It is the desire of the Diocese of Santa Rosa to continue the program of fuller transparency which was established in January of 2019. Following the publication of the January Issue of the North Coast Catholic five additional persons have come forward. Four of these are related to men who have already been identified. One involves a priest not previously suspected of any wrongdoing regarding children. We are still gathering information on the allegations but in every case the allegations concern actions which occurred 25 to 45 years ago.

John Crews
Ordained for the Diocese of Santa Rosa February 14, 1971
Accusation raised by man's widow 2-1-2013 for 1971-75 actions
Reported to Police February 2013
No Assignment / Retired 2013
New allegation in the Diocese of Santa Rosa January 2019

Francis (John) Ford
Incardinated in the Diocese of Santa Rosa January 21, 1971
Belated claim of abuse as a Franciscan prior to 1971
Abuse occurrence in Diocese of Santa Rosa 1974
On Leave January 1, 1979
Deceased 10-21-84
New allegation in the Diocese of Santa Rosa January 2019

Celestine Quinlan
Religious Priest Ordained 1957
Named in 2003 civil suit for abuse between 1957-1962
Served in the Diocese of Santa Rosa 1962 to 1968
Deceased 1970
Prior to January of 2019 there were no known allegations in the Diocese
Investigating a preliminary report of possible abuse while ministering in the Diocese of Santa Rosa.
Primarily a Spiritual Problem

It is difficult to focus on anything other than the issue dealt with quite extensively last month. In due time it will be possible for us to apply greater attention to other matters but for now the topic of child abuse by clergy remains a major area of concern. I have posted in this issue a brief update on the list produced last month. As expected there have been some new reports related to the names released and, most distressingly, one new accusation related to a deceased priest of the Diocese for whom we had no prior complaint. You will find a new listing under the title of Transparency Update from page one.

In late January the priests of the Diocese gathered for our Annual Assembly and had the opportunity to reflect on the painful experience of the January Issue of the North Coast Catholic. I was pleased to see that the priests appeared to be increasingly comfortable in openly addressing the issue of child abuse by clergy and that they are dedicated to the work which will be needed in the future to assure the future safety of children as well as to provide hope and healing for those who suffer as a result of the actions of our brother priests and bishops. We have a long way to go and yet I am much more hopeful and confident now than I was several months ago. I attribute this new hopeful-ness primarily to the commitment we have made to engage much more seriously in a prayer apostolate aimed directly at the issue of abuse by clergy. It is certainly necessary for us to apply our limited skills and resources to making sure that policies are clear and understood. It is equally important to assure that the policies which are in place are followed carefully and seriously. The commitment by the priests and the Parish Safe Environment Coordinators assures me that suitable vigilance will be exercised. These are good and necessary and I am very pleased to see a renewed commitment to these things in our Diocese.

Yet, if there is to be any hope of genuine success then we must also realize that this is not merely an administrative, organizational, or policy problem. It is primarily a spiritual problem. Thus, the offering of more than forty Masses each week for the specific intention of the elimination of this tragedy from our Diocese must have an impact. The repeated praying of the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel, both in Church and at home must have an impact. In this prayer apostolate we apply the healing balm of God’s grace and God’s mercy directly to this serious wound in the heart of our Church. As long as there are sinful men in the world, there will be sinful men in the priesthood. I am confident that no priest ever seeks ordination with a thought that such a great gift will give him access to young children. Yet, somehow through spiritual erosion or through lack of personal vigilance or a rejection of discipline we know that men have failed to live up to what it means to be a priest of Jesus Christ.

Already in the Old Testament there were failures. King Saul abused his power, attempted to kill David who would become king and then went to a fortune teller, an act which signals a rejection of God Himself. King David, too, abused his role as king and fell into the sins of adultery and murder. These were God’s chosen ones and they lost their way. Innumerable priests, too, have lost their way. In doing so they have left a trail of tears and we are called upon, in this moment of the Church, to be proclaimers of hope and healing. While striving to be Samaritans of hope and healing to those abused we must also work very hard to assure that those who are at risk for losing their way and thus at risk for harming children are both discovered and, if possible, helped so that they do not ever offend against any child.

To some extent, since we are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve and thus tainted by sin, we are all at risk for committing sin. Not all are drawn to the extreme sin of harming children but sin does lurk at our doorstep and so we must pray that we be pro-tected from him who goes about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. God bless you. Persevere! Be holy: Pray!

CONTENTS

PRIMELY ORDIHATION ANNIVERSARY

Rev. Lou Nichols, February 2, 1960
Rev. Balaswamy Govindu, February 7, 1977
Rev. Francis Tam, February 14, 1978
Rev. John Boehtcher, February 9, 1991
Rev. Anthaiah Madanu, February 8, 1992
Rev. John McCormick, February 7, 1999
Rev. Bob Benjamin, February 12, 2000

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.
Say Yes to Christ’s Invitations in Your Life, Francis Exhorts Young People

Panama City, Panama, Jan 26 (CNA/EWTN News) - Reflecting on the Blessed Virgin Mary's fiat, Pope Francis encouraged World Youth Day participants Saturday night to say yes to God's grace in their lives.

"In a few moments, we will encounter the living Jesus in eucharistic adoration. You can be sure that he has many things to say to you, about different situations in your lives, families and countries," Pope Francis said in his address at the vigil with young people for World Youth Day at Campo San Juan Pablo II in Panama City, Jan. 26.

"Face to face with him, don't be afraid to open your heart to him and to ask him to renew the fire of his love, so that you can embrace life with all its frailty and flaws, but also with its grandeur and beauty. Maybe he will help you to discover the beauty of being alive."

The pope concluded: "Do not be afraid to tell him that you too want to be a part of his love story in this world, that you are ready for something greater!"

The life that Christ gives "is a love story, a life history that wants to blend with ours and sink roots in the soil of our own lives," Pope Francis said. "The salvation the Lord offers us is an invitation to be part of a love story interwoven with our personal stories; it is alive and wants to be born in our midst so that we can bear fruit just as we are, wherever we are and with everyone all around us. The Lord calls us there to sow and to be sown. He is the first to say 'yes' to our lives and our history, and he wants us to say 'yes' along with him."

When asked "to be part of this love story" at the Annunciation, Mary said yes and was able "to trust in the love and promises of God," the pope said.

"We are always struck by the strength of that young woman's 'yes', the words 'be it done' that she spoke to the angel. This was no mere passive or resigned acceptance or a faint 'yes'... It was something else, something more. It was the 'yes' of love, of the desire to prepare to be committed and take a risk, ready to stake everything she had, with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise."

While Mary faced an undoubtedly difficult mission, Francis reflected, "the challenges that lay ahead were no reason to say 'no'. Things would get complicated, of course, but not in the same way as happens when cowardice paralyzes us because things are not clear or settled in advance. The 'yes' and the desire to serve were stronger than any doubts and difficulties."

The pope then spoke of how Mary's fiat "echoes and expands in every generation" as people continue to "take a risk and stake their future on a promise."

He pointed to a testimony given earlier by a Panamanian couple, Erika and Rogelio, who chose to welcome the birth of their daughter Inés, who has Down syndrome.

"Before her birth, when faced with all the issues and problems that came up, you made a decision and said, like Mary, 'let it be done'; you decided to love her," Pope Francis said to Erika and Rogelio. "Presented with the life of your frail, helpless and needy daughter, your answer was 'yes', and so we have Inés. You believed that the world is not only for the strong!"

Pope Francis stated: "Saying 'yes' to the Lord means preparing to embrace life as it comes, with all its fragility, its simplicity, and often enough too, with its conflicts and annoyances, and to do so with the same love with which Erika and Rogelio spoke. It means embracing our country, our families and our friends as they are, with all their weak points and their flaws."

"To embrace life is also to accept "things that are not perfect, pure or 'distilled'; yet no less worthy of love. Is a disabled or frail person not worthy of love? Is a person who happens to be a foreigner, a person who made a mistake, a person ill or in prison, not worthy of love? We know what Jesus did: he embraced the leper, the blind man, the paralytic, the Pharisee and the sinner. He embraced the thief on the cross and even embraced and forgave those who crucified him."

Christ did this "because only what is loved can be saved," Pope Francis said. "Only what is embraced can be transformed. The Lord's love is greater than all our problems, frailties and flaws."

Christ did this "because only what is loved can be saved," Pope Francis said. "Only what is embraced can be transformed. The Lord's love is greater than all our problems, frailties and flaws."

"It is easy enough to criticize and complain about young people if we are depriving them of the jobs, education and community opportunities they need to take root and to dream of a future," the pope said. "Without education, it is difficult to dream of a future; without work, it is very difficult to dream of a future; without a family and community, it is almost impossible to dream of a future. Because dreaming of a future means learning how to answer not only the question for what I am living, but also for whom I am living, who makes it worthwhile for me to live my life."

Communities in which people have something to contribute are essential to human well-being, the pope said, adding this was understood by the saints, pointing to John Bosco, who "learned to see with God's eyes everything that was going on in his city. So, he was struck by the hundreds of children and young people left to themselves, without education, without work and without the helping hand of a community."

"Many other people were living in the same city, and many criticized those young people, but they were unable to see them with God's eyes. Don Bosco did, and found the energy to take the first step: to embrace life as it presented itself. From there, he was not afraid to take the second step: to create a community, a family with them, where through work and study they could feel loved. He gave them roots from which they could reach up to heaven."

Human persons can always flourish "when there is a community, a warm home that enables us to take root... Through real faces, the Lord makes himself present.""Be guardians of everything that can make us feel part of one another, to feel that we belong," Francis

(see Christ's Invitations, page 8)
who blamed aborting her children for a descent into homelessness and drug abuse at a very young age. “It was there working for Planned Parenthood that I saw the truth,” Sandoval said, when she asked to see the bag that carried the remains of an abortion. “The first thing I saw was a hand and the fingerprints,” Sandoval said. The merciful outreach of a woman who saw her home, crying in despair, outside a restaurant and told her Jesus loved her was Sandoval’s miracle recounted in her book “Transfigured.”

Abby Johnson, who left as director of a Texas Planned Parenthood clinic, and joined 40 Days for Life, is pregnant with her eighth child with husband Doug. The movie “Unplanned” due for release in March tells the story of her two abortions, her rise through the ranks at Planned Parenthood and her sudden decision to leave.

Johnson founded And Then There Were None, devoted to helping abortion clinic workers leave. More than 500 have left, she said. “Our goal is simple, we seek to end abortion from the inside out,” Johnson said.

The prolife supporters began their more than two mile walk toward the city’s Embarcadero on the words of local preacher Walter Hoye, who got a rousing “Yeah” from the crowd as he asked “Does God love you? Does God love your baby? And will we help them?”

Hoye, with his wife Lori, was one of the original organizers of the Walk for Life which was founded to proclaim that all life is precious, with the slogan “Abortion hurts women.” Each year the walk and rally are held on a Saturday close to the anniversary of the January 22, 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

The day began with a special Mass and a papal blessing conveyed at St. Mary’s Cathedral by San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone who told the approximately 4,000 Catholics crammed into the church that the lie of abortion is part of our society “reaping the fruits of 50 years of cultural reversion.”

“If everyone decides for themselves what is true, there is no truth,” Archbishop Cordileone said.

Founded in 2005 by a group of San Francisco Bay Area residents, the Walk for Life West Coast’s mission is to change the perceptions of a society that thinks abortion is an answer. For more details, please visit: www.walkforlifewc.com

(Since 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its decision Roe v. Wade, ruled that women have a constitutional right to abortion. The prolife movement has grown to oppose the legal right to abortion. The movement is based on the belief that abortion is morally wrong and that the right to life of the unborn child should be protected. The movement seeks to end abortion through legal, political, and grassroots efforts.)

(Marriage, cont. from page 1) blended family/parenting challenges, long distance relationships, in-law/family issues, financial hardship, or may have simply just grown apart from each other. Some couples come to Retrouvaille during the initial signs of a marriage problem and yet other couples are in a state of despair and hopelessness when they attend the program. A willingness to work on your marriage is the primary requirement for Retrouvaille and both husband and wife are required to attend the program.

Retrouvaille is presented in three phases. It begins with a weekend experience in which couples are helped to re-establish communication and to gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple. Weekends are typically held at either a local hotel or a retreat facility. This part of the program is presented by three couples and a priest or minister team. The presenting team has experienced disillusionment, pain, and conflict in their own lives and offer hope as they share their personal struggles of reconciliation and healing.

You will find courage and strength in the realization that you are not alone in your struggle. You will not be asked to share your problems with anyone else. However, you will be encouraged to put the past behind you and to look beyond the hurt and pain, in order to rediscover each other in a new and positive way. The Retrouvaille weekend provides tools to help couples with communication, forgiveness, and trust. It teaches a dialogue process of meaningful communication.

Next are the “Post” weekend sessions. This is an important phase of the Retrouvaille healing process. The hurt and pain of a struggling marriage cannot be healed in a single weekend experience.

The Post sessions include a series of 2-hour talks by additional couples that expand on the weekend concepts. Most couples, without a doubt, find this to be one of the most productive components of the program and where the most growth in the marriage occurs.

