" process — infusing them with the energy of coming together — which over time will lead to their renewal.

Deacon Terry Hannify of St. Michael

<image>

RESPITE: Father Chris Bongato and Katrina Albrandt, members of the San Diego synod commission advising Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, shared a light moment at the Sept. 13 meeting.

Your Voice Counts

Parishes invite everyone to participate in smallgroup dialogues they are hosting in October. The sessions, to be focused on the Eucharist, will be in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Please check with your parish for dates and times and register to participate.

Parish in Poway recently reflected on last year's small-group sessions. He said that the idea of having to gather a large number of parishioners together as everyone was emerging from the pandemic seemed daunting.

"But that's exactly what we needed and at a time when we truly needed it the most," he said.

"We witnessed the power of the synodal process, the bringing together of hundreds of people in small groups who ordinarily would not have done so."

People from all walks came together to share their individual experiences, their frustrations and their hopes for the Church, he said.

"As a result, we saw connections and friendships that were being formed, or re-formed. All of which contributed to the reawakening of our Eucharistic parish life that we had been missing."

Cardinal McElroy will be among the hundreds invited to participate in the synod being held in Rome from Oct. 4 to 29. They, too, will meet mostly in small groups to discuss the main synod themes: synodality, communion, mission and participation.

On Sept. 13, the cardinal gathered the members of the diocesan synod commissions from San Diego and the Imperial Valley and the Pastoral Council to hear from them what concerns they would like raised in Rome.

More information: sdcatholic.org/synod





CIRCLE: The diocese's synod commissions and Pastoral Council gathered on Sept. 13 at the Pastoral Center to share their thoughts about what issues should be raised at the synod in Rome. Robert Ehnow lighted a candle to start a session.

Synod to Focus on Church and Its Role in World

By Cindy Wooden



voden VATICAN CITY — When Pope Francis

was introduced to the world from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, he spoke to the crowd about taking up a journey, "bishop and people," a "journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us."

He did not mention the Synod of Bishops in that greeting March 13, 2013, nor did he issue one of his now-frequent appeals to ensure a more "synodal Church."

But the inspiration behind the assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which opens Oct. 4, can be seen in his very first words as pope and in his course-setting exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), which emphasized the responsibility of all the baptized for the life of the Church and, especially, its evangelizing mission.

Unlike earlier meetings of the Synod of Bishops, which focused on a specific issue or a specific region of the world, the "synod on synodality" is focused on the Church itself: Who belongs? How are leadership and authority exercised? How does the Church discern God's call? How can it

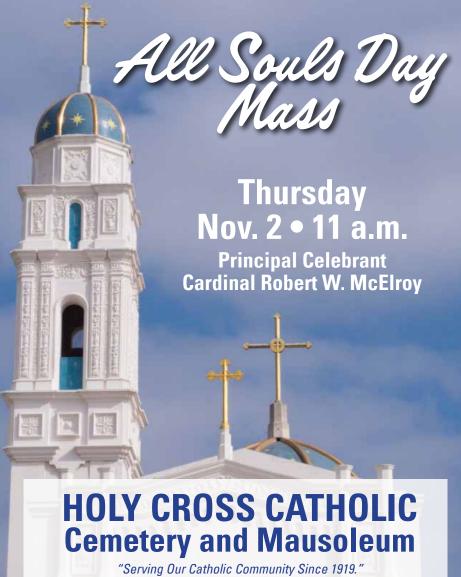


EXPANSION: Xavière Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, spoke to reporter Iacopo Scaramuzzi in the Vatican press office April 26, 2023. The Vatican had just announced Pope Francis' decision to have women and laymen as voting members of the synod.

fulfill its mandate to share the Gospel with a changing world?

Members of the synod assembly are being asked to reflect on the characteristics they believe are essential for building a "synodal Church" by starting from what they heard from people who participated in the local, diocesan, national and continental listening sessions.

It's not a synod on whether and how Catholic parishes can be more welcoming of LGBT Catholics, how it can recognize and encourage the leader-



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ship of women or how it can foster the involvement of young people — but those questions are part of the discussion about how to increase a sense of unity or communion, promote participation and strengthen the missionary outreach of the Church.

The questions, and dozens more, have come up repeatedly in the synod process, which began in October 2021 with parish and other local listening sessions and is scheduled to go through October 2024 with a second assembly at the Vatican.

Almost every time someone mentions the synod within earshot of the pope, Pope Francis insists "it's not a parliament."

And the pope and a preparatory commission have spent months working on ways to ensure the 378 full members of the synod (including Cardinal Robert W. McElroy), the eight special guests and 75 experts, facilitators and staff have an experience of "spiritual conversation." The synod office describes this as intense, prayerful listening that pays attention at the same time to spiritual movements in oneself and in the other person.

Creating and protecting an environment where such conversations can take place — and where people truly are open to changing their minds — has been a matter of strategizing, planning and intense debate as advisers to the pope and the synod office also try to help the entire Catholic Church understand how the process is working and whether the hopes and concerns they shared early in the synod process were heard.

A regular rhythm of shared prayer — both publicly and among synod members only — is planned throughout the Oct. 4-29 synod assembly.

All the members of the synod which include lay women and men for the first time — will spend three days together on retreat outside of Rome. They will return to the Vatican for the opening Mass of the synod Oct. 4 and will celebrate Mass together before beginning work on each main synod theme: synodality, communion, mission and participation.

Pope Francis told reporters in early September the synod would be "very open" with regular updates from the synod's communication commission, but "it is necessary to safeguard the religiosity and safeguard the freedom of those who speak," so apparently synod members will be asked not to share with reporters the contents of their own or other members' remarks to the synod.

The notoriously stuffy atmosphere characterized by hours of speeches in the Vatican Synod Hall will disappear. The synod assembly will be held in the much larger Vatican audience hall with its rows of seats removed to make way for round tables to promote constant interactions.

More of the work will be conducted in small groups, organized by language and by the themes of interest to participants. The plenary sessions are designed for a general introduction of the various themes and for reporting the results of the small-group discussions. Members will not stay in the same small groups throughout the assembly but change when the themes they are working on change.

According to the working document, "the last segment of the work of the assembly will be dedicated to gathering the fruits of the process, that is, discerning the paths we will continue to walk together. The assembly will consider ways to continue reading the experience of the people of God, including through promoting the necessary in-depth theological and canonical studies in preparation for the second session of the synodal assembly in October 2024."

Catholic News Service

'Realistic' Training Strengthens School Safety

By Denis Grasska

Elizabeth Joseph was barricaded inside a room with fellow Catholic school educators on Aug. 2 when the gunshots started.

Once law enforcement gave them the all-clear to go outside, they saw the many wounded bodies sprawled on the ground and began what Joseph described as "the chilling process" of trying to stop their bleeding.

The guns that day were loaded with blanks. And the victims' blood, which felt so real as it gushed over Joseph's hands, was fake.

No one wants to imagine a scenario in which there is an active shooter on campus, or where the lives of seriously wounded students may depend on whether a faculty member knows how to apply a tourniquet properly.

But local Catholic school educators are forcing themselves to contemplate the unthinkable, all in the name of protecting the children entrusted to their care.

Three-member teams from 43 Catholic elementary schools are participating in the San Diego County Office of Education's intensive, four-day Diamond Safety Team Training series, which puts them through intensely realistic simulations of crisis situations, equips them with practical threatassessment strategies, and ultimately will help them to develop a comprehensive campus-safety plan.

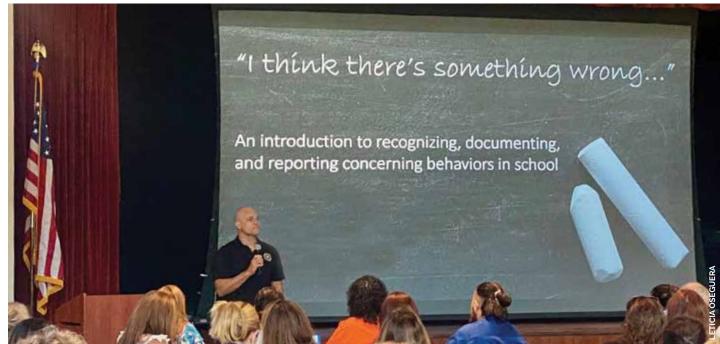
Educators from local Catholic high schools also will have the opportunity to begin the training in October.

"It's better to be prepared and not need this training — and that is what we pray for every single day," said Leticia Oseguera, diocesan superintendent of schools. "But we want to make sure that, should any type of situation arise, even if it's minimal, that our leaders, our teachers feel confident, feel prepared."

Tim Ware, coordinator of school safety and security services for the San Diego County Office of Education, said Diamond Safety Team Training was created about two and a half years ago and draws from two decades of learning from the successes and failures of others in responding to on-campus emergencies.

He said it bundles several of the individual trainings offered by the Office of Education, including those on threat assessment, active-shooter situations and bullying prevention, into one comprehensive package.

Diocesan educators attended their first day of training Aug. 1 on the campuses of St. Therese of Carmel Parish and neighboring Notre Dame Academy. About 140 people participated in the five-hour session, which introduced them to the Diamond Safety Team concept and trained them in how to proactively identify concerning behaviors on campus and



EXPERTISE: A law enforcement professional shares his expertise on campus-security issues Aug. 1 at St. Therese of Carmel Parish, during the diocese's first day of Diamond Safety Team Training.

de-escalate situations that could lead to violence.

That first day, participants were made to understand that "everybody has a piece of the puzzle when it comes to threat assessment" and that it isn't immediately knowable whose piece will prove to be "the deciding factor" in preventing bloodshed, Ware said.

The day closed with a "walk-andtalk" training, during which participants were led through each step of law-enforcement's response to an active-shooter event.

The second day was held Aug. 2 for one group of diocesan educators and Aug. 8 for a second group. Both took place at the Kearny Mesa-based Strategic Operations, Inc., a provider of what it describes as "Hyper-Realistic tactical training services" for law enforcement, first-responders, the military and others.

The day's activities included an introductory "stop-the-bleed" course, as well as the opportunity to apply those techniques during an active-shooter training exercise that featured mannequins and professional actors in "cut suits" that would only stop bleeding if the necessary life-saving measures were performed correctly.

Participants also were trained in radio communication during emergencies and attended presentations by subject-matter experts on bullying prevention and how to identify drug paraphernalia and "ghost gun" parts if they turn up on campus.

Kyle Lira, a teacher at Sacred Heart School in Brawley, described the "stop-the-bleed" training as "a lifeor-death, simulated situation of Universal Studios-caliber."

For Elizabeth Joseph, principal of St. Francis of Assisi School in Vista, it was "intense."

"The sights and sounds were very realistic," she said, "and when I thought that this could be one of my students, my emotions moved from fear to strength. I would do anything to protect and save one of my students' lives."

Days 3 and 4 of the training are

scheduled for Sept. 28 and Nov. 16, respectively, both at the diocesan Pastoral Center. The days' agenda will include additional threat-assessment scenarios and provide school teams with the chance to work on improving their campus-safety plans in light of the lessons they've learned.

Oseguera said that the schools will receive a template, which they can modify for their campuses. She said there will be certain "essential elements" that all schools' safety plans must include, along with other recommended items. Each school will form its own safety committee and will have a few months to complete its plan and submit it to the Office for Schools.

The Schools Office plans to develop school-safety guidelines that will become part of each school's "yearly checklist" every summer, she said.

Through Ware, the schools also will be connected with the school resource officer responsible for their geographical area.

David Blair, vice principal and eighth-grade teacher at St. Charles School in Imperial Beach, reflected on his experience.

"The majority of the training has to do with prevention and the ability to come up with preemptive plans before the disaster happens," he said, "and a lot of that has to do with building a culture of care and positivity."

He noted that Catholic schools excel at the 80% of the training that focuses on creating such a culture, which reduces the likelihood of on-campus violence.

Active-shooter drills and the like represent the remaining 20%, which focuses on how to respond to such incidents if they occur.

After sharing his experience of one of those drills, he said, "Those experiences will stay with me forever, and the skills that I've learned will definitely transfer over."

Joseph said, "I am glad that our diocese is providing this outstanding training for all the schools. It is a true blessing for all of us."



SAFETY CONCERNS: Catholic elementary school educators discuss school safety on the first day of Diamond Safety Team Training Aug. 1.

Agency Helping Most Vulnerable Immigrants

By Aida Bustos



A humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the streets of San

Diego and Imperial counties, sparked by a lack of funding and a spike in immigrants seeking asylum at the border.

Catholic Charities of San Diego continues to respond to this emergency, fulfilling its mission to welcome and help the stranger, as the Gospel calls all people of faith to do.

For more than two years, the organization has been helping immigrants who are legally in the country seeking asylum. Its staff has received them when immigration authorities released them; provided them with a warm bed, food, and medical care if needed; and assisted them to travel within a day or so to connect with family and friends elsewhere in the country.

The organization became the largest provider of assistance to asylumseekers in Southern California, providing humanitarian and traumainformed help in an efficient, economical way, said its chief executive officer, "Vino" Pajanor. The operation grew to three shelters in San Diego and Imperial counties, with the largest one having a capacity of 1,100 beds in San Diego.

In the last 28 months, the organization has helped more than 252,000 asylum-seekers from 131 countries, one-third of them families with children, the CEO said.

That all has changed.

Funding for operating the shelters has been drastically reduced by the



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: Catholic Charities of San Diego continues to help immigrants legally in the country seeking asylum, particularly the most vulnerable populations.

federal government. The state of California, which has supported the shelters, is facing a budget deficit after several years of surplus.

At the same time, immigration authorities are seeing a high number of immigrants asking for asylum at the border. Immigration officials began to release hundreds of asylum-seekers a day in the streets of San Diego and Imperial counties, instead of taking them to shelters, which could no longer receive a high volume due to the budget cuts.

The migrants are being dropped off near transit centers in cities such as San Diego, Oceanside and Escondido. They generally only have the clothes on their backs and do not speak English. County and city officials fear they will join the thousands of people already living on the streets.