And the final phase is the “Monthly Support” or “CORE.” This is a monthly small-group support meeting known as called CORE (Continuing Our Retrouvaille Experience). It allows for a casual and supportive interaction with other couples who have attended the Retrouvaille program. This monthly meeting continues to reinforce the communication tools learned on the weekend and it is a positive and welcoming space that allows couples to form strong and lasting bonds as they continue to heal their marriages.

So if you are dealing with struggles in your marriage, please seriously consider participating Retrouvaille. Go to www.helpourmarriage.com for more detailed information and to find a program schedule of locations and dates. For locations closest to the Santa Rosa Diocese:

- **Oakland weekend of February 22nd**
- **San Francisco weekend of April 5th**
- **Sacramento weekend of July 12th**

There is always hope of reviving your relationship and Retrouvaille can help! Call the Family Life Office (566-3305) if you need more information.

(Transparency Update, cont. from page 1) Gary Timmons

Ordained for the Diocese of Santa Rosa May 6, 1967
Served 6-67 to 3-94
Arrested and imprisoned 10-1995 / Laicized 5-15-2001
New allegation in the Diocese of Santa Rosa
January 2019

The men named above have all been listed by the Diocese in January of 2019. Sadly, we add today another name to the list. The Diocese of Santa Rosa had no previous knowledge of any misconduct by Wilfred Sheehy and this new allegation comes as a complete surprise. We continue to pray that the transparency of the Diocese will allow others who have been harmed by priests to come forward so that they can come to peace and healing.

Wilfred L. Sheehy

Ordained for the Society of the Catholic Apostolate September 21, 1960
Incardinated with Diocese of Santa Rosa
February 1, 1971
Accused in 2019 for abuse of a minor in 1972-1977
Deceased 10-21-2014

(Christ’s Invitations, cont. from page 3) exhorted.

He quoted the early 20th century Chilean Jesuit St. Alberto Hurtado, asking, “Will the progress of society consist only in owning the latest car or buying the newest gadget on the market? Is that the extent of our greatness as human beings? Is that all there is to live for?”

“So let me ask you: Is that your idea of greatness? Weren’t you created for something more? The Virgin Mary understood this and said, ‘Let it be done!’ Erika and Rogelio understood this and said, ‘Let it be done!’ Alfredo understood this and said, ‘Let it be done!’ Nirmeen understood this and said, ‘Let it be done!’”

“Young friends, I ask you: Are you willing to say ‘yes’? The Gospel teaches us that the world will not be better because there are fewer sick, weak, frail or elderly people to be concerned about, or because there are fewer sinners. Rather it will be better when more people, like these friends, are willing and enthused enough to give birth to the future and believe in the transforming power of God’s love.”

The pope said: “Only love makes us more human and fulfilled; everything else is a pleasant but useless placebo.”
Pope Francis: Young People Are The ‘Now’ Of God

By Hannah Brockhaus

Panama City, Panama, Jan 27 (CNA/EWTN News) - Serving God and his mission is not a passing thing, but can and should be pursued in the present, with one's entire life, Pope Francis said Sunday at the closing Mass for World Youth Day in Panama City.

“Brothers and sisters, the Lord and his mission are not a ‘meantime’ in our life, something temporary; they are our life!” the pope said Jan. 27. “Not tomorrow but now, for wherever your treasure is, there will be your heart also be.”

Jesus “wants to be our treasure, because he is not a ‘meantime’, an interval in life or a passing fad; he is generous love that invites us to entrust ourselves,” he continued. “You, dear young people, are not the future but the now of God.”

At the end of the Mass, which officially closed World Youth Day 2019 in Panama, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life, announced that the next international youth gathering will be in Lisbon, Portugal in 2022.

“At the conclusion of this celebration,” Pope Francis said, “I thank God for having given us the opportunity to share these days together and to experience once more this World Youth Day,” adding that the “faith and joy” of the young people present “made Panama, America and the entire world shake!”

“I ask you not to let the fervor of these days grow cold. Go back to your parishes and communities, to your families and your friends, and share this experience, so that others can resonate with the strength and enthusiasm that is yours.”

In his homily at Mass in Campo San Juan Pablo II, the pope reflected on the day’s Gospel passage, which speaks of the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, when he returned to Nazareth where he had grown up and preached in the synagogue.

Not everyone in the synagogue was ready to listen to Jesus, Francis said, and the same can happen to Catholics today, when people do not believe that God can be “that close and real.”

He said, “You too, dear young people, can experience this whenever you think that your mission, your vocation, even your life itself, is a promise far off in the future, having nothing to do with the present.”

“We do not always believe that the Lord can invite us to work and soil our hands with him in his Kingdom in that simple and blunt a way,” he continued. So instead, people prefer “a distant God: nice, good, generous, but far-off, a God who does not inconvenience us.”

But that is not who God is, he said. “He is concrete, close, real love. Indeed, this ‘concrete manifestation of love is one of the essential elements in the life of Christians,” he said, quoting a 2006 homily of Benedict XVI.

“Do you want to live out your love in a practical way? May your ‘yes’ continue to be the gateway for the Holy Spirit to give us a new Pentecost for the Church and for the world.”

Jesus invites you and calls you in your communities and cities to go out and find your grandparents, your elders; to stand up and with them to speak out and realize the dream that the Lord has dreamed for you,” he said.

“Do you want to live out your love in a practical way? May your ‘yes’ continue to be the gateway for the Holy Spirit to give us a new Pentecost for the Church and for the world,” he concluded.

February 27: St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

World Day for Consecrated Life Celebrates the Diversity and Beauty of Consecrated Vocations

WASHINGTON (USCCB) The Catholic Church will hold its annual celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life on February 2, 2019. This celebration is a special time for individual parishes and the greater Church to celebrate the beauty of the consecrated vocation, highlight its various forms, and reflect on the unique Christ-centered witness that consecrated men and women bring to the Church and the surrounding community.

Instituted by St. Pope John Paul II in 1997, World Day for Consecrated Life will be formally recognized during a Mass offered by Pope Francis at the Vatican on February 2, 2019. The day is celebrated in conjunction with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, which commemorates through the blessing and lighting of candles that Christ is the light of the world. In the same way, consecrated persons, by belonging exclusively to Christ, act as the true hands and feet of Jesus by bringing his love and the light of the Gospel to all those they encounter in their life and work.

Each form of consecrated life is distinct and inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve the Church through a particular charism. Discerning consecrated life involves a process of identifying the unique way in which Christ is calling a person to love. Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations offered encouraging words for those discerning a vocation to consecrated life: “Oftentimes, those discerning a vocation search for the perfect community. The Lord, who created every heart, knows of the way he is calling each person to serve him. Trust that he will lead you to the vocation that is perfect for you.”

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) is retained each year by the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations to conduct a survey of those solemnly professed in the United States in the past year. This year’s CARA Study identified 240 men and women religious who professed perpetual vows in 2018. Of these 240 religious, 162 responded with 92 sisters and nuns and 70 brothers and priests participating in the study. Some of the major findings are:

- On average, responding religious report that they were 19 years old when they first considered a vocation to religious life, but half were 18 or younger

(see Consecrated Vocations, page 7)
Press Conference of Life

By Chris Lyford

After Bishop Vasa’s press conference on January 14th no less three reporters from significant News outlets pulled me aside and relayed to me their personal admiration for the person of Bishop Vasa. Comments like: “I like that guy”, and “he is such a good speaker and writer” while all relaying a sense of conversion welling up from inside. My thought was, “yeah, me too”. But I also thought: “well if you had a chance to spend quality time with every one of the priests in this Diocese, you would probably say the same thing”. The sad circumstance of inviting the secular news media outlets, with their cameras, recorders, and notebooks, into the chancery conference room brought fruit of something rare, but always available; the sober interaction of the church - the body of Christ, with the world outside to which the church has been sent. I believe what the reporters experienced was the presence of God’s love through sincere and forthright dialogue.

The “Our Father” with which we opened the meeting I am sure was part of the atmosphere of grace, along with at least a dozen people I know who were praying for the event in real time. Bishop Vasa gave a statement, then the questions ensued; the relatively predictable, the benign, and the ‘hook laden’. I think the reporters were surprised (sadly) that when they were asking their questions, the Bishop was looking them in the eyes, and truly seeking an understanding of what they were asking, allowing them to finish their question, and then responding directly, and making sure the answer was sufficient. Perhaps they hadn’t experienced that before from “Church officials”, or had developed a preconceived notion of what it was like to talk to a Bishop. Images like the priest in the movie “Princess Bride” come to mind.

Truly, though, I have to say it was impressive how our Bishop dealt with the whole thing. It was inevitable that in light of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report, that sooner or later the news trucks would be lining up in the Chancery parking lot as they did on January 14th. Taking the pro-active step in releasing the names, and in as thorough a method possible, is not easy, and add to the burden the fact that you are naming your brother priests. This was, and is a very hard time. Period.

But if you think about it, as Catholics, “hard times” are what we have said “yes” to when we were confirmed in the faith. I was confirmed in the days when you received a slap on the face, signifying that I needed to prepare for persecution; the persecution of defending my Catholic faith with intelligence and reason, or of finding myself inadequate in attempting to describe the love of God, or being ridiculed, or yelled at, or God forbid, slapped. But I also realize that I have been slapped many times without being really conscious about it, when I am encouraged to be lukewarm in my faith, to ’tone it down’ or to not say anything about what I truly believe (and what my church actually teaches) so as not to make anyone feel uncomfortable. Though I really try to speak to my faith with my life, without using words (I quit talking about anything faith related to most of my family of origin 20 years ago about my faith and I still have a reputation of being “Catholic Chris”), I understand it is important to be ready at any time to stand up, speak what I think the Holy Spirit wants me to say (God willing), and look anyone with questions in the eye with true empathy and understanding. Long ago I heard the examination question: “if you were put on trial for being a follower of Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”. It’s a great question to pray about as Lent approaches. We all have an ongoing “press conference” in our lives, instead of reporters, we encounter each and every person our lives touch in some way. As with our Bishop, the only way to succeed in communicating the Gospel message of God’s Mercy is to speak His truth with sincere love.

Chris Lyford is the Communications Director for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California

I Heard Jesus Saying to Me …

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

Have you ever received an unexpected message from a friend, maybe a text message or a voice mail that made your day, or even led you to change your outlook on life? This happened to me last month, in the middle of SEEK 2019, the annual conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

In his homily at Mass that day, Archbishop Samuel Aquila spoke about bringing the light of Christ into the world’s darkness. He encouraged us to recapture the “sense of eternity,” which, he said, society has lost. In his homily, he also said: “I needed to prepare for persecution; the persecution of defending my Catholic faith with intelligence and reason, or of finding myself inadequate in attempting to describe the love of God, or being ridiculed, or yelled at, or God forbid, slapped.” But I also realize that I have been slapped many times without being really conscious about it, when I am encouraged to be lukewarm in my faith, to ‘tone it down’ or to not say anything about what I truly believe (and what my church actually teaches) so as not to make anyone feel uncomfortable. Though I really try to speak to my faith with my life, without using words (I quit talking about anything faith related to most of my family of origin 20 years ago about my faith and I still have a reputation of being “Catholic Chris”), I understand it is important to be ready at any time to stand up, speak what I think the Holy Spirit wants me to say (God willing), and look anyone with questions in the eye with true empathy and understanding. Long ago I heard the examination question: “if you were put on trial for being a follower of Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”. It’s a great question to pray about as Lent approaches. We all have an ongoing “press conference” in our lives, instead of reporters, we encounter each and every person our lives touch in some way. As with our Bishop, the only way to succeed in communicating the Gospel message of God’s Mercy is to speak His truth with sincere love.

I began to ask our Residents questions—“What does heaven mean to you?” … “What’s the secret to a good life?” … “How have you faced life’s inevitable difficulties?” Their answers left me in admiration.

didn’t believe in heaven,” she said, “I would be tempted to end my life because there would be no reason to go on living in my condition if it weren’t for the hope of seeing God and my family in heaven.”

Maud, a retired social worker, told me “Heaven is God’s work in us.” When I asked her what that looks like, she smiled and responded, “I just told you! It looks like us!”

Carl, who has dealt with a physical disability his whole life, gave me a pep talk about perseverance and told me that the secret to a good life is to be resolutely joyful, no matter what happens, because “God is always with us!”

It seems to me that these seniors live what Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap., the Pope’s own preacher, teaches about the sense of eternity.

Letters Policy

Email: srdoces1@gmail.com
Write: Letters to the Editor
North Coast Catholic
985 Airway Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Name, hometown, and daytime phone number for verification required. Short letters only, no more than 150 words. Letters may be edited for clarity or space.

NOTE: Views of correspondents do not necessarily reflect those of this publication.

www.srdioceses.org
The January issue of the North Coast Catholic was a difficult issue to prepare for and to read. I have been in this job for nearly 16 years, and while much of my work has been on the Safe Environment side, I have also spent many hours working with and for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse. This job, this ministry is, without question, the most difficult thing I have ever done.