Catholic Charities will now focus on assisting vulnerable asylum-seekers, such as women with children, the elderly, or disabled. The agency has closed two of its shelters, leaving only one in Imperial County, which has 300 beds available, and one in San Diego with 550 beds.

The organization is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security only to receive vulnerable asylum-seekers if there is a surge of migrants. If there is not, the agency will receive any other asylumseeker needing assistance to connect with family or friends elsewhere in the country, up to its capacity.

"It's not morally right for us to have open beds and migrants are being dropped off on the street," said Pajanor.

The state government is handing off the operation of the shelters to nonagovernmental organizations instead of running them itself. Catholic Charities will be the lead organization in Imperial County starting Sept. 13, and in San Diego County starting Oct. 1.

Meanwhile, the federal government continues to provide a small amount

of funds to help the nonprofits assist the migrants, through FEMA.

Inundated with sensational headlines, Catholic Charities' CEO wants the Catholic community to know the fundamentals.

"Everyone who comes into our care, released by the Department of Homeland Security, is a documented individual," he said. "These migrants are legally in the country."

He said that these individuals crossed the border and turned themselves in to immigration officials. After processing them, the U.S officials decided that they could be eligible for asylum. They gave the immigrants a notice to appear in immigration court, and transported them to Catholic Charities shelters. Nearly all will leave within 36 hours, assisted by the organization, to connect with loved ones and to press their case for asylum.

How You Can Help

Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers, donations of lightly used clothing and shoes, and financial contributions to assist the effort to help migrants seeking asylum in the United States. Those interested can call (619) 323-2841 or visit the website ccdsd.org for details.



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Festival Brings Chaldean Families Together

By Marissa Romero



EL CAJON — San **Diego County has** a thriving Chaldean

Catholic community made up of almost 60,000 migrants from Iraq. They represent the second-largest Chaldean population in the country after the metropolitan area of Detroit.

Nearly 12,000 people turned out during the Sept. 16-17 weekend for the 11th annual Chaldean American Festival, hosted by the Knights of Columbus at Hillsdale Middle School.

Chaldeans were among the first to whom Jesus' Apostles proclaimed the Good News of salvation. After receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Apostles preached in different languages to the crowds, including people from Mesopotamia (Acts 2:9), or present-day Iraq.

Chaldean tradition traces their embrace of the Gospel to St. Thomas the Apostle's evangelization efforts in their territory.

The Chaldean Church has been in union with the Roman Catholic Church since the late 19th century. During the preceding centuries, Chaldeans had looked to their patriarch as the supreme head of their Church.

"When we became in communion



LIVELY: Youth perform traditional dances during the 11th annual Chaldean American Festival, held this year at Hillsdale Middle School.

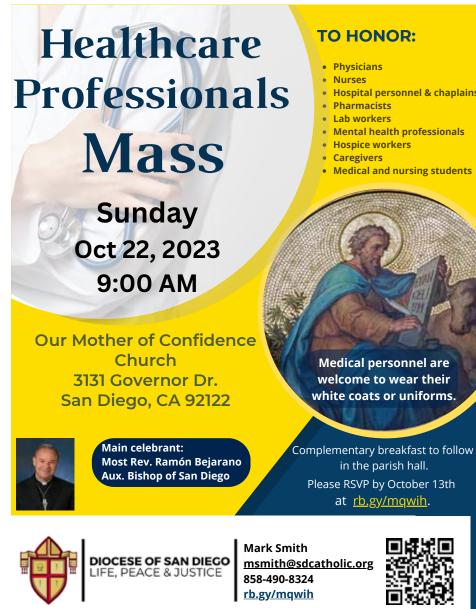
with the Catholic Church, we professed the pope as the successor of Peter," said Father Daniel "Danny" Shaba, rector of St. Peter Chaldean Catholic Cathedral in El Cajon.

While the Chaldean Catholic Church still has a patriarch and its own synod of bishops, the pope is recognized as their head.

In San Diego County, St. Peter Cathedral and the parish churches of St. Michael, St. John the Apostle, and St. Joseph, collectively serve more than 5,000 families, Father Shaba said.

Chaldean Catholic Bishop Emanuel Hana Shaleta explained that many Chaldean Catholic families also attend Mass at non-Chaldean Catholic churches across San Diego County

Festival Continued on Page 8





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The Southern Cross

Festival Continued from Page 7

"because we are not closed; we are an open people."

Bishop Shaleta said that, at St. Peter Cathedral, all are welcome to attend Masses that follow the Eastern Chaldean Catholic rite in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus and His apostles, as well as Masses celebrated in Arabic and English.

Christian persecution drove Chaldean families to migrate to the United States in large numbers during the second half of the 20th century. The migration process dispersed the flock, causing families to live in "silos."

The Chaldean festival has had the opposite effect.

"What the festival does is break that wall. (It) brings us all back together, like we were before," said Father Shaba. "This (event) ties us back to our original roots in Iraq because, in Iraq, we were a very close unit."

During the weekend, the Chaldean community transformed Hillsdale Middle School into a vibrant hub for families. The festival featured an array of cultural activities, delicious Chaldean food, live music and spirited dances.

At almost 100 tents, local businesses shared information about their services, as well as goodies for festival-goers' enjoyment. Families with young children and teens flocked to rides and games, including pony rides, which were a favorite



SPIRITUAL HOME: St. Peter Chaldean Catholic Cathedral, located in El Cajon, is the spiritual home to the region's Chaldean Catholic community – the nation's second-largest after Detroit.

among little ones.

"This festival is bigger than ever — more booths, more vendors, more people. The kids' area is double the size that it was last year," said Paul Batta, main sponsor of this year's festival. "The community (is) coming together to celebrate each other."

Almost 12,000 people attended this year's festival, said Steve Mattia, lead organizer of the festival and a 16-year member of the Knights of Columbus.

"It is very rewarding to see our community come together," he said. "As a Catholic organization, everyone is (at the festival) to serve a purpose, to serve God, and to serve our community. The community comes together and organizes it."

As a first-time attendee, Francis Tupas appreciated how "familyfriendly" the festival was.

"I like that there are plenty of things for all walks of life to do," he said.

Proceeds from the festival are used not only to support St. Peter Cathedral's projects, but also to help other Chaldean Catholic churches in the county, he said.

Bishop Shaleta thanked the Knights of Columbus, volunteers, vendors and sponsors who contributed to the festival. After stressing that this event is for all communities countywide, he offered a blessing.

"May the Lord bless all of you who came and participated in this event. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever." "Amen," responded the enthusiastic crowd.

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GREETING: Cardinal Robert W. McElroy greeted the mother of Bishop-elect Felipe Pulido, Christina Pulido, at a Mass Sept. 10 at St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, Wash. Bishop Joseph Tyson (center), of the Yakima Diocese, accompanied him. The congregation celebrated their departing pastor afterward.

Bringing Touch of Ordination Home

The home parishes of San Diego's two new auxiliary bishops shared in the joy of their ordination.

Shortly before their Sept. 28 episcopal ordination, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy publicly received the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity from Bishops-elect Michael Pham and Felipe Pulido.