I am a cradle Catholic who did not grow up in a home where the priests were friends. The perceived distance between the laity and the pedestal we placed the clergy on was high! Hearing stories, meeting face to face with those who had been harmed by these men of God, whom I had placed on that pedestal, was painful. From a faith perspective, I was challenged. I thought any priest who was ordained had been called by God, so how could these men have been called? How could God allow this evil to permeate the priesthood, why weren’t they stopped before they were ever ordained? How could these monsters, celebrate the mass? And how could God work through them in the sacrifice of the mass if they were infested with evil? I wasn’t really challenging the power of God here; I was just trying to reconcile my belief that all priests were holy men of God vs. what I was hearing.

I am no theologian and I don’t really want to risk misleading anyone. I have found a way to reconcile this for me. It has to do with free will, choosing sin, losing touch with God and the blessed vocation they were called to. And I also believe it has something to do with sickness—because no one in their right mind would perpetrate these atrocities on an innocent child. That works for me, allows me to quit questioning God (at least about this!) and accept that some men have done these horrible things. But they do not define the priesthood, and the clergy that I have come to know.

I have spoken to victim survivors, victim perpetrators, family members, and clergy perpetrators. When I sit with someone, I listen with belief. I don’t judge what they say to determine truth. For me, anyone who calls me is listened to with the assumption that everything they are telling me is the truth as they remember it. Many times I heard that I was not the first person they told, but the first person that believed. As I would research—was the accused priest in the diocese at the time, at that parish at that time, etc., my goal was and is to find information to support their story, their truth. Have there been people that have told a story that didn’t ring true, that couldn’t be supported factually? Of course.

I don’t like to talk about the time I was fooled by a priest perpetrator. When he told his story, he seemed so devastated to be accused by the individual who had come forward. He told a very convincing story about trying to help, and his sense of betrayal. I wasn’t the only one fooled, but I keep thinking I should have known better, after all this is my work! God has blessed me many, many times in this ministry and this was one of them. He taught me firsthand how convincing, how convincing these guys could be. I have never judged a parent for sending their child off with a priest, but after this experience, I had a kind of understanding that I didn’t have before. I call it head knowledge vs. heart knowledge.

One of the more difficult conversations I have had was with a victim perpetrator, someone who was harmed by a priest, someone he trusted. The terrible part was hearing how he then victimized a child. This person paid a heavy price, and I felt so saddened. It was heartbreaking to talk to someone who had harmed a child and know that it was in part, because he had first been harmed—and by a priest!

The damage done by those few priests, who perpetrated such evil on innocent lives, is long term and far reaching. One mothers words, told to me in the early days, has haunted me. She said to me “The child I gave birth to no longer exists. He was forever changed by what was done to him.” Let that sit with you for a minute. A priest, whom you trust to assist you with building and nurturing, and growing your child in faith and joy, has irreparably damaged your child, so much so that they will never be the same. Can you imagine? I know for some of you, you know exactly what I am saying. Because you see, the damage is not just to the child victim. It is to the parents who wrestle with doubt—should I have, could I have? It is to the siblings whose brother or sister has changed, and usually not in a good way. The family focus changes. It is to the playmates, the classmates who can’t understand the change, the heightened fight or flight reactions of their former playmate. It is to the classroom teacher who is frustrated at the academic changes in this formerly easy child who is now unreachable and underperforming. And when the abuse is made public, it is to those people in the pew, who loved and trusted this priest. Who deny that it is possible for this awful story to be true and then slowly, reluctantly, come to the truth.

It has been a painful journey—the learning curve associated with this work. It is gut wrenching to hear the victim/survivors tell their story. It is awe inspiring to see their courage and their resilience. It is heartbreaking to sit with parents who think they could have/should have. It is so sad to hear a man ask—can I trust my brother who was abused to be around my kids? It is frankly disheartening to speak to a victim perpetrator and feel revulsion for what they did and enormous compassion for what was done to them. Over time, I have come to even have compassion for most of the priest perpetrators. Not all of them, I confess, God is working on me! You see, I think most of them do not wake up in the morning eager to hurt a child. For many of them, there is something wrong, some disconnect that allows them to hurt and abuse a child and not see the damage they are doing. Were some truly evil? No doubt. But others, I think are wounded, ill, damaged in some way. The Bishop has asked for all in the diocese to join our priests as we pray for the victims of clergy abuse, their families, and for the bishops to have courage and do the right thing. I want to join our Bishop in asking for those prayers. The children who were harmed, now adults need our prayers. Their families need our prayers. Our faithful clergy, who were horrified, and saddened by the betrayals of their fellow priests, need our prayers. Our Bishop and the bishops around the world need our prayers. And as difficult and painful as it may be, those priests perpetrators need our prayers.

People ask me how I can stay in this ministry. On a national level, I am one of maybe 15 remaining who were there in the beginning. Everyone else has left, because the burn out rate is high. Someone told me a story today from his childhood and I knew the words were for me. God said “do the thing I have asked of you until it is done. Then come back to Me and I will give you the next thing.” So I will continue, until I get the word that I am done.

For those of you, who were harmed by clergy, please know of my sincere desire to hear you and help you. I take your words very seriously. As the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, it is an honor and a privilege to listen to you, to sit in awe of your strength and resilience, and to walk this journey with you. Please call (707) 566-3308 or email: jsparacio@srdiocese.org.

Julie Sparacio is Diocesan Director of Child and Youth Protection.

Guarding the Vulnerable
Safe Environment Coordinator Statements—continued...

Last month, we published statements from most of the Safe Environment Coordinators in our Diocese. These statements spoke of their serious commitment to diocesan safe environment policies. Unfortunately, due to publishing deadlines, some of the statements were not in that January issue. I wanted to take this opportunity to publish those that were not included previously. All of the people that do this work, the parish and school Safe Environment Coordinators (SEC) take their responsibilities very seriously. These are the dedicated people who ensure that our policies are followed, that make sure a background check and training of every employee and volunteer happens before they start. It is not easy to know who is involved in which ministry, and track them down when something isn’t completed. It isn’t easy to see that everyone completes the training by the deadline whenever a new training is required, or gets fingerprinted and cleared before they start. These people are the ones who are the first line in keeping our children safe. The safe environment that exists now would not happen without them. I am grateful to them. When you see them around—let them know that you are grateful too.

DEL NORTE & HUMBOLDT
As the Safe Environment Coordinator for St. Bernard’s Academy in Eureka, I want to assure you that I take my job seriously. I make certain that every volunteer and employee who works with children is fingerprinted and complete their mandatory online training in advance, as directed per Diocesan policy, before they are allowed to volunteer or to work with children. The safety of our children is our top priority.

Lynn Enemark, Safe Environment Coordinator, St. Bernard’s Academy.

MENDOCINO & LAKE DEANERY:
I am the Safe Environment Coordinator for Kolbe Academy in Clearlake, California but more importantly I am the mother of 11 children and nothing is more important and sacred to me as the safety of our parish’s most precious commodity: our children. I take my job very seriously as does our Pastor, Father Adam Rokas, with whom I work very closely, to assure our community that every volunteer and employee who has regular contact with children is fingerprinted and trained before they are allowed to volunteer or to work in any capacity within our parish. Father Adam and I meet on a weekly basis and always discuss how our program is doing in making sure that our children are safe; we go over policies and procedures and our volunteer’s cooperation with them to make sure there is no breaches to our safety protocols as nothing we do is more important than our children’s physical, emotional, and psychological well being. We want parents to be assured that we take their child’s safety to heart and before anything safety is at the forefront of our minds. No one who is not cleared through the established guidelines of the dio-

APPROPRIATE IMAGE: (see Safe Environment, page 16)  

February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes
Marriage & Family Life Office:

Parents: Keep Your Children Safe—Teach Them How to Prevent Being Sexually Abused

As parents we are blessed with the great gift of life—the gift of children, the most incredible and wonderful gift from God. As parents know, there is great joy in having children but also a great obligation in raising your children to be responsible, loving, and hopefully, faithful adults. The journey in educating and raising your children to be responsible, loving, and joyful in having children but also a great obligation in every child.

In addition to all the various aspects of life of which a child needs to be educated, giving your child the skills on how to avoid being sexually abused is of the utmost importance for the well-being and long-term psychological stability of each and every child.

In researching this subject in preparation for this edition of the North Coast Catholic, we read many articles and reviewed many websites that deal with preventing child sexual abuse and have identified a number of steps parents should take with their children.

1. Develop a daily “communication” routine with your children as they grow up and build trust by regularly talking to them about their day. Make them feel comfortable about talking about the things they did and were involved in during their day. Build trust with them so that they can talk to you about any topic. And ask some leading questions that require an answer that is not a simple “yes” or “no.” And remember to LISTEN! We have such busy lives that we frequently need to make a point to stop and listen to what our children have to say to us.

2. Begin early in the life of your children (by at least 3 or 4 years old) in talking about their body parts, including teaching them to use the proper names for their body parts. Avoid cute or vague names like “booty” or “wee wee” or “boobies.” These terms can disparage a child’s body parts. Knowing the proper body part terms can help educate a child about their body as well as talk clearly if something inappropriate has happened.

3. Teach your young children that some of their body parts are “private” because they are not for everyone to see or touch. Let them know that mommy or daddy can see them naked but anyone else should only see them with their clothes on or in the presence of mommy or daddy (like at the doctor). “Private parts” can be identified as those body parts covered by underwear or a swimsuit.

4. Talk with your child frequently, in a matter-of-fact fashion, that no one should touch their “private parts” and that no one should ask or force them to touch somebody else’s private parts. Child sexual abuse often begins with the perpetrator asking the child to touch them or someone else.

5. Make sure that your children know that they will never get in trouble if they tell you a “body secret.” Perpetrators use fear against a child whom they have sexually abused and intimidate them into keeping secrets. So build the trust with your children that no matter what has happened, when they tell you anything that has occurred regarding their body’s private parts, they will not get in trouble.

6. Know where your children are and who they are with at all times. It is really important to get to know your children’s friends and families. Make sure you know the setting of a friend’s home life before you let your child spend time at their house. And realize that known family members and friends are the most common perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

7. As part of establishing frequent communication with your children, learn to recognize the signs of abuse. Sexual abuse is not usually as obvious as a broken bone or a dark bruise. Some typical signs may be: changes in sleeping habits, loss of appetite, big mood swings, or strange behavior that does not go away quickly.

8. And finally, if you suspect that your child has been sexually abused, you need to take action. Contact the local authorities where you live. It is important that professionals that are properly trained in child sexual assault cases get involved and handle any investigation. You should not try to conduct any investigation on your own.

As we are all very sadly aware, sexual abuse is a serious problem in our society and we need to take steps to protect our children. Arming your children with some preventative skills gives them the hope that, if confronted with a sexual abuse situation, they might be able to save themselves from being victimized.

As much as each parent wants to protect their children forever, it is just impossible to keep them from the world and our over-sexualized culture. Starting early in a child’s life to have conversations about their body is very important and doesn’t have to be scary. Protect them with knowledge and an understanding of their bodies.

Under the leadership of Bishop Vasa, the Santa Rosa Diocese is working hard to protect the children throughout the north coast. Within all the Catholic schools and the religious education programs (CCD) of the Diocese, a program for all grade levels known as “Circle of Grace” teaches children to be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries. Additionally, every Diocesan staff member and volunteer is required to have their background checked through a fingerprint “live scan” with a local agency and also take and keep current on the “Safe Environment” program through CMG Connect.

Providing for the safety our children is of the utmost importance. As parents you have been given the responsibility of providing for the education of your children. Hopefully the steps we have outlined here will help you but we encourage you to do your own research and reading on additional actions you can take to protect your children from sexual abuse. May God bless you and your family and all the best for a happy and holy 2019! ♦

—Pax Christi, Carlin & Deacon Dave Gould, Family Life Office Co-Directors

[Image: February 2: Presentation of the Lord]
I Used to be Someone Who Would Have Supported the New York Abortion Law. But Then I Saw an Abortion Take Place.

By Abby Johnson

When an abortion happens in the later part of pregnancy, 20 weeks or more gestation, it is an arduously long and painful process, often done by D&E (dilation and extraction). In the simplest of terms, the fetus is crushed and disembodied by the abortionist’s instruments and then removed out of the mother. This can take more than one day and is a very expensive and risky procedure. While the 1973 Supreme Court decisions of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton allow abortion for any reason throughout all nine months of pregnancy, most states have tried to limit this to viability. New York took a gigantic step forward though, codifying Roe and Doe and permitting abortion until birth, long past the viability of a fetus.

Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the legislation surrounded by women cheering for the right to dismember and tear apart babies in the womb. It was a sad image, especially viewing it as someone who used to be one of those women, as someone who ran my own Planned Parenthood clinic and sold abortions better than a timeshare agent ever could.

Abortion was always pushed where I worked from the highest levels down because it’s a moneymaker. Women and their unborn babies are seen as dollar signs. Empowerment means telling them “no, you cannot have this baby and still go to school or have a career; abortion is your only option.” Abortion is an easy sell, especially in states like New York where there are few, if any obstacles, to having one, and where the cost of living is high.

Minority women especially suffer in New York, where there are more black babies that are aborted than born. The impact of abortion on black women is frankly unfair. Black mothers in New York aborted at more than three times the rate of white women. Where is the support these mothers need to keep their babies?