Bishop-elect Pulido made his profession and took his oath Sept. 10 during a Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick, Wash. Bishop-elect Pham did the same Sept. 17 at Good Shepherd Parish in Mira Mesa.

With the profession, the men attested that they "believe and profess all the truths contained in the symbol of faith." The oath includes a promise to "always be faithful to the Catholic Church (and) the Roman Pontiff."







BLOSSOMING: The congregation of Good Shepherd Church, Bishop-elect Michael Pham's parish, gave him a warm send-off at a Mass on Sept. 17. Members of the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement presented a special dance during the service, which incuded his Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity.

Story by Denis Grasska Photos by David Maung

Bishop Pham."

you can see it the

hearts of Bishop Pulido and

Carmel Church on Sept. 28.

Pastoral Initiatives.

'Three Amigos.'"

dressed the assembly.

instrument of God's saving grace."

with so much joy in my heart."

The Southern Cross

"This is a day of great joy for all of us - and That's how Cardinal Robert W. McElroy ended the historic episcopal ordination of Fathers Michael Pham and Felipe Pulido at St. Thérèse of The ordination made history at the diocese: It was the first time that two auxiliary bishops were ordained at once, the first time that three auxiliaries will serve at the same time, and the first time one of them is Vietnamese. The new auxiliary bishops — along with Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano — will assist the cardinal with confirmations, liturgies and pastoral administration. In addition, Bishop Bejarano will serve as Vicar for Ethnic and Intercultural Communities; Bishop Pham will be Vicar for Clergy; and Bishop Pulido will take on the newly created position of Vicar for Parish Each newly ordained bishop ad-Bishop Pham, 56, said that he felt the same "tremendous honor and privilege" that he did on the day that he was ordained to the priesthood. "God's grace is overflowing upon me today," he said. "I forever praise the Lord for such a tremendous gift. Thank you, everyone, for helping me to be an He quipped that he and the two other auxiliary bishops are "the new **'Day of Great Joy** For his part, Bishop Pulido, 53, said, "On this day of my episcopal ordination, in this beautiful church, I present myself to you - poor and weak, but "I'm most grateful for the presence of so many faithful Catholics from here

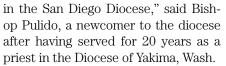
HANDS ON: A total of 31 (arch) bishops prayerfully laid their hands upon Bishops-elect Felipe Pulido and Michael Pham at their episcopal ordination Mass Sept. 28 at St



MANDATE: The mandates from Pope Francis appointing Bishops Pham and Pulido were read. They were presented to the two bishops-elect, who showed them to Cardinal McElroy and the assembly.



BODY OF CHRIST: Auxiliary Bishops Felipe Pulido and Michael Pham distributed Communion at their multi-lingual ordination Mass.



Members of both Bishop Pham's and Bishop Pulido's families attended. Among them was Melissa Nguyen, one of Bishop Pham's sisters, and her husband, Tuan. They are active members of Good Shepherd Parish in Mira Mesa, where Bishop Pham previously served as pastor.

Nguyen said she felt as if she were "on Cloud Nine." Of her brother, she said, "He's always ready to be there to help and answer to God."

In his homily, Cardinal McElroy spoke directly to the new bishops.

"To be a good bishop," he advised them, "you must truly journey with God's flock as Pope Francis has urged us: walking sometimes at the front to lead; walking sometimes in the middle of the flock to experience the realities of daily life; and walking sometimes at the rear to embrace and walk with those who are struggling to keep up."

The cardinal reminded Pham and Pulido that they had been "called to be bishops at this pivotal synodal moment in the life of the Church" — a reference to the worldwide consultation of the faithful that is currently underway and the style of Church governance that it represents.

Cardinal McElroy continued, "We seek to build a Church that is discerning and prayerful, dedicated to the treasury of Catholic faith, collaborative and inclusive, humble and forthright, evangelizing the cultures of our world while reaching out to all those on the margins, and especially to the young, who are drifting away from the life of the Church."

He added that the two new bishops "must become prophets of the synodal Church that is dawning and the renewal to which we have been called."

Homily and photo gallery sdcatholic.org/bishops



. Therese of Carmel Church. They included Joseph J. Tyson of Yakima and Bishop John P. Dolan of Phoenix, Ariz., who previously served as auxiliary bishop of San Diego.



KINSHIP: Members of the Vietnamese Catholic community warmly greeted Auxiliary Bishop Michael Pham, the diocese's first Vietnamese bishop.



ROLE REVERSAL: Bishop Felipe Pulido received the blessing of his aunt, Lidia López, during the reception that followed the ordination Mass.

Father Joe's Enhances Job-Seeking, Storytelling

The Southern Cross

services provider.

skills program and a grant-supported playwriting project are among exciting recent developments at Father Joe's Villages, San Diego's largest homeless-

A revamped job-

On Sept. 15, the Father Joe's Villages Employment & Education Services (EES) program moved to a new location at St. Teresa of Calcutta Villa and was renamed Gene Burkard Employment and Education Services. The program helps San Diego homeless find and keep jobs.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the center's new location at 1 14th St. in downtown San Diego.

Because loss of income is the primary driver of homelessness in California, Father Joe's Villages is expanding its resources to help more people find long-term jobs. The move to St. Teresa of Calcutta Villa will complete an expansion that kicked off earlier this year when EES hired three additional staff members to support the program that now has more resources and a larger space to operate.

The new name honors the generosity of the late Gene Burkard, whose multi-million-dollar support helped expand the program and will sustain its services for years to come.

Father Joe's Villages also has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Humanities For All grant awards for a



FINDING WORK: Gene Burkard Employment and Education Services, a job-skills program of Father Joe's Villages, has been housed at St. Teresa of Calcutta Villa since Sept. 15.

playwriting project called "Stories of CREED in Action."

"Stories of CREED in Action" will offer two playwriting residencies to Father Joe's Villages' clients in partnership with the San Diego-based nonprofit organization Playwrights Project.

Frank Kensaku Saragosa, a recipient of the PEN Literary Award who has lived experience with homelessness, will be leading the playwriting workshops.

Public performances of the plays will be held at the Morgan Auditorium,

in partnership with San Diego Central Library, from June 14 to 16, 2024.

The playwriting workshops will allow people with lived experience to share their stories and the public to get a glimpse of the circumstances they've overcome.

The Humanities For All Project Grant is a competitive grant program of California Humanities which supports locally-developed projects that respond to the needs, interests and concerns of Californians, provide accessible learning experiences for the

public, and promote understanding among our state's diverse population.

"It is Father Joe's Villages' mission to prevent and end homelessness one life at a time in the spirit of Compassion, Respect, Empathy, Empowerment and Dignity (CREED)," said Father Joe's Villages Project Director Aleta Barthell. "By sharing these stories with the community in 'Stories of CREED in Action,' the hope is to recognize and acknowledge the humanity that is at stake in our current homelessness crisis."