The New York law won’t just harm minorities; it will harm all women who seek to terminate their late-term pregnancies. According to the Guttmacher Institute, just over one percent of all abortions are on fetuses past 20 weeks gestation, which equals about 13,000 late-term abortions. Some of these children are viable and can live outside the womb and every single one has infinite worth.

The advocates of the New York law—and late-term abortions in general—always say women should be able to terminate so late in their pregnancies because of fetal abnormalities. And the stories of women who do choose this option are just heartbreaking. But even though that’s the national narrative of late-term abortion reasoning, it’s not the main reason why women choose abortion so late in pregnancy.

Guttmacher released a study in 2013 that named the most common reasons why women chose abortion late-term: not recognizing they were pregnant, issues with the father, financial constraints, depression and/or use of illicit substances, and indecision.

Another thing about this particular law that makes it so egregious is that these dangerous abortions are not required to be done by a licensed physician. Even licensed doctors have killed women during late-term abortions as the complication risk is high. Women who abort late-term babies are at an increased risk of mental health issues, depression, suicide, hemorrhage, organ damage or loss, and infections. New York is further endangering women by refusing to demand a licensed physician perform the abortion. Plenty of abortion facilities around the nation have been cited for such infractions against their patients (inspection reports available here).

This law is a farce to allow more abortions and easy access to a more risky and expensive procedure for women. While I did not work in a late-term abortion facility, I know many women who did, and many former abortion workers will tell you that the abortion facilities often had unqualified staff helping with the abortion procedure, which was risky. But it made money. This is the opposite of empowerment for women. The entire abortion movement strips women of empowerment, dignity, and feminism.

The location of the baby is the only difference between life and death in New York now. One mother will hold her newborn infant in one room of a hospital while another infant, perhaps only days from birth, lies lifeless in another room at the hands of an abortionist. I hope this law is reported on far and wide, that Americans learn exactly what a late-term abortion is, that questions are asked about what this procedure entails, that the reality of this gruesome and vile procedure is exposed.

That is ultimately how I left the abortion industry—I assisted in an ultrasound guided abortion and saw firsthand how the baby fought against the medical instruments that ultimately took its life. I walked out of the clinic and never looked back. May all of us wake up to the truth that life exists in the womb and it deserves to be protected.

Abby Johnson is the director of And Then There Were None, which helps abortion workers leave their jobs and find life-affirming ones. She’s also the author of “Unplanned”, which has been made into a feature film of the same name and will be released in theaters this Spring.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Catholic Diocese of Santa Rosa
dioceseofsantarosa.org

For Advertising Information,
Please contact Patty Brooks
advertising@srdiocese.org
(714) 323-9972

Support Your
NORTH COAST CATHOLIC
The Newspaper of the Diocese of Santa Rosa
www.srdiocese.org

Making visible the reality of God’s love

Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa
Visit our new website www.marianisters.com
How to Prepare for Lent

Vinita Hampton Wright (ignatianspirituality.com)

Ash Wednesday falls on March 6th this year. How do you prepare for Lent? How have you prepared in the past? What are your ideas about what should happen during Lent?

We have the traditional Catholic practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. So, we pray more than usual, or we pray with different emphases. We eat smaller or fewer meals or give up a favorite food or drink group. We give more of our resources or give them specifically to special works of mercy during Lent.

Prayer, fasting, and charitable giving continue to be quite good practices during Lent or at any time.

But, you might think, how do I prepare myself for this season? What needs to happen within so that I can practice with more integrity and intention whatever I’m doing on the outside?

There are plenty of ideas for actions and practices during Lent; coming up with ideas usually is not the problem. But we don’t want to do anything simply to be doing it, even if it’s a good thing. We don’t want to make a list of merciful works so that we can place a checkmark beside each one as we accomplish it.

It’s good to have a plan for doing. It’s also good to have a plan for being.

How do I want to be during Lent this year? More quiet and thoughtful? More open to God’s desires? Better able to sit with people who need me? More attentive to sacred readings, whether in church or in private? Do I need to be more compassionate toward my own fears and failings? Do I need to become more courageous about using the gifts God has given me?

In the days prior to Lent, try one or more of these suggestions.

Ask God, every day, “What does my soul need?” Just ask, and wait quietly. Because we’re very good at fooling ourselves about how we’re doing, it might take several days of praying this question before we’re truly open and humble enough to know the answer.

Ask God, every day, “What about my life makes you happy?” Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it—perhaps many aspects of it—bring joy to God’s heart. Think of how your children or grandchildren or other people close to you make you happy. God is in relationship with you, which means that your sins grieve God’s heart, but also that your growth and love and freedom and kindness bring joy to God of the universe. Again, you will probably need to pray this a few times before you are willing to consider that you give God pleasure, that you make God happy in any way. Stick with this little prayer and keep listening.

Tell God, and yourself, every day, “I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season.” Maybe you’re not open right now, or you’re not as open and willing as you’d like to be or think you should be. What else is new? We can always open our lives a bit more, let go of more stuff, listen better, and do more quickly and passionately what we know helps nurture God’s kingdom on earth.

This is a beginning: three short and simple prayer starters to ready yourself for the holy season. ✟

New York Women and Children Deserve Better

Damian J. Geminder
Editor & Media Coordinator Feminists for Life of America

It was just over a year ago that I first visited the 9/11 Memorial, located on the site of the original World Trade Center. Despite living in New York my entire life, including attending graduate school in Manhattan, I had never gotten around to visiting the memorial until then.

The memorial’s distinguishing feature is two acre-large footprints in place of where the Twin Towers once stood, composed of giant waterfalls into reflecting pools. Surrounding the pools are the names of all of those who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks, as well as the victims of the first World Trade Center bombing. That’s when I saw it.

Every unborn child known lost on those horrible days is memorialized, despite not being included in the official death tolls. Although there is no equality under the law for the unborn, at the very least, it was right to call attention to their lives and what their deaths meant to the families who loved them.

Tuesday night, the memorial proved a monstrous farce.

The New York state Legislature passed one of the most sweeping abortion expansions in the country to mark the Roe and Doe U.S. Supreme Court decisions, which struck down abortion restrictions nationwide.

To “celebrate” his signing the so-called Reproductive Health Act into law, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered multiple landmarks be set alight in pink, including One World Trade Center, presumably to honor (post-natal) women.

New York has long rejected the humanity of the unborn. Our abortion laws were loosened three years before Roe. But this law, which effectively expands abortion-on-demand from 24 weeks to birth, thanks to the new, ambiguous “health” exception for late-
A Three-day Meeting in Rome to Do What?

Fr. Regis Scanlon, O.F.M. Cap

Pope Francis will meet on February 21, 2019 with the bishops’ conferences of the world on protecting minors from clergy sexual abuse. But what is the problem they will be addressing? Is the problem pedophilia, homosexuality, or rogue clericalism, or all of the above?

Father Hans Zollner, a member of the committee organizing this meeting told the Vatican News on December 27 that the meeting should produce “a clarification of procedures, which aren’t so clear,” regarding the responsibility and accountability of bishops and religious superiors throughout the entire world.

Prof. Ernesto Caffo, a member of the pope’s Commission for the Protection of Minors said “the conference would focus on training bishops to spot abuse, hold one another accountable and to intervene. They will also be taught to listen to victims.” So, the three days will be spent educating and training bishops in psychological, social, and criminal detection skills related to clerical sexual abuse.

It has also been suggested by former members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors that the three days be spent “revaluing the structure of the group in order to make it more effective in pursuing policy reforms.” The three-day meeting should be spent examining “its purpose, its powers, its future,” and why “it has failed to live up to the hope” that was placed in it.

But, these suggestions seem to be aimed at fixing problems and damage control after the abuse is done. They do not get to the cause of the sexual abuse itself.

The problem of clergy sexual abuse is so serious, entrenched and widespread that it must somehow be related to a misunderstanding—or rejection—of something fundamental to the Catholic Faith itself. This is not primarily an administrative or educational problem. It is fundamentally a spiritual and pastoral problem.

Bishop Edward B Scharfenberger of the Albany diocese stated the problem best to his clergy on July 29, 2018. In order to explain today’s crisis in clergy sexual abuse, he said: “I cannot see how we can avoid what is really at the root of this crisis: sin and a retreat from holiness, specifically the holiness of an integral, truly human sexuality.”

So, what would be a “plan of action” for the February 21 meeting?

I would suggest that in anticipation of the February 21 meeting, the pope and bishops should at least prayerfully study the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium). They should come to the meeting with citations from Sacred Scripture, Dei Verbum and Lumen Gentium enabling them to argue how the interpretation of the teachings in Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church on adultery and homosexuality are to be applied in “pastoral practice” today.

Why do I suggest this?

Anyone who has followed the Catholic news media for the past 50 years knows that the problems with the Church teachings on human sexuality began with the dissent from Paul VI’s 1968 teachings on Humanae Vitae. Catholic theologians teaching at Catholic universities throughout the world dissent from the Church’s teaching that contraception is evil. Various Catholic magazines and newspapers promoted the argument of these theologians to relax the Church’s teachings on human sexuality.

But the teachings of the Church on human sexuality are “integral.” They are connected with one another. You can’t affect one without affecting the rest. After all, the same Scriptural and Church authority which is behind the Church teaching on the evil of contraception is also behind the Scriptural and Church teaching on the evil of adultery and homosexual acts.

Surely, they secretly thought that the Church would someday change all of these teachings on human sexuality to keep up with the times.

But, these suggestions seem to be aimed at fixing problems and damage control after the abuse is done. They do not get to the cause of the sexual abuse itself.

The problem of clergy sexual abuse is so serious, entrenched and widespread that it must somehow be related to a misunderstanding—or rejection—of something fundamental to the Catholic Faith itself. This is not primarily an administrative or educational problem. It is fundamentally a spiritual and pastoral problem.

Bishop Edward B Scharfenberger of the Albany diocese stated the problem best to his clergy on July 29, 2018. In order to explain today’s crisis in clergy sexual abuse, he said: “I cannot see how we can avoid what is really at the root of this crisis: sin and a retreat from holiness, specifically the holiness of an integral, truly human sexuality.”

So, what would be a “plan of action” for the February 21 meeting?

I would suggest that in anticipation of the February 21 meeting, the pope and bishops should at least prayerfully study the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium). They should come to the meeting with citations from Sacred Scripture, Dei Verbum and Lumen Gentium enabling them to argue how the interpretation of the teachings in Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church on adultery and homosexuality are to be applied in “pastoral practice” today.

Why do I suggest this?

Anyone who has followed the Catholic news media for the past 50 years knows that the problems with the Church teachings on human sexuality began with the dissent from Paul VI’s 1968 teachings on Humanae Vitae. Catholic theologians teaching at Catholic universities throughout the world dissent from the Church’s teaching that contraception is evil. Various Catholic magazines and newspapers promoted the argument of these theologians to relax the Church’s teachings on human sexuality.

But the teachings of the Church on human sexuality are “integral.” They are connected with one another. You can’t affect one without affecting the rest. After all, the same Scriptural and Church authority which is behind the Church teaching on the evil of contraception is also behind the Scriptural and Church teaching on the evil of adultery and homosexual acts.

Surely, they secretly thought that the Church would someday change all of these teachings on human sexuality to keep up with the times.

It has also been suggested by former members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors that the three days be spent “revaluing the structure of the group in order to make it more effective in pursuing policy reforms.” The three-day meeting should be spent examining “its purpose, its powers, its future,” and why “it has failed to live up to the hope” that was placed in it.

But, these suggestions seem to be aimed at fixing problems and damage control after the abuse is done. They do not get to the cause of the sexual abuse itself.

The problem of clergy sexual abuse is so serious, entrenched and widespread that it must somehow be related to a misunderstanding—or rejection—of something fundamental to the Catholic Faith itself. This is not primarily an administrative or educational problem. It is fundamentally a spiritual and pastoral problem.

Bishop Edward B Scharfenberger of the Albany diocese stated the problem best to his clergy on July 29, 2018. In order to explain today’s crisis in clergy sexual abuse, he said: “I cannot see how we can avoid what is really at the root of this crisis: sin and a retreat from holiness, specifically the holiness of an integral, truly human sexuality.”

So, what would be a “plan of action” for the February 21 meeting?

I would suggest that in anticipation of the February 21 meeting, the pope and bishops should at least prayerfully study the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium). They should come to the meeting with citations from Sacred Scripture, Dei Verbum and Lumen Gentium enabling them to argue how the interpretation of the teachings in Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church on adultery and homosexuality are to be applied in “pastoral practice” today.

Why do I suggest this?
The Science (or Lack Thereof) Behind Juan Diego’s Tilma

By Fr. Robert Spitzer (The Magis Center)

On December 12, 1531, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on the tilma of native Aztec, Juan Diego. Since then, scientists have struggled to explain just how the image got there. The image itself has many extraordinary attributes that border on the miraculous (and probably indicate it!). In the 20th and 21st centuries, six attributes in particular have been scientifically examined.

1. The material of the tilma
The material of the tilma has maintained its chemical and structural integrity for almost 500 years. This is quite remarkable considering that most replicas of tilmas with the same chemical and structural composition last only 15 years before analyzable decomposition.