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Teachers of Faith Receive Cardinal's Blessing

The Southern Cross

Catechists and school ministry leaders marked the start of a new catechetical year with the diocese's annual Commissioning Mass in September. As in past years, two liturgical celebrations were held — one for catechists in San Diego County and another for their counterparts in the Imperial Valley.

Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano celebrated the first of the Masses on Sept. 8 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cardinal Robert W. McElroy presided over the other, which was held Sept. 11 at Sacred Heart Church in Brawley (pictured).

More than 200 people attended the Mass in San Diego, while the liturgy in Brawley drew about 70.

During each of the Masses, the catechists in attendance received a blessing from the presiding bishop.

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Walking with Our Shadow

When we walk on a sunny day at the park, we notice that a dark figure accompanies us, our shadow that moves with us.

We are beings of light. Today, advanced 3-D technology allows us to see the flash of light that occurs in the moment when a human sperm cell makes contact with an egg. It's the equivalent of the "Big Bang" at the origin of our life.

Our existence begins with an encounter that ignites a spark of light. However, in the course of our life's journey, we become aware that shadows accompany our light, dark dimensions that make us uncomfortable, that hurt us and can even hurt others.

Light and shadow appear inseparable, and it would seem a lifelong task of human and spiritual growth to recognize them, accept them, and even embrace them to live in harmony with oneself and with those around us.

In the world of psychology, Karl



Gustav Jung has tried to understand this complicated aspect of our personality.

How do we recognize or begin to explore the reality of our shadows? We can ask ourselves in our honest conscience: What part of me would be an embarrassment if others knew about it? The answer could give us a clue about our shadows, the dimensions that we keep hidden, that we repress or don't accept.

To illustrate this: If a man acts as a mediator or peacemaker, and others appreciate this conduct, it's like his luminous being is in action. But how would fellow community members feel if they knew about his violent dimension at home?

We should not be afraid of these

realizations, even though they can be painful to acknowledge and even provoke a crisis. Crises give us the opportunity to grow, they humanize us, help put our feet on the ground and open us up to heaven through faith in our origin and our destiny.

"Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it fate," Jung wrote.

That is to say, what remains repressed or hidden, gains such a psychic force that it drags our lives and conduct toward where we do not want to go, precisely toward what we have decided to hide.

All you have to do is attend an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting to witness what happens when a brother acknowledges that he is an alcoholic, that he needs help from God and from his fellow brothers and sisters to overcome his addiction.

Alcoholics feel liberated because they let in the light of acceptance and recognition of their shadow; feel relief of not having to pretend to be what they are not; feel the vulnerability in their tears that lets themselves be helped.

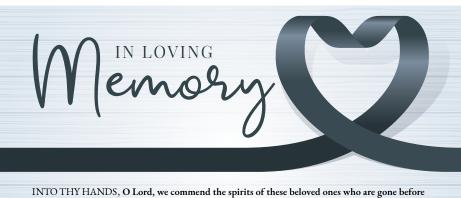
What St. Paul experienced in his own life (Romans 5:20) could be expressed this way: "But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more."

Generally speaking, this process of recognizing our lights and shadows takes time, though it sometimes unfolds in a moment of crisis, accident or illness. In the spiritual realm, it supposes asking for grace and an openness, compassion and love of oneself.

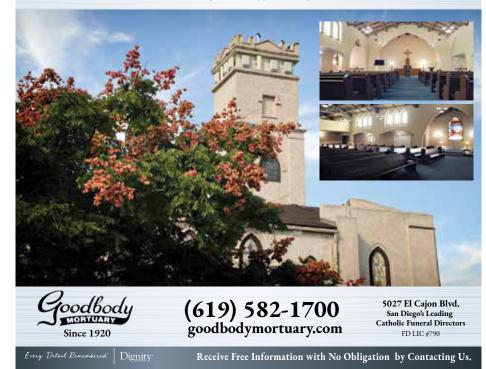
And the possible results? A greater harmony with oneself, since internal struggles diminish; an increase in interior peace, as less energy is required to maintain an image of what we're not; and humility that gives us authority and strengthens the connections in our relationships.

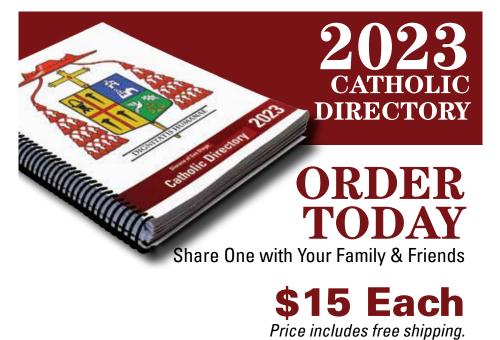
We should not be afraid! We are a mysterious project of God fully under construction.

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



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





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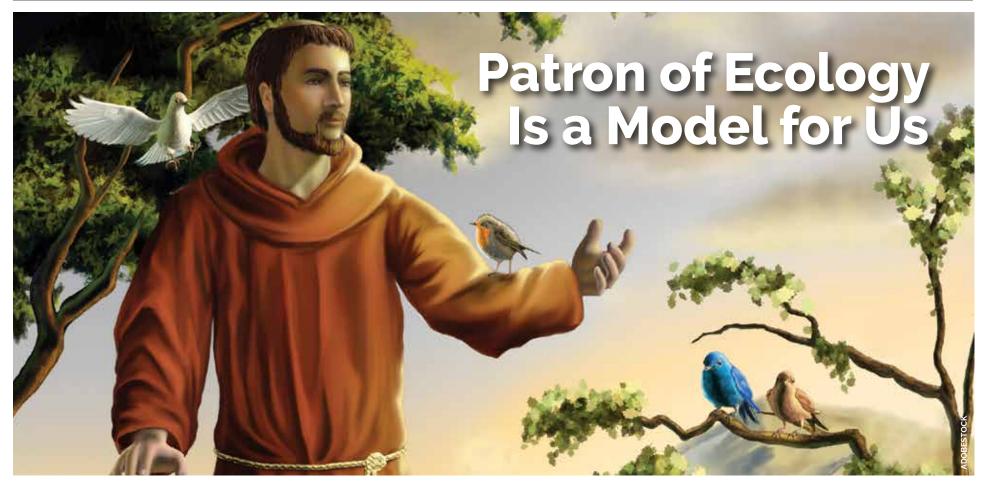
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By Christina Bagaglio Slentz

In 1979, Pope John Paul II, the first to coin the term "ecological conversion," named St. Francis of Assisi the patron saint of ecology and of those who promote ecology.

According to the Ecological Society of America, ecology is "the study of the relationships between living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment; it seeks to understand the vital connections between plants and animals and the world ... and how we can use Earth's resources in ways that leave the environment healthy for future generations."

While St. Francis is dearly loved as the patron of animals, this new title integrates all the workings of creation and directs us to see in the humble life of this saint a model by which to live, within this world and with each other.

A Canticle as Model for Just Living

The word "canticle" comes from the Latin "canticulum," meaning a "little song." St. Francis of Assisi was not a prolific writer in comparison to other saints. He composed his "Canticle of the Creatures" toward the end of his life, summing up his observation of God's goodness in all things and demonstrating a response of praise to this revelation through each and every thing. He characterizes a right relationship with all of creation as sibling-like in nature — Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water … In this light, everyone and everything are interconnected as one, big family.

A Channel of Peace

St. Francis' "Canticle" goes on to reveal and praise the peacemaking earthly interactions of pardon, forbearance, suffering and love. He rejected the violent, yet en vogue lifestyle of soldiering in exchange for a life of outreach to the marginalized. He extended what Pope Francis calls a "culture of encounter" to the Sultan of Palestine, Syria and Egypt, al-Malik al Kamil, during the Fifth Crusade. Though unsuccessful in converting the Muslim leader, he was invited to stay for a week of dialogue



and exchange. Later, when the Sultan was in a position to flood the Nile and drown the Christian forces, he mercifully resisted, asked them to lay down their weapons, and granted their escape. No other crusade ended in such a way.

A Spirit of Poverty

St. Francis' life of simplicity, fostered by his resistance to the possession of things, coupled with his love of the life-giving natural world, provides a guide for our use of the Earth's resources and preservation of the Earth for our descendants. Such an integral ecology calls for us to steward social and environmental policies in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world, the creatures of our planet and future generations.

Trees, Peace and All Goodness

In celebration of our Patron of Ecology, the diocese's Creation Care Ministry invites all to a family-friendly event on Sunday, Oct. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Pastoral Center. We will be hosting several organizations providing environmental

education and activities. At 2 p.m., we will bless the trees to be distributed to the parishes and schools that have requested them. If you are interested in receiving any extra trees, please indicate in the registration form, at *https://bit.ly/FOSF23* or available via QR scan. This event is free, but we are requesting registration to help with planning. Contact Christina Slentz at *cslentz@sdcatholic.org* with questions!





A SHARED MISSION: Rosie Frankel's entry in last year's "Season of Creation" Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Art Contest emphasized that everyone must play a part in safeguarding God's creation.

sdcatholic.org/ creation



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



Creation Care Ministry Explores a Theme Monthly to Inspire Action.

'Nefarious' Is Thriller with Catholic Heart

By Denis Grasska

A psychiatrist is called in to conduct a lastminute psychological evaluation of a condemned prisoner who, mere hours before his scheduled execution, is claiming to be a demon.

Is he insane? Is it a ploy to evade the death penalty? Or is something supernatural at work?

That's the premise behind "Nefarious," a gripping, 98-minute thriller that debuted in theaters last April and is now available on DVD and Blu-ray, as well as on streaming services.

Though the film's promotional materials might suggest that it's yet another schlocky exorcism flick, and its trailer plays up the horror elements of the story, appearances can be deceiving.

"Do not be thrown off by the poster, and do not be thrown off by the trailer," advises Catholic filmmaker Cary Solomon, who co-wrote, codirected and co-produced the movie with Chuck Konzelman. The latter is a fellow Catholic with whom he also cowrote the first two films in the "God's Not Dead" series.

In an Aug. 2 interview with *The Southern Cross*, Solomon explained that the poster and trailer were designed to "lure in" 15- to 29-year-olds who are "obsessed" with demonic horror movies, but who are unlikely to buy a ticket to an overtly Christian film.

"We figured that, if we could bring them in, we could flip them to righteousness, to the light," said Solomon, who compared the film to C.S. Lewis' epistolary novel "The Screwtape Letters," in which an experienced devil mentors a novice demon in the art of tempting.

Inspired by talk-radio host Steve Deace's novel "A Nefarious Plot," the film doesn't contain the sort of satanic imagery, gore or scares that one might expect from a film in this genre.

Solomon noted that the film has received kudos from respected Church figures, including the exorcist Father Carlos Martins, and some have told him that it's "the best film on possession that has ever been made."

The film's set-up is simple. In fact, for much of its runtime, it's little more than two men sitting across a table from one another — one, a death-row inmate played by Sean Patrick Flanery in a mesmerizing performance; the



INTERVIEW WITH A DEMON: An atheistic psychiatrist (Jordan Belfi), right, has to evaluate the sanity of a condemned prisoner (Sean Patrick Flanery), who claims to be demonically possessed, in the new film "Nefarious."

other, an atheistic psychiatrist portrayed by Jordan Belfi — engaged in a conversation that covers a lot of theological ground.

But that conversation is absorbing.

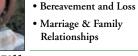
Solomon shared that people who "can't sit still for 90 seconds" have told him that they "never once fidgeted" while watching the film and were "riveted" throughout.

The hot-button issues of abortion and euthanasia come up during the intense dialogue, giving audiences the opportunity to see them from a demon's perspective.

In another memorable scene, a priest who serves as a prison chaplain stops by to make himself available to the prisoner, who reacts in abject terror to the priest's appearance.

"We wanted to show the power and authority of the Catholic Church and how powerful a priest is," said Solomon, who noted that this is "the only time the demon literally jumps out of his chair, pulls the chains as far back as he can" and goes into a "defensive posture."

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But within a few moments, the priest "cedes his authority," revealing himself to be a modernist who considers demonic possession a relic of a less enlightened time before mental illness was properly understood. The demon relaxes upon discovering this and is overjoyed.

Solomon recalled recent firsthand experience of a priest's power over the forces of evil.

He said that, at the film's premiere in Texas last April, the filmmakers had recorded a video testimonial from Father Martins in support of the movie. But after the priest left, lights started to flicker, the camera and sound mixer stopped working, and even disembodied voices were heard.

The veteran exorcist was asked to come back.

Solomon said that, while Father Martins is "a jovial, wonderful guy," he didn't look that way when he returned with his crucifix, holy water and exorcism prayers. Rather, he said, the priest looked "like somebody who's going into battle." After Father Martins reached the part of the prayer where he commanded evil spirits to "bow now before the holy and terrible name of Jesus," all of the disturbances ceased.

"That's the power that the Church has got," said Solomon. "That's the authority that we were showing that was being ceded by that foolish priest (in the film)."

Solomon said that he and Konzelman consider their filmmaking to be a form of ministry.

"In our way, we're preaching the Gospel," he said, adding that he feels fortunate to be called to make movies rather than to preach in a foreign country where his life might be in danger.

"I've got a latte and air-conditioning when I'm doing it," he said. "The Apostles certainly had a harder job than we did, but we're preaching the Gospel through the media."



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Pope Francis Names Bishop for Mexicali



After an 18-month vacancy, the Catholic community of Mexicali will have a new shepherd.

Pope Francis named Msgr. Enrique Sánchez Martínez the city's fourth bishop, according to an announcement by the Vatican on Sept. 11.

"We unite in joy and prayers with the pilgrim Church of the Diocese of Mexicali and wish Msgr. Enrique a productive tenure in the new Episcopal assignment the Lord has entrusted to him," said the announcement published in L'Osservatore Romano.

Mexicali, about 120 miles from the city of San Diego, is just across the border from Calexico. It's the capital city of Baja California and has a population of about 1.1 million people.

The consecration Mass for Bishop-elect Sánchez Martínez will be Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. in the city's cathedral, according to the homepage of the website of the Archdiocese of Tijuana, which includes Mexicali in its province.