2. How the tilma was displayed
For its first 115 years, the tilma was displayed without protective glass and subjected to soot, candle wax, incense, and touching. There is currently no scientific explanation for its physical and chemical longevity.

3. Does not appear to be painted
Though there are several parts of the cloth which have been painted subsequent to the original image (e.g. the moon underneath the Virgin’s feet, the angel holding the cloth, and the rays coming from the image), the original image of the Virgin herself does not appear to have been painted by an artist.

There is no sketch underneath it, no brush strokes, no corrections, and it appears to have been produced in a single step. These features were identified by Dr. Philip Serna Callahan (biophysicist and NASA consultant) who photographed the image under infrared light.

4. The pigments used are unidentifiable
Nobel Prize winning biochemist, Richard Kuhn, analyzed a sample of the fabric and concluded that the pigments used were from no known natural source, whether animal, mineral, or vegetable. Given that there were no synthetic pigments in 1531, this enigma remains inexplicable.

5. The Lack of Decay
Dr. Philip Callahan also noted that the original image on the tilma had not cracked, flaked, or decayed in over 500 years, while the paint and gold leaf had flaked or deteriorated considerably. This phenomenon has still not yet been scientifically explained.

6. The Eyes on the Image
The eyes of the Virgin have three remarkable qualities that cannot be explained through known technology in 1531—and each would be difficult to replicate with today’s technology of computers, ophthalmologic knowledge, and digital photography:

- The images in the pupils also manifest the triple reflection called the Samson-Purkinje effect—which was completely unknown at the time of the image’s formation.
- The image in the eyes of the Virgin follow the curvature of the cornea precisely in the way it occurs in a normal human eye.

A remarkable source of conversion

Displayed in the Cathedral atop Tepeyac Hill in Mexico, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Juan Diego’s tilma has been a remarkable source of conversion to Catholicism throughout Mexico.

It has also been a source of strength and grace for the Catholic religion as a whole, particularly in times of persecution and secularism. The message of Our Lady to Juan Diego—filled with love and affection for the native people of the western hemisphere—has inspired tens of thousands of people. So far has her message reached, that she is now considered the patroness of all the Americas.

The influence of this single devotion has been so great that, upon seeing the image for the first time in 1754, Pope Benedict XIV wept and uttered the words of Psalm 147, “God has not dealt in like manner with any other nation.”

For Sources and to read more on our Lady of Guadalupe view Fr. Spitzer’s article, Contemporary, Scientifically Validated Miracles Associated with the Blessed Mary, Saints, and the Holy Eucharist found at www.magiscenter.com
These Honeymooners Head to World Youth Day

Panama City, Panama, Jan 26 (CNA) - At World Youth Day, there are tens of thousands of pilgrims, thousands of priests and religious sisters, and hundreds of bishops. But there are very few honeymooners. Nadia Giudice and Alberto Celi might, in fact, be the only ones.

The pair got married Dec. 8, 2018, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and knew immediately they would go World Youth Day Panama 2019 for their honeymoon.

The couple are part of an Argentine delegation to the event. Along with about 2,500 pilgrims from Argentina, they participated in a Mass celebrated Jan. 23 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Panama City.

She’s 25 and he’s 26, and they met, unsurprisingly, at Church- an event sponsored by the Legion of Mary, in the Santa Fe province of Argentina.

“We got to know each other, became friends and later got engaged. We were married December 8, Our Lady’s feast day, and this is our honeymoon,” Nadia told ACI Prensa, CNA’s Spanish language sister agency.

For his part, Albert confessed “never in our lives had we dreamed of this.”

“We couldn’t go to WYD Rio for different reasons and we thought we were never again going to have the possibility. Krakow was completely out of the question but when they told us that it was going to be in Panama we said: it’s now or never,” he explained.

Nadia said they chose this World Youth Day because “we could see that by the next time we would probably have children, so it was going to be more complicated for us to think about going as pilgrims, to be walking a ton and all those things.”

“If you really believe God is calling you to marriage, and your courtship was really done in prayer, and you prepared yourself always in prayer, and you believe you found the person, then you have to go all in and trust in God,” Nadia said.

“One of the things that stuck with me at the vocations fair is that it doesn’t matter to what vocation you’re called by God, there’s always going to be difficulties, and by our own means it’s impossible to fulfill it, but trusting completely in God, in Him we can do everything,” Alberto concluded.

This article was originally published by our sister agency, ACI Prensa. It has been translated and adapted by CNA. ☞
Bishops (USCCB), responding to the Senate's vote today on the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2019" (S. 109). The Senate voted (48-47) in favor of the bill, but Talalas expressed deep disappointment that it did not receive the 60 votes needed for passage in the Senate. The Senate held its vote on January 17, the day before the annual March for Life in Washington.

The bill would codify a permanent, government-wide policy against taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion coverage. It would also require health plans offered under the Affordable Care Act to disclose the extent of their coverage for abortion and the amount of any surcharge for that coverage to consumers. Archbishop Joseph Naumann, chair of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities at the USCCB, wrote to Congress prior to the vote, urging support for the legislation. Naumann said that "abortion is a false and violent response to an unplanned pregnancy that turns a woman in crisis and her unborn child against each other," and that the federal government "should not force taxpayers to subsidize this violence."

"The USCCB urges the House and Senate to work together to pass legislation that reflects the will of the American people, and prevents tax dollars from funding elective abortion," Talalas said.

"Catholic Clergy" In Pro-Abortion Ad Not Actually Catholic Clergy, Wester Says
Santa Fe, N.M., Jan 25 (CNA) - Archbishop John C. Wester of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe issued a statement on Wednesday clarifying that signatories to a letter in support of abortion "are not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in New Mexico."

On Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that found a right to legal abortion in the United States, the New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice published a full-page ad in the Albuquerque Journal featuring a letter signed by members of the clergy from various religions and denominations throughout New Mexico.

Two of the signatories were James Lehman from "Holy Family American National Catholic Church" in Las Cruces, and Francis Quintana from the "Blessed Oscar Romero Catholic Community in Albuquerque," both of whom presented themselves as priests of the Catholic Church.

Despite the use of "Catholic" in both churches names, they are not in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Wester explained in his statement.

The American National Catholic Church and the Ecumenical Catholic Community, to which the Blessed Oscar Romero Catholic Community belongs, are not part of the Roman Catholic Church. "New Mexico's three dioceses: the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the Diocese of Gallup and the Diocese of Las Cruces adamantly uphold the Church's historical belief in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death," Wester's statement added.

The letter, and the archbishop's response, came as New Mexico considers legislation that would repeal the state's laws criminalizing abortion, which date to the 1960s but have not been enforced since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade.

"Abortion... targets and victimizes...[a] deeply vulnerable population: unborn children and future generations. Our state must strive to protect and uphold the dignity of all peoples, from conception to natural death, and any effort to permit the killing of unborn children violates the sanctity of every human person, mother and child," Bishop James Wall of Gallup wrote earlier this month.

Covington Bishop Apologizes to Covington Catholic Students
By Christine Rousselle
Covington, Ky., Jan 25 (CNA) - Bishop Roger Foys of Covington issued an apology Friday for a Jan. 19 diocesan statement that condemned the actions of some Covington Catholic High School students, following a widely publicized incident after last week's March for Life in Washington, DC.

“We apologize to anyone who has been offended in any way by either of our statements which were made with good will based on the information we had," said Bishop Foys in the letter, which was addressed to the parents of Covington Catholic students.

"We would not have allowed ourselves to be bullied and pressured into making a statement prematurely, and we take full responsibility for it.”

Foys also singled out Covington Catholic student Nicholas Sandmann, the student at the center of the controversy. A video emerged Jan. 19 of Sandmann standing in close proximity to Native American activist Nathan Phillips, who was, at the time, chanting and playing a ceremonial drum.

Phillips made claims that he had been blocked and taunted by Sandmann, but video evidence later showed that Phillips had wandered into a crowd of Covington Catholic students while chanting and drumming.

“I especially apologize to Nicholas Sandmann and his family as well as to all CovCath families who have felt abandoned during this ordeal. Nicholas unfortunately has become the face of these allegations based on video clips,” said Foys. “This is not fair. This is not just.”

Earlier in the week, Foys offered similar sentiments to a student body at Covington Catholic during a rally.

“Know that I stand with you, that I join with you in that ‘Spirit that will not die’ and that together we will work through this. Thank you and God bless you,” the bishop told students.

The Kentucky Diocese of Covington and Covington Catholic High School released a joint statement Jan. 19, condemning the students' behavior, at a time when it was widely reported that they had been mocking or antagonizing Phillips.

“This behavior is opposed to the Church’s teachings on the dignity and respect of the human person. The matter is being investigated and we will take appropriate action, up to and including expulsion,” the Jan. 19 statement said.

“We know this incident also has tainted the entire witness of the March for Life and express our most sincere apologies to all those who attended the March and all those who support the pro-life movement,” it concluded.

Since the controversy began, Covington Catholic High School students have been subject to death threats, and the school was closed on Monday. Classes resumed with heavy police presence.

On Saturday, Phillips and a crowd of about 50 attempted to disrupt Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, but were stopped by shrine security.

On Jan. 22, the Diocese of Covington released an updated statement saying that it would open a third-party investigation into what actually happened on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Foys’ most recent statement said that it was his “hope and expectation” that this investigation would “exonerate” the students, and that they will be able to (see News Briefs, page 16)
Patrick W. Daly, Principal, these efforts, as are our volunteers. We understand the training. Our Pastor/President is very supportive of and trained. We are currently working to ensure all regular contact with children have been fingerprinted 100% compliant with the Charter for the Protection of Rosa for all employees and volunteers. We have been High School adheres to the policies and procedures Paul High School. We ensure St. Vincent de Paul Safe Environment Coordinator for St. Vincent de Martyrs Mission in Santa Rosa.

As the principal I have been charged to oversee theese Martyrs Mission in Santa Rosa. The Vu, Safe Environment Coordinator, Vietnam- responsibility which I take most seriously. I am the Safe Environment Coordinator for the Viet- namese Martyrs Mission in Santa Rosa, California. I assure you that I am most vigilant about assuring that every volunteer or employee of the Parish (School) undergoes a fingerprint background check and completes the Diocesan mandated training before they are allowed to work or volunteer. This is a serious responsibility which I take most seriously. Phuong The Vu, Safe Environment Coordinator, Vietnames Martyrs Mission in Santa Rosa.

As the principal I have been charged to oversee the Safe Environment Coordinator for St. Vincent de Paul High School. We ensure St. Vincent de Paul High School adheres to the policies and procedures set forth by the Bishop and the Diocese of Santa Rosa for all employees and volunteers. We have been 100% compliant with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People for the Diocese of Santa Rosa. All of our volunteers and employees who have regular contact with children have been fingerprinted and trained. We are currently working to ensure all new parent volunteers are fingerprinted and receive training. Our Pastor/President is very supportive of these efforts, as are our volunteers. We understand the importance of a Safe Environment for all children of our church community. Patrick W. Daly, Principal, St. Vincent de Paul High School, Petaluma.

move past this ordeal. He also expressed support for Robert Rowe, the principal of Covington Catholic High School. Rowe is a “fine leader,” said Foys, and “those calling for his resignation simply do not know him.”

“I pray that with the grace of God and the good-will of all involved peace will once again reign in the hearts and minds of our faithful,” said Foys.

“As for CovCath, we have a spirit that will not die!”

Basilica Confirms Nathan Phillips Protest Attempted Mass Disruption
By Ed Condon
Washington D.C., Jan 23 (CNA) - The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has confirmed that protesters led by the Native American activist Nathan Phillips attempted to disrupt the celebration of Mass on the evening of Jan. 19.

On Jan. 23, a spokesperson for the Washington, DC basilica released a statement to CNA confirming the previously reported events of Saturday night.

The statement said that while Mass was being celeb- rated, “a group of approximately 50 individuals attempted to gain entrance to the basilica while chant- ing and hitting drums.”

The statement clarified that the protesters attempted to gain entrance to the basilica during the celebration of a specially arranged Mass being celebrated at 7 p.m., and not, as had previously been reported, during the basilica’s regularly scheduled 5:15 p.m. Mass.

“At this time, Mass was being celebrated in the upper church where the individuals attempted to enter,” the statement said.

“In respect and reverence for the Mass, the indivi- duals were not permitted to enter the basilica due to the disruption it would have caused during the solemn Mass. The individuals were asked to leave the property after it was determined they did not intend to share in the celebration of Mass.”

According to video footage of the event and eye- witness accounts, the group assembled across the road from the shrine before setting off toward its main entrance, chanting and playing drums.

As the group walked towards the basilica steps, one demonstrator can be heard saying “I’ll watch the cops,” and another reported that DC Metro police responded to a 6:27 p.m. call to the basilica address Saturday night, making it likely that the police were already in attendance by the time protesters attempted to enter the building, and intervened after members of the group attempted to enter the building.

Video of the event posted on Facebook shows one demonstrator telling the protesters they had been ordered off the shrine property by police, after some of their group were rebuffed as they attempted to enter the church.

A California seminarian present at the shrine during the demonstration told CNA that protesters could be heard “banging on the doors” of the basilica after they were locked out.