Tijuana Archbishop Francisco Moreno Barrón issued a statement inviting the entire community of Mexicali to form a human chain from the rectory building of the Autonomous University of Baja California to the cathedral, giving their new pastoral leader a warm welcome.

Msgr. Sánchez Martínez is well versed in border life. Since 2016, he has served as the bishop of Nuevo Laredo, across the border from the Texas city of Laredo.

He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1986, for the Archdiocese of Durango, where he held various leadership positions before his appointment to Nuevo Laredo. He will turn 63 in December.

In Mexicali, he will take over the post of the late Bishop José Isidro Guerrero Macías, who died at age 70 from COVID in February of 2022. He had led the diocese for 26 years.

For his part, Tijuana Archbishop Moreno Barrón was diagnosed with cancer in April, had surgery in May, and received chemotherapy. He recently said that his health is stable and that he is returning to his normal activities.

Catholic News Service



OUT OF THIS WORLD: This artist's rendering shows the Osiris-Rex spacecraft descending toward asteroid Bennu to collect a sample of the asteroid's surface. It was due to drop its cargo on Earth Sept. 24, 2023.

Vatican Astronomer Helps NASA in Historic Mission to Study Asteroid

VATICAN CITY - Jesuit Brother Bob Macke, a Vatican astronomer and meteorite expert, has built

a custom device for studying material from the first U.S. mission to collect a sample from an asteroid.

The unmanned spacecraft, Osiris-Rex was launched in 2016 to collect samples on the near-Earth asteroid, Bennu. After collecting about a cup of material in 2020, the spacecraft was due to release its cargo to send the sample back to Earth Sept. 24, before continuing its space voyage to orbit the Sun.

Because of Brother Macke's known expertise in the field, Andrew Ryan, the lead of the mission's sample

analysis working group, asked him if he could build the device needed to analyze the density and porosity of the samples to help identify the mysterious rocks on the asteroid's surface, according to Mashable.com Sept. 16.

NASA had strict requirements for this device, called a pycnometer, and the companies Ryan contacted were only willing to sell what they had in stock, not do a custom build, he told Mashable.

Brother Macke, however, was game and he posted his progress and success with a number of videos on his You-Tube channel, Macke MakerSpace. He said he built it in five weeks with the help of students at the University of Arizona, which collaborates with the Vatican Observatory's advanced technology telescope in Tucson.

Catholic News Service



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STREET CELEBRATION — The community members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Barrio Logan are hosting a "Father Brown Block Party and Kermes" the weekend of Oct. 7 and 8 to celebrate their legendary leader, the late Jesuit Father Richard Brown. The event begins with a memorial Mass on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 11 a.m., to be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano. Afterward, Beardsley Street will be renamed Fr. Brown Street. The festivities include food, bands, games and a low-rider exhibit, available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days. For more information, call (619) 233-3838 or email Fr.BrownStreet@gmail.com.

News Briefs

San Diego Catholics Generously Supported Ukraine

The Diocese of San Diego responded to the Russian invasion of Ukraine with a one-time special collection for the Church in Ukraine.

Local Catholics donated a total of \$750,570.11 between March and December of 2022.

Six special collections are taken up every year in the Diocese of San Diego, including the Annual Lenten Collection and collections for World Mission Sunday and the Retirement Fund for Religious. Other special collections, such as the one for Ukraine, are held as needed in response to natural and man-made disasters.

'40 Days for Life' Now Underway

The fall campaign of 40 Days for Life runs from Sept. 27 to Nov. 5. Undertaken on the same dates in communities around the world, the 40 Days for Life campaign is an effort to protect the unborn through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful all-day vigils in front of abortion clinics.

The centerpiece of the campaign is a 40-day, round-the-clock prayer vigil on the public sidewalk outside of an abortion clinic. Locally, such vigils will be taking place at several locations, including downtown San Diego, Kearny Mesa, Mira Mesa, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Escondido and Vista. For more information or to sign up for vigil hours, visit sdcatholic.org/event/ 40-days-for-life-campaign.

Local Man Elected to Knights' Board of Directors

ORLANDO — San Diegan Rene Trevino is one of two recently elected members of the Knights of Columbus' Board of Directors.

At the Knights of Columbus 141st Supreme Convention, held Aug. 1 to 3 in Orlando, more than 500 delegates representing their 2 million brother Knights around the world elected Trevino and Rene V. Sarmiento from the Philippines. Each will serve a threeyear term that began Sept. 1.

Trevino, a member of St. Gregory the Great Council 10094 in San Diego, has been a Knight for 20 years. He previously served as State Deputy of California (2022-2023) and in numerous other state leadership positions, including San Diego Chapter President.

Divorce Support Program Starts This Fall

The "Recovering from Divorce" program, which accompanies separated and divorced Catholics, is coming to San Diego this fall.

It will be offered from 6:30 to 8 p.m., on Wednesday evenings, Sept. 27 to Dec. 13, and will be held at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

This free ministry is designed to confidentially help participants heal through the light of living their faith.

For more information or to register, contact Janelle Peregoy at *jperegoy@ sdcatholic.org* or (858) 490-8292. Space is limited.

Ramona Parish Holding Oktoberfest

RAMONA — Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish invites you to its Oktoberfest.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 1, at 537 E. St., Ramona 92065. It will include a "kid zone," live entertainment, raffles, a beer and wine tent, and food and drinks for sale. Admission is free.

'All Are Welcome' at Fall Festival

Holy Family Parish in Linda Vista is hosting its annual fall festival on Saturday, Oct. 7, and Sunday, Oct. 8.

The theme is "One Holy Family: All Are Welcome." Festival hours will run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The fall festival will include live entertainment and Mexican, Filipino, Vietnamese and American food booths. There will also be carnival games, a bounce house, and raffle prizes up to \$3,000. Raffle winners need not be present.

'Jamulfest' Set for Oct. 8

JAMUL — St. Pius X Parish is hosting its annual "Jamulfest" event on Sunday, Oct. 8.

It will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the parish, which is located at 14107 Lyons Valley Road. It will feature a wood-pit BBQ, craft booths, beer garden and live entertainment.

For more information, call (619) 669-0085.

Theology on Tap Heads East

EL CAJON — The diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry will present a new series of Theology on Tap, to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, Oct. 11 and Oct. 18, at Our Lady of Grace Parish.

The catechetical program brings together young adults, ages 18 to 39, for food, fellowship and a talk by a Catholic speaker.

Divine Word Father Soney Sebastian, director of the diocesan Office for the Missions, will be the speaker on the first night; he will talk about serving in the missions. The following week will feature a panel discussion about what it means to be a missionary at home.

Admission each night is \$15, which includes street tacos and craft beer. For more information, call (858) 490-8260.

Retreat to Offer After-Abortion Healing

Rachel's Hope is offering an afterabortion healing retreat for Catholic (and Catholic-friendly) women.

The professionally led retreat will be held from Friday, Oct. 13, to Sunday, Oct. 15, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. It will include a closing Mass.

Group size is limited. The cost to attend is \$60; partial scholarships and housing are available if needed.

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

Widowed, Divorced Invited to Healing Weekend

OCEANSIDE — Beginning Experience, an international ministry that helps the widowed, divorced and separated move beyond grief, will hold its next weekend retreat Oct. 13 to 15.

It will be held at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, where a trained team will lead participants through a healing and growth program.

Those who feel ready to move through their feelings of grief toward a new beginning are encouraged to consider attending.

The cost is \$300, which covers lodging, meals and retreat materials. A \$100 deposit is required at registration, with the balance due on the weekend.

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

Women's Retreat to Be Held at Mission San Luis Rey

OCEANSIDE — St. Francis of Assisi Parish will hold its 31st annual women's retreat from Friday, Oct. 13, to Sunday, Oct. 15, at Mission San Luis Rey.

This year's theme is "You Are the Light of the World." Organizers promise a weekend of sisterhood and spiritual growth.

Space is limited. For a registration form, call (760) 500-3201 or email *sonraetoo@gmail.com*.

Young Adults Invited to Online Prayer

The North American Vocation Team (NAVT) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) invites young adults ages 18 and older to a monthly online evening prayer on Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

Briefs Continued from Page 18

(PST) via Zoom.

Upcoming dates for evening prayer are Oct. 24 and Nov. 28.

For more information and registration for the Zoom links, visit ssnd.org/events.

Annual Golf Tournament Will Benefit Cristo Rey H.S.

The third annual Cristo Rey Golf Classic will be held on Monday, Oct. 23. at The Santaluz Club.

Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the shotgun start at 10 a.m. A box lunch will be provided, and an awards reception will follow the tournament.

The tournament will bring together friends, colleagues, donors and golf-lovers for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and fundraising to support Cristo Rey San Diego High School students.

Tickets are \$300 for a single player, who will be paired with others, and \$1,200 for a foursome. Tickets include box lunch and an awards reception. Reception-only tickets are also available for \$100 each.

"Fore" more information, contact the school at (619) 432-1899 or visit cristoreysandiego.org.

Concert to Celebrate All Saints, All Souls

OCEANSIDE — A concert in honor of All Saints and All Souls Days will be held at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 29, at St. Margaret Church in Oceanside.

Presented by the Greater San Diego Music Coterie, the concert will be a joint performance of the Greater San Diego Chamber Orchestra and Chorus and the United Methodist Church of

Vista's Chancel Choir.

There is no cost to attend, but donations will be accepted at the door. St. Margaret Church is located at 4300 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside 92056.

For more information, call the parish at (760) 941-5560 or visit gsdmusicoterie.org/all-events.

Donated Halloween Candy to Be Collected for the Poor

Local Catholics are once again being invited to donate a portion of their Halloween candy to be used in the Christmas distribution at Casa de los Pobres (House of the Poor) in Tijuana, Mexico.

Toothbrushes and toothpaste are also greatly appreciated.

The candy and dental hygiene supplies can be dropped off at participating school or parish offices during the week after Halloween, Nov. 2 to 7.

The candy collection in the Diocese of San Diego is coordinated by Caroline Kelner, volunteer board member of Casa de los Pobres USA, and Oma Nwaogwugwu, president of the Notre Dame Alumni Club of San Diego.

For more information about the Halloween candy collection, contact Kelner at carolinekelner10@ gmail.com or (858) 761-7744. For details on donation pick-up dates and times, contact Nwaogwugwu at inwaogwu@alumni.nd.edu or (770) 329-2064. Learn more about Casa de los Pobres and its work at casadelospobresusa.com.

Craft Fair/Bake Sale Returning to Our Lady of Grace

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. 4. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be held in the parish center and

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patio area. The address is 2766 Navajo Road, El Cajon 92020. There will be more than 70 local

crafters featuring fashion apparel, home decor and artwork for the upcoming holidays. There will also be freshly baked items, including cakes, brownies, cookies, peanut brittle and fudge. Breakfast and lunch will be available.

For more information, call (619) 980-6841

Catholics Can 'Encounter' Jesus in Rancho Peñasquitos

Encounter, a Spirit-filled evening of inspiring music, prayer, Eucharistic adoration, a healing service and reconciliation, 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 p.m.

Upcoming dates include Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

Priest Assignments

The Office of the Cardinal has announced the following priest assignments: Father Gwangho Min, with the permission of his bishop, has been appointed as chaplain of the Korean Catholic Community of San Diego and, within that context, as associate pastor of St. Columba Parish, effective Aug. 16.

Father Alberto Villafan, OFM, with the permission of his provincial, has been appointed as associate pastor of Mission San Luis Rey, effective Sept. 1.

Father Winson P. Menachery, CRSP, with the permission of his provincial, has been appointed as associate pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, effective Sept. 20.

Working for the Church

Looking for a job where you can put your faith into action?

There are many employment opportunities available at the diocesan Pastoral Center, local parishes and Catholic schools, and other Catholic organizations.

The diocese is currently accepting applications for **director of the diocesan** Office for Information Technology. Working out of an office at the Pastoral Center, the IT director oversees the diocese's network security and availability, while also providing assistance to parishes.

For a list of open positions, visit sdcatholic.org/human-resources/employment.

National Eucharistic Revival Supplement – October 2023

In this Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, we hope to have our hearts transformed like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus: the Light of Christ in the Eucharist burns within our hearts too!



Eucharistic Saint

Blessed Bartolo Longo (1841-1926) was a priest in a satanic cult in his youth. He credits the Virgin Mary and a zealous priest for saving him from the darkness. Afterward, he dedicated himself to promoting devotion to Mary through the Holy Rosary. It is believed that Blessed Bartolo composed the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, the fifth of which is the Institution of the Eucharist.

Back to Basics

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: There are many reasons why people cannot receive the Lord sacramentally in Holy Communion, and we are cautioned by St. Paul against receiving the Body and Blood of Christ unworthily (1 Cor 11:27).

The Eucharist, however, is so full of light that, even if we cannot receive Him sacramentally, we can still receive the 3 grace of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass through an act of spiritual communion. According to our Catechism, the Eucharist actually keeps the Church - and our souls - in existence:



"The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being." (CCC, 1325)

Disposition of Heart - Receiving grace, sacramental or other wise, is entirely a question of how open our heart is to God's action. The Parable of the Sower (Matt 13:23) says we can receive thirty-, sixty-, or a hundred-fold.

Practice - Even if someone cannot go to Communion for whatever reason, we can always encourage that person to go to Mass. An immense treasury of grace overflows at every Mass like a river of light into the hearts of those who are disposed to receive it.

St. Peter of Alcantara used a glorious image for spiritual communion: "Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament has His hands full of graces, and He is ready to bestow them on anyone who asks for them." All that is necessary for us is to visit Him... and ask!

National Eucharistic Revival News and Resources

Make sure to keep up to date on the National Eucharistic Revival at the Bishops' central website: EucharisticRevival.org. You can also get the Eucharistic Revival Edition Prayer Cards at SitStandKneel.com for great evangelization resources to spread the Eucharistic fire! Go to EucharisticCongress.org for all the latest news on the upcoming Eucharistic Congress.

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