International

Who is your neighbor? Someone who ‘inconve- niences’ you, Francis says
By Hannah Brockhaus
Panama City, Panama, Jan 27 (CNA/EWTN News) - On the final day of World Youth Day in Panama, Pope Francis met with the guests of a home for people with AIDS, reflecting on a question Jesus was asked in the Gospels: “Who is my neighbor?”

When Jesus was asked to describe a neighbor, he did not respond with “theories, or give a fine, lofty speech,” the pope said at the Good Samaritan Home in Panama City Jan. 27. “Instead he told a story – the parable of the Good Samaritan – a concrete example drawn from the real life.”

He explained that a neighbor is the person who moves you to stop and “make room.” A person who “wonderfully inconveniences our lives, because it reminds us and points our steps towards what is really important, and it frees us from all that is trite and superficial in the way we follow the Lord.”

Pope Francis spoke at one of four centers of the Good Samaritan Home, a charity of the Church in Panama which assists poor adults and young people with AIDS. “Being with you today gives me reason for renewed hope. Thank you for giving me this,” he said.

Among those present at the encounter were about 60 young people who receive assistance from the Good Samaritan Home, a few of whom shared their testimonies with the pope. “This home, and all the centers you represent, are a sign of the new life that the Lord wants to give us,” he told the young people.

Explaining that a home is a place which requires cooperation, he stated that “no one can be indifferent or aloof, since each is a stone needed to build the home.”

And to do this requires the grace to be patient and to forgive one another, he added. “How many times should I forgive and start over?” he asked. “Seventy times seven times, as many times as necessary. To create strong bonds requires confidence and trust nurtured daily by patience and forgiveness.”

Francis led the noon Angelus, and after the prayer, gave an impromptu speech on the situations in Colombia and Venezuela. He said that had thought a lot about the people of Venezuela while in Panama, and that he had felt particularly united to them in these days.

“Faced with the grave situation that [Venezuela] is going through, I ask the Lord to seek and achieve a just and peaceful solution to overcome the crisis, respecting human rights and exclusively desiring the good of all the inhabitants of the country,” he said.

He also invited Catholics to pray for the country through the intercession of Our Lady of Coromoto, Patroness of Venezuela.
Twenty Killed in Explosions During Mass in Philippines Cathedral

Jolo, Philippines, Jan 27 (CNA) - At least 20 people were killed and 111 wounded after two bombs exploded minutes apart during Sunday Mass in a Catholic cathedral on the southern Philippine island of Jolo.

After the initial blast inside the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Jan. 27, which destroyed the wooden pews and glass windows, Mass-goers were rushing to get outside when a second bomb detonated near the cathedral’s entrance, the Associated Press reported.

Police and army troops stationed outside the cathedral were also caught in the second blast when trying to enter the cathedral.

According to police, at least 15 civilians and 5 soldiers were killed in the explosions. Among the wounded there were at least 90 civilians, 17 soldiers, two police officers, and two coast guards. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Philippines bishops’ conference condemned the attack as an “act of terrorism.”

“We condole with the families of the several soldiers and civilians who were killed by the explosions. We also express our sympathies with those who were wounded and extend our solidarity with the rest of the church-goers inside the Cathedral and the rest of the church community in the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo,” they said Jan. 27.

The bishops also noted the recent creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARRM), which was created with the hope of ending a nearly five-decade long separatist rebellion in the southern Philippines.

The new autonomous region was endorsed by most Muslims in the majority Catholic nation, though it was rejected by Muslim voters in the Sulu province, where Jolo is located.

“We will pursue to the ends of the earth the ruthless perpetrators behind this dastardly crime…. We will pursue to the ends of the earth the ruthless perpetrators behind this dastardly crime until every killer is brought to justice and put behind bars. The law will give them no mercy.”

We will pursue to the ends of the earth the ruthless perpetrators behind this dastardly crime….

As we begin a new phase in the peace process… we ask our Christian brethren to join hands with all peace-loving Muslim and Indigenous People communities in the advocacy against violent extremism,” the bishops said.

Jolo island has a population of more than 700,000. The island's Catholics, estimated in 2014 to be around 31,000, mostly live in the capital of Jolo.

The country’s defense secretary, Delfin Lorenzana, said in a statement Sunday that he has directed troops "to heighten their alert level, secure all places of worship and public places at once, and initiate pro-active security measures to thwart hostile plans.”

There has long been a presence of Muslim Abu Sayyaf militants on Jolo island. The group is defined as a terrorist organization by the United States and the Philippines due to years of kidnappings, beheadings, and bombings.

A statement from the office of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte Jan. 27 said, “We will pursue to the ends of the earth the ruthless perpetrators behind this dastardly crime until every killer is brought to justice and put behind bars. The law will give them no mercy.”

(Three-Day Meeting, cont. from page 12) entertaining of impure thoughts. And they follow in a progressive descending order of depravity: pornography, masturbation, contraception; fornication, adultery, and homosexuality. The Catholic Church has always taught that these are “intrinsically and gravely disordered action.”

And we must not ignore bestiality, which is the last stage and further extreme of depravity, as if no bishop would ever say that people who practice bestiality should also be “welcomed” to Holy Communion. At one time Catholics shivered at the thought of practising homosexuals being accepted in the Church and given Holy Communion. Now this is being encouraged every day.

Bestiality, which was condemned by the Church at the Council of Ancyra in 314 AD, is once again raising its ugly head as society plunges deeper into depravity. When the Apostle Jude warned the early Christians that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were punished by God because they “went after strange flesh,” he was not speaking of food and dieting but of homosexuality and bestiality (Jude 1:7, original Latin Vulgate). God help us when the “strange” becomes familiar. Human society today is in a progressive plunge to the bottom of depravity and the pendulum is not all of a sudden going to swing the other way. It has purchased a one-way ticket to the bottom of the abyss and it will crash at the bottom unless the Church stops it.

So, what's the plan of action? Sins of impurity, especially adultery and homosexuality, have already been thoroughly condemned in Sacred Scripture. The Church cannot make these teachings stronger than they already are. The real problem is a fundamental disbelief in Divine Revelation itself, particularly Sacred Scripture. It is almost laughable to think that a three-day meeting would be enough to solve a clergy sex abuse problem that has been growing since Vatican II and the 1968 publication of Humanae Vitae. This long-standing problem will not be overcome until Church leaders resolve to face squarely the fundamental causes of our moral failings.

Editor's note: Pictured above, Pope Francis meets with cardinals and bishops at the general audience in St. Peter's Square on January 24, 2018. (Photo credit: Daniel Iñáquez / CNA)

Fr. Regis Scanlon, O.F.M. Cap., is spiritual director and chaplain for Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Missionaries of Charity in Denver, as well as being one of the spiritual directors for the Missionaries of Charity in the western United States. He was director of prison ministry for the Archdiocese of Denver, from 1999 to 2010; a chaplain for Missionaries of Charity at their now-closed AIDS hospice, Seton House, and at Gift of Mary homeless shelter for women in Denver from 1989 to 2008. His articles have been published in Homiletic & Pastoral Review, The Catholic Faith, Soul Magazine, Pastoral Life, and The Priest. He has also made three series for Mother Angelica's EWTN: “ Crucial Questions,” “Catholic Answers,” and “What Did Vatican II Really Teach?”

North Coast Catholic / February 2019 / www.srdiocese.org

www.srdiocese.org 17
Es difícil concentrarse en otra cosa que no sea el tema tratado muy ampliamente el mes pasado. A su debido tiempo será posible tener una mayor atención a otros asuntos pero por ahora el tema de abuso de menores por el clero sigue siendo una área importante de preocupación. He publicado en este número una breve actualización de la lista publicada el mes pasado. Como era de esperar, han habido nuevos reportes relacionados con la lista de nombres publicados, y mas angustiante, una nueva acusación relacionada con un sacerdote, una referencia a acciones que ocurrieron hace 25 años sobre las acusaciones pero en cada caso las acusaciones se refieren a nombres que no teníamos queja previa. Encontraron un nuevo listado en la parte de abajo con el título de Actualización de Transparencia.

A finales de Enero el sacerdote de la Diócesis se reunió con nuestra Asamblea Anual y tuvieron la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre la experiencia dolorosa de la edición de Enero del Católico de la Costa Norte. Me alegró ver que pareciera que los sacerdotes estaban cada vez más co-modos en abordar abiertamente el tema del abuso infantil del clero y que están dedicados al trabajo que se necesitará en el futuro para garantizar la seguridad futura de los niños, así como proporcionar esperanza y sanación para aquellos que sufren como resultado de las acciones de nuestros hermanos sacerdotes y obispos. Tenemos un largo camino por recorrer y estoy mucho más esperanzado y confiado ahora que en el momento de la última edición. Estoy seguro de que ningún sacerdote en el futuro será posible tener una mayor atención a otros asuntos pero por ahora el tema de abuso de menores por el clero es claramente necesario para nosotros aplicar nuestros recursos y habilidades limitadas para asegurarnos que las acciones de nuestros hermanos sacerdotes y obispos se ejercerá la vigilancia conveniente. En este apostolado de oración hemos de aplicar el bálsamo sanador de la gracia de Dios y la misericordia de Dios directamente a esta grave herida en el corazón de nuestra Iglesia. Así como hay hombres pecadores en el mundo, también hay hombres pecadores en el sacerdocio. Estoy seguro de que ningún sacerdote jamás ha buscado ser ordenado con la idea de que este gran regalo le dara acceso a los niños pequeños. Sin embargo, de alguna manera a través de erosiión espiritual o por falta de vigilancia personal o un rechazo a la disciplina es que sabemos que los hombres han fallado en cumplir lo que significa ser un sacerdote de Jesucristo.

Ya desde el Antiguo Testamento hubieron fracasos. El Rey Saúl abusó de su poder, intentó matar a David quien se convertirá en rey y después fue donde un adinerado, un acto que señala un rechazo del mismo Dios. El Rey David, también, abusó de su papel como rey y cayó en los pe-cados de adulterio y asesinato. Estos eran elegidos de Dios y perdieron su cami-no. Innumerables sacerdotes, también, han perdido su camino. Al hacerlo han dejado un camino de lágrimas y esta mos llamados, en este momento de la Iglesia, para ser anunciadores de esperanza y sanación. Mien-tras nos esforzamos en ser Samaritanos de esperanza y sanación para aquellos abusados, también debemos trabajar muy fuerte para asegurar que quienes están en riesgo de perder su camino y por lo tanto en riesgo de perjudicar a los niños sean descubierto y de ser posible, ayudarles para que nunca ofendan a ningún niño. Hasta cierto punto, ya que todos somos hijos e hijas de Adán y Eva y así contaminados por el pecado, estamos todos en riesgo de pecar. No todos se sienten atraídos por el pecado extremo de perjudicar a los niños pero el pecado está a la puerta acechando y por lo tanto debemos orar para ser protegidos de el que anda como un león rugiente buscando a quien devorar. Que Dios les bendiga. ¡Perseveren! Sean Santos. ¡Oren!

Actualización de Transparencia:

Es el deseo de la Diócesis de Santa Rosa continuar con el programa de completa transparencia que se estableció en Enero del 2019. Tras la publicación de la edición de Enero del Católico de la Costa Norte cinco casos mas se han presentado. Cuatro de éstos están relacionados con hombres que ya han sido identificados. Uno es un sacerdote que no había sido sospechoso anteriormente con respecto a los niños. Nosotros todavía estamos recopilando información sobre las acciones de los menores pero en cada caso las alegracio-nes se refieren a acciones que ocurrieron hace 25 a 45 años.

John Crews
Ordenado en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa
Febrero 14, 1971
Acusación hecha por un viudo en 2-1-2013 por acciones de 1971-75
Reportado a la Policía en Febrero 2013
No Asignación / Jubilado 2013
Nueva acusación en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa
Enero, 2019

Francis (John) Ford
Incardinado en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa
Enero, 2019
Acusación de abuso cuando era Franciscano antes de 1971
Acontecimiento de abuso en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa 1974
Destituido Enero 1, 1979
Fallecido 10-21-84
Nueva acusación en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa Enero, 2019

Celestine Quinlan
Sacerdote Religioso ordenado 1957
Nombrado en 2003 en corte civil por abuso entre 1957-1962
Sirvió en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa 1962 a 1968
Fallecido 1970
Antes de Enero del 2019 no se conocían acusaciones en la Diócesis
Nueva acusación en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa Enero, 2019

Gary Timmons
Ordenado en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa
Mayo 6, 1967
Sirvió 6-67 a 3-94
Nueva acusación en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa
Enero, 2019

Los hombres mencionados arriba han sido nombrados por la Diócesis en Enero del 2019. Lamentablemente, se suma hoy otro nombre a la lista. La Diócesis de Santa Rosa no tenía ningún previo conocimiento de mala conducta por Wilfred Sheehy y esta nueva acusación nos toma completamente por sorpresa. Continuamos orando para que la transparencia de la Diócesis permita que otros que han sido afectados por los sacerdotes se presenten para que puedan tener paz y sanación.

Wilfred L. Sheehy
Ordenado por la Sociedad de Apostolado Católico
Septiembre 21, 1960
Incardinado con la Diócesis de Santa Rosa
Febrero 1, 1971
Acusado en 2019 por abuso de un menor en 1972-1977
Fallecido 10-21-2014
Asiste nuestra Academia Comunitaria
Quisiera invitarles a ustedes y a sus compañeros que hablan español asistir nuestra Academia Comunitaria. Es una increíble oportunidad de aprender más acerca de cómo funciona la Oficina del Sheriff detrás de las puertas. Los participantes tendrán la oportunidad de conocer a los miembros de la Oficina del Sheriff y aprender más acerca de temas como la cárcel, la patrulla, y la oficina del médico forense. Se enseñarán las clases completamente en español. La Academia será de 6 clases y es gratuito. Se lleva a cabo los miércoles de 6pm a 9pm empezando el 13 de febrero y terminando el 20 de marzo. Favor de mirar este video corto del Sheriff Mark: https://www.facebook.com/sonoma.sheriff/videos/232820650960192/. Se encuentran las aplicaciones en nuestra página del web: https://www.sonomasheriff.org/community-academy-spanish/. Favor de contactar a Silvia Floriano para más información, 707-996-9495 or silvia.floriano@sonoma-county.org. ¡Corra la voz!

JMJ Panamá 2019: Peregrinos Asiáticos Regresarán a Sus Países Para Fortalecer La Fe
Ciudad de Panamá (ACI Prensa) - Además de las numerosas delegaciones de América Latina en la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud (JMJ) Panamá 2019 que culminó este domingo, también estuvieron presentes peregrinos de toda Asia que llegaron para fortalecer su fe a pesar del aumento de la secularización en sus países o la hostilitad manifestada de algunos gobiernos.

Cientos de peregrinos coreanos llenaron al Santuario Nacional del Corazón de María, en Ciudad de Panamá, el miércoles 23 de enero por la mañana. La Arquidiócesis de Seúl envió a 31 peregrinos, y otras diócesis en Corea también enviaron grupos numerosos. En el caso de Corea del Sur, los peregrinos indicaron que las dificultades para la evangelización es el ambiente secularizado de la sociedad.

En un evento para peregrinos de habla inglesa a principios de esta semana, también destacaron grupos de Malasia e India.

Dos jóvenes peregrinos de Hong Kong, Constance Lau y Judy Fan, contaron a CNA -agencia en inglés del Grupo ACI- que las iglesias ofrecen muchas actividades para jóvenes en su ciudad, a pesar de que los católicos representan solo el 8% de la población. En la anterior JMJ Cracovia 2016 la delegación de Hong Kong estuvo conformada por 500 peregrinos.

"Hay muchas iglesias en Hong Kong, en diferentes distritos. Aunque cada iglesia tenga un número limitado de personas, todas tienen su propia conexión y cada distrito tiene sus propios eventos o actividades en algún momento u otro. Así que los adolescentes podemos unirnos a la Misa y otras reuniones. Entonces, lo que estamos tratando de hacer es conseguir que más adolescentes regresen a la Iglesia ya solo pacientemente disfruten de su tiempo fomento", dijo Judy.

Hong Kong es una región administrativa especial de China y practica un autogobierno con limitaciones. En China continental, el gobierno comunista está librando una brutal represión contra la religión y oprime a los católicos, incluso hasta el punto de demoler iglesias.

Las medidas severas ocurrieron tras un acuerdo en septiembre de 2018 entre la Santa Sede y el gobierno chino para permitir que los miembros de la llamada Iglesia Católica clandestina, reconocidos por el Vaticano, practiquen abiertamente su fe. El Vaticano ha reconocido oficialmente a varios obispos nombrados por el gobierno que habían sido ordenados sin su permiso.

Aunque antes del inicio de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud se informó que siete peregrinos de China continental asistirían al encuentro con el Papa, parecen mantener un perfil bajo. Anécdoticamente, otros peregrinos sospechan que los peregrinos chinos no llevan una bandera por temor a represalias por parte de su gobierno, según informa CNA.

A pesar de su proximidad con China continental, Constance y Judy fueron positiva sobre su experiencia como católicos en Hong Kong.

"Somos diferentes a China, por lo que en Hong Kong (ser católico está) bien", dijo Constance. Judy habló sobre lo emocionante que es estar en un país diferente, donde a pesar no hablar español, pueden participar.

"Realmente no sabemos español, pero sabemos lo que está sucediendo en Misa", indicó.

Anthony Diep, un seminarista vietnamita que ahora vive en Australia, dijo que aunque su familia en Vietnam fue responsable de nutrir su fe, la cultura le puso obstáculos. En Vietnam, solo el 7% de la población es católica y la gran mayoría de las personas se adhieren a la religión popular o a ninguna religión en absoluto.

"Como otros, Vietnam es un país donde el cristianismo tiene muchos problemas con el Gobierno. En cuanto a mí, nací en una familia católica sólida, y asistía a Misa todos los días a las 4:30am", contó Diep.

Por otro lado, lamentó que cuando empezó la universidad notó que todos habían "sido influenciados por ideales comunistas".

"En mi clase en la universidad, solo yo era católico de casi 37 estudiantes. Cuando trataba de hablar de Dios en público, muchos de mis compañeros y maestras no me aceptaban", dijo Diep.

Además, dijo que cuando trata de reunirse con sus amigos para orar en público, a menudo la policía vietnamita se opone.

"Creo que la persecución nos ayuda a crecer en la fe, así que le agradezco a Dios por el ejemplo de muchos santos en nuestra Iglesia de Vietnam, que nos ayudan a seguir adelante y a luchar por las dificultades que nos desaniman", aseguró.

Traducido y adaptado por Diego López Marina. Publicado originalmente en CNA.

¿Qué Papel Tendrá La Virgen De Fátima En La JMJ 2022? Responde El Patriarca De Lisboa PANAMÁ (ACI Prensa) - El Patriarca de Lisboa, Cardenal Manuel Clemente, afirmó que la Virgen de Fátima tendrá “un papel fuertísimo” en la próxima Jornada Mundial de la Juventud (JMJ) que se realizará en Portugal en 2022.

La Virgen María tendrá “un papel fuertísimo porque también es interesante verificar que en este movimiento juvenil católico que vemos en Portugal, la devoción mariana, la devoción a Nuestra Señora de Fátima es muy fuerte”, dijo el Purpurado este 27 de enero en declaraciones a EWTN.

Además, precisó el Patriarca, esto se puede ver en el hecho que “de todas las revelaciones y manifestaciones de Nuestra Señora en la historia, la de Fátima está más ligada a los Papas, al ministerio del Papa y a todo aquello que se refiere a él. Todo esto concluye y va a ser muy bueno”.

Sobre lo que Portugal puede ofrecer en la JMJ de 2022, el Cardenal Clemente indicó que eso es “su propia juventud, porque si este evento va a darse en Lisboa, se debe también a la fuerza, a la voluntad, al deseo de la juventud católica portuguesa que está con un dinamismo misionero muy fuerte”.

“En este momento hay miles de universitarios católicos portugueses que, entre los dos semestres de estudios, hacen misiones en aldeas, en pueblos de todo el país. No son más porque la capacidad logística no lo permite”, resaltó.

“Por lo tanto, hay un movimiento católico fuertísimo que ahora también se quiere ofrecer a todo mundo, algo que va a ser una gran fuerza en esta jornada”, concluyó.
Pope Francis Outlines Key Priorities for February Sex Abuse Summit

By Courtney Grogan

Aboard the papal plane, Jan 28 (CNA) - Pope Francis said Monday that he sensed “inflated expectation” surrounding the Vatican’s February sex abuse summit, and outlined his specific aims for the meeting.

Speaking on the papal flight returning from Panama, the pope said he wanted the world’s bishops to receive a “catechesis” on the suffering of abuse survivors, and understand better the urgent reality of combating sexual abuse. This understanding, he said, would lead into a penitential liturgy during the February meeting.

“There will be testimonies to help to become aware and then a penitential liturgy to ask forgiveness for the whole Church,” Pope Francis told journalists Jan 28.

The pope emphasized the importance of bishops meeting with victims of sex abuse to hear their testimonies directly to understand the lasting effects of sexual abuse.

Pope Francis said that he regularly meets with abuse victims. “I remember one... 40 years without being able to pray. It is terrible, the suffering is terrible,” he said.

Francis also said he sensed many were expecting too much from the three-day meeting being held Feb. 21-24, and that he had a particular vision for what would be achieved: understanding the experience of victims, prayer, and the establishment of “protocols” for handling abuse cases world-wide.

“I permit myself to say that I’ve perceived a bit (see Sex Abuse Summit, page 23) $850,000 was donated to 539 participating Catholic schools, six dioceses and NCEA. For more information on the Day of Giving, please go to www.NCEA.org/csw/manygifts.

Catholic schools and the many members of Catholic school communities shared their Catholic Schools Week celebrations on social media using #CSW19.

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the Secretariat of Catholic Education also highlighted Catholic education’s strengths, successes and stories on their Twitter profiles: @NCEATalk and @USCCBCatholicEd, respectively.

More information on the Committee on Catholic Education and other resources are available online: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catholic-education/ and www.NCEA.org/csw.


Washington DC, January 16 National Catholic Schools Week 2019 (CSW) was observed in dioceses around the country January 27–February 2. This year’s theme, “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.,” focused on the important spiritual, academic and societal contributions provided by a Catholic education firmly rooted in the Truth of the Gospel.

As Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Oakland, newly elected chairman of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Catholic Education said, “Young people today need Catholic education more than ever. In a world where truth, beauty and goodness are considered all but subjective, the Way, Truth and Life offered us in Jesus Christ are our only source of direction, clarity and hope. Furthermore, being rooted in faith does not endanger the academic quality of Catholic schools, but in fact is their very motivation for excellence in all things.”

Nearly 1.8 million students are currently educated in 6,352 Catholic schools in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities around the country. Students receive an education that helps them become critical thinkers, strong communicators and active members of society, thus equipping them for higher education, a competitive work environment, and most importantly, living a Christian life of virtue in a challenging society. “Following Christ’s example of loving and serving all people, Catholic schools proudly provide a well-rounded education to disadvantaged families, new arrivals to America and to all who seek a seat in our schools. Since the inception of Catholic schools in our country, we have always sought to welcome families of all backgrounds while maintaining our principles and teaching in a spirit of charity,” Bishop Barber said.

The observance of CSW began in 1974. Schools and parishes around the country will hold activities such as Masses, open houses, and family gatherings to celebrate the communities they represent. The week also highlights the educational and community successes of Catholic schools nationwide. Ninety-nine percent of Catholic school students graduate from high school and 86 percent of Catholic school graduates attend college. This percentage has been consistent for over 20 years.

For the second year, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) led the Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools, in partnership with FACTS Management. This 24-hour period is one way to support development programs in Catholic schools throughout the country. Scheduled during National Catholic Schools Week, this Day of Giving was a perfect time for individuals to give to their local Catholic schools. In 2018, more than

Young people today need Catholic education more than ever.
Girls Want to Rock the Curry 5’s Too

A 9-Year-Old CYO Basketball Player from Napa Asked Steph Curry Why His Sneakers Are Only Made for Boys

(Adapted from a Teen Vogue article by Mekita Rivas dated 11/27/18 by Rev. David Jeniuwine, St. Apollinaris, Napa)

Riley Morrison is a 4th grader at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Napa, and plays on the girls 4th grade Catholic Youth Organization team at St. Apollinaris a few miles north.

In the Diocese of Santa Rosa, the North Bay CYO has a total of 2,894 players in 246 teams across 12 participating parishes. In the CYO program at St. Apollinaris, there are 209 players in 20 teams.

While searching for a new pair of shoes online, she began her letter by saying that she’s “a big fan” of Steph and that she often goes to Golden State Warriors games with her dad, but she also writes that she’s disappointed that Under Armour is only selling the Curry 5 shoes to boys, leaving girls out of the equation.

Riley’s letter, later which was shared on social media by her dad, continues, “I know you support girl athletes because you have two daughters and you host an all-girls basketball camp. And, she adds, “I hope you can work with Under Armour to change this, because girls want to rock the Curry 5s, too.”

“I wanted to write the letter because it seems unfair that the shoes are only in the boys’ section and not in the girls’ section,” Riley told Teen Vogue. “I wanted to help make things equal for all girls, because girls play basketball, too.”

Riley has been playing basketball since she was four. When she asked her dad, Chris Morrison, who also coaches the girls 4th grade team at St. Apollinaris, for the Curry 5s, he had to break the news that they weren’t available in her size. “She looked at me and said, ‘Dad, that’s not fair,’” Chris told Teen Vogue. “And I said, ‘Well maybe you can write a letter’.”

The Catholic Youth Organization began in 1931 in Chicago. It adopted structures from the YMCA, but also included Catholic Social Teaching and ideals. Under the patronage of Cardinal Mundelein, it became a core principle of CYO not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or gender—which was, unfortunately common in that era.

In the past, Steph has been an outspoken advocate for women’s rights issues, including equal pay. In August, he wrote an essay for The Players’ Tribune about what it’s like to raise two young daughters in this day and age.

In a handwritten letter posted to his online Twitter account in late November, Steph Curry responded to Riley, saying: “I appreciate your concern and have spent the last 2 days talking to Under Armour about how we can fix the issue,” he writes. “Unfortunately we have labeled smaller sizes ‘boys’ on the website and we are correcting this NOW!” He goes on to say that he will be sending her a pair of shoes that fit.

In a handwritten letter posted to his online Twitter account in late November, Steph Curry responded to Riley, saying: “I appreciate your concern and have spent the last 2 days talking to Under Armour about how we can fix the issue,” he writes. “Unfortunately we have labeled smaller sizes ‘boys’ on the website and we are correcting this NOW!” He goes on to say that he will be sending her a pair of shoes that fit.

ESPN has taken an interest and plans to visit St. Apollinaris to record Riley’s team at a CYO League game. ❖

Major and Minor Addictions

By Father John Catoir, JCD

A few years ago, I wrote a column on the topic of the “Cell-Phone Addiction.” Today I’m expanding my focus to include addictions of every kind. It’s a well-known fact that minor addictions can disrupt your life, but major addictions can destroy your life.

People are glued to their i-Pods, cell-phones, i-Pads and computers. They text messages all day long, and in the process lose their ability to engage in the art of conversation, while never developing the art of writing. Fewer and fewer people, young and old write letters any more. This is sad but not fatal.

Parents are out of their wits trying to get their children’s attention. If you investigate the problem of cell-phone addiction, you’ll be amazed to learn that many nations are way ahead of the U.S. in dealing with it. For instance, South Korea is the most wired country in the world. They have internet-counseling centers where youngsters are taught to combat computer compulsion by keeping themselves engaged with exercises, and group activities. Many other countries have done the same thing. Kids need all the help they can get.

Over 50,000 people, young and old in America, are dying of drug-related causes every year. Minor addictions like Pot can create a predisposition to more serious addictions. Pot is known to be an entry level drug leading to the use of deadly illegal drugs. There’s no magic bullet that can make addictions go away, especially when they become Major addictions. The Opioid Epidemic alone takes many thousands of lives every year. Add to that, deaths from heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamine.

Taken all together, you have more deaths in one year from drug use than the total death toll of the entire Vietnamese War, which lasted about eight years.

Rather than dwell on these sad statistics, I’d prefer to close with a positive story from Anthony de Mello’s book, “The Song of the Bird.” I’ve paraphrased it slightly. A young boy addicted to drugs opens the story with these words, “Everyone kept after me to change, and I resented it. And yet I agreed with them in a way I wanted to be free of the constant pressure to clean up my act, but I simply couldn’t kick the habit. No matter how hard I tried I felt powerless and trapped. Then one day out of the blue, my father who had grown weary of nagging me said, ‘Son I give up, don’t change… I love you just as you are. Deal with this as best you can. I’m turning it all over

(see Addictions, page 22)
to the Lord.’ I suddenly felt free and less guilty. I still wanted to be free of drugs, but now I began to realize that I was the only one who could make it happen. When I realized that my father would continue to love me whether I changed or not, something happened inside of me. And believe it or not, I went on to pressing current domestic and global challenges relating to poverty, war, injustice and the promotion of human life and dignity. Visit our CMSG Highlights page to learn more. www.usccb.org

February 2nd - 5th
NCCW 2nd - 5th
The 2019 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering
Omn Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering is organized by the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development in collaboration with 7 other USCCB departments and 15 national Catholic organizations. This central gathering of Catholic social ministry leaders in the U.S. annually brings together hundreds of participants whose faith inspires them to respond to pressing current domestic and global challenges relating to poverty, war, injustice and the promotion of human life and dignity. Visit our CMSG Highlights page to learn more. www.usccb.org

February 16th
St Elizabeth Seton
The local Catholic Cursillo Movement will host a Ultreya on Saturday, February 16, from 2 – 4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. Ultreya means “moving forward,” and Ultreya gatherings teach about Catholicism and how to live the Catholic faith. All are invited. For further information call Molly Touchette at 707-292-8389 or Olga Dorado at 707-755-0022.

Ongoing through February:
Napa, The Gospel of Mark
Mark Brumley offers a series of presentations on the Gospel of St. Mark leading up to the beginning of Lent. The Gospel of St. Mark is an often misunderstood Gospel. The format for the presentations is as follows. First, a half-hour or so overview of the week’s material based on a close reading of the text and expositional teaching. Second, a relatively freewheeling discussion of the reading and the presentation. The presentations will run from 7 PM-8 PM. This is really an introductory course—a getting acquainted with the main themes of St. Mark’s Gospel.

January 22nd
Getting Started with the Gospel of St. Mark: Introduction and the Prologue (Mk 1:1-15)

January 29th
The Public Ministry of Jesus begins (Mk 1:16-6:56)

February 5th
The Public Ministry of Jesus heads toward its climax (Mk 7:1-8:31)

February 12th
The Passion of the Christ, Part 1: The Suffering Messiah and the beginning of Passion Week (Mk 8:31-13:37)

February 19th
The Passion of the Christ, Part 2: The Last Supper, the Trials, and the Crucifixion of Jesus (Mk 13:37-15:47)

February 25th
The Resurrection of Jesus and the Easter Narratives (Mk 16:1-20)

The sessions will be held at Kolbe Academy-Trinity Prep, 2055 Redwood Rd, Napa, CA 94558. For more information, contact Mark at mbbrumley@sbcglobal.net

March 1st
Cantiamo Sonoma Sings at St. Vincent’s, Petaluma
Cantiamo Sonoma, Santa Rosa’s premier a cappella vocal ensemble, reprises its popular concert program, “Northern Lights,” at St. Vincent de Paul in Petaluma on Friday, March 1, 2019, at 8:00pm. Join us as we perform a sensational selection of songs by composers from the northemmost area of the Earth. Hear works by Ēriks Ešenvalds, Ola Gjeilo, Frank Ticheli, Rachmaninoff, Daniel Elder, Arvo Pärt and others that inspire us to look towards, and appreciate, the stars. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Visit www.cantiamoSonoma.org for more information on this and other Cantiamo Sonoma concert events.

Ongoing

Thursdays 5:30pm
“Pray for Priests” prayer group
St. Sebastian Parish
Is God calling you to enrich your prayer life in the very meaningful way? If so, you are welcome to come to our parish “Pray for Priests” prayer group on Thursdays, 7-8pm in St. Sebastian’s church. Weekly attendance is not a requirement, join us when you can.

To have your calendar event listed please email us! Srdiocese1@gmail.com

(Addictions, cont. from page 21)

God. It’s always good to know that you can put your trust in the Lord, and get results. Believe deeply and do not fear, for Jesus said, “Fear is useless, what you need is trust.”

Father Catoir is the founder and current president of the St. Jude Media Ministry, a national apostolate which uses Radio and TV to reach out to the millions of unchurched people in America—and to those in need of joy in their daily lives. His messages are heard on radio spots nationwide and in his syndicated newspaper column. An accomplished author and speaker, Fr. Catoir has given numerous spiritual retreats and workshops across the country. www.johncatoir.com

NY Child Victims Act Passes, Cuomo Takes Aim at Bishops

By Ed Condon

New York City, N.Y., Jan 29 (CNA) - New York state legislators yesterday passed the Child Victims Act. The new measure extends the period of time in which both civil suits and criminal charges can be brought in cases of child abuse. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said he will sign the act into law in the coming days.

The act, versions which had been passed by the state assembly six times over the last twelve years, was given approval by the state senate for the first time on Jan. 28, passing 63-0.

The act allows for victims of child abuse to bring civil charges against their abuser until the age of 55, previously this had been 23. Criminal prosecutions can be brought up to the age of 28.

The act also creates a one-year window for victims of any age to come forward.

Previous versions of the bill drew a distinction between private and public institutions, broadening the scope for the law for the former but shielding the latter. The most recent version eliminated this disparity, allowing lawsuits to be filed for allegations of abuse in public schools.

The bishops of New York issued a joint statement in response to the bill.

“We pray that the passage of the Child Victims Act brings some measure of healing to all survivors by offering them a path of recourse and reconciliation,” the bishops wrote.

“The legislation now recognizes that child sexual abuse is an evil not just limited to one institution, but a tragic societal ill that must be addressed in every place where it exists.”

Director of the New York Catholic Conference, Dennis Poust, told CNA that the conference supported the changes and had not opposed the final version of the act.

“For years, we have advocated against treating abuse survivors differently depending on where they were abused,” he said.

Although the NY Catholic Conference did not oppose the bill, New York governor Andrew Cuomo, who had previously told state legislators he “stood with Pope Francis” in supporting the bill, used its (see Child Victims Act, page 24)
of an inflated expectation. We need to deflate the expectations to these points that I’m saying,” he said. “Because the problem of abuses will continue. It’s a human problem.”

“We, resolving the problem in the Church, [and] raising awareness, will help to resolve it in society … but first, we must become aware, have the protocols, and move forward,” he said.

Pope Francis said the Vatican invited all of the presidents of the world’s bishops’ conferences and the heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches to attend the February summit because his council of cardinal advisors “felt the responsibility to give a ‘catechesis’ … on this problem to the episcopal conferences.”

Victims of clergy sexual abuse and leaders of men’s and women’s religious orders will also be present at the bishops’ summit, which the Vatican has previously clarified will be “an assembly of pastors, not an academic conference.”

On the papal flight, Pope Francis expressed his desire that the heads all of the episcopal conferences leave Rome next month with a common understanding of the “protocols” needed to address sexual abuse in their respective countries.

The pope said that each episcopal conference would make “general programs” detailing the responsibilities of each local Church authority for handling sex abuse cases, but that these must address a common set of responsibilities.

“That they are protocols that are clear. This is the main thing,” he said.

In his interview on the papal flight, Pope Francis also touched on the formation and sex education of young people with regards to Church teaching.

“We need to give an objective sexual education, that is without ideological colonization,” he said. “If you start by giving sexual education full of ideological colonization, you destroy the person.”

The pope warned that it is important which teachers or textbooks are chosen for this task in schools.

“There are things that mature and things that do harm,” he said.

“Sex as a gift from God must be taught,” Pope Francis said. “The ideal is to start from home, with the parents.” ✔
Adult Faith Formation & Certification 2019

**SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation &amp; Introduction</th>
<th>Jan. 19, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principles &amp; Methods/Intro to Ecclesial Method</td>
<td>Feb. 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to the Creed &amp; Christology</td>
<td>Mar 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecclesiology and Mary &amp; Saints</td>
<td>Apr 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Prayer</td>
<td>May 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy &amp; Sacraments of Initiation</td>
<td>Jun 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacraments of Healing &amp; Services</td>
<td>Jul 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral Life in Christ: Foundations</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Commandments &amp; Conscience Formation</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Social Doctrine &amp; Observation</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Adult Formation $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (not interested in certification)
- Basic Catechist (BC) $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books.
- Master Catechist (MC) $175.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (In-depth study, advance seminar & teaching practices. Prerequisite: Basic Catechist Certification)
- For those interested in dropping in $20 per class, not including books.
- There will be various books available to purchase. The Class fee does not include all books.
- Those who wish to attend and are not interested in receiving a California Certificate are welcome, but must register.
- Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.
- Complete an Application to register in the Adult formation or California Catechetical Process.

Sponsored by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education
For Registration & an Application contact Carmen Aanenson:
dre@srdiocese.org  (707) 566-3366  www.santarosacatholic.org

Adultos Formación de fe y Certificación 2019

**PROGRAMA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation y Introducción</th>
<th>19 de enero de 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principales &amp; Metodología y Introducción a la Eclesiología</td>
<td>23 de febrero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Credo y Cristología</td>
<td>23 de marzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eclesiología, Virgen María y los Santos</td>
<td>27 de abril</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La oración cristiana</td>
<td>25 de mayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgia y Sacramentos de Iniciación</td>
<td>22 de junio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramentos de Sanación y Servicio</td>
<td>27 de julio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La vida moral en Cristo: formación</td>
<td>Que se anunciara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Diez Mandamientos y Formación de la Conciencia</td>
<td>Que se anunciara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La oración cristiana y observaciones</td>
<td>Que se anunciara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Formación para adultos $150.00/persona para todo el año. Algunos libros están incluidos. No estoy interesado en la certificación.
- Catequista básico (BC) $150.00/persona para todo el año. Algunos libros están incluidos.
- Catequista Master (MC) $175.00/persona para todo el año. Algunos libros están incluidos. (Estudio en profundidad, seminario avanzado y práctica docente. Requisito: Certificado básico)
- Para aquellos interesados en ir a un solo curso el costo es $20 por clase, no incluye los libros.
- Habrá varios libros disponibles para comprar. La tarifa de la clase no incluye el costo de estos libros.
- Aqueles que deseen asistir y no estarán interesados en recibir un certificado de catequista son bienvenidos, pero se debe registrar.
- La clase se puede utilizar para la recertificación del catequista.
- Llene una solicitud para iniciar el proceso de certificación de catequista o registrarse para clase.

Patrocinado por el Departamento de Educación Religiosa
Para mas información o para registrarse, póngase en contacto con Carmen Perez Aanenson:
dre@srdiocese.org  (707) 566-3366  www.santarosacatholic.org

February 22: Chair of St. Peter