San Francisco, December, 2017 – Organizers of the 13th Annual Walk for Life West Coast invite everyone to join them on January 21, 2017 in San Francisco to continue proclaiming a powerful message that has been present since its beginning over a decade ago: there is hope and healing from abortion, women deserve better than abortion, and as a society we have to do better.

The Walk for Life West Coast began 13 years ago as a grassroots effort from locals who live in the Bay Area. Co-founders and Bay Area residents Eva Muntean and Dolores Meehan started the Walk for Life West Coast to show people that there are other options for woman than abortion. These women, and the over 50,000 people expected to join them at the Walk for Life, believe these options are actually more "pro-woman" than abortion, protecting a woman's natural instinct to love her child and giving her choices to empower her to do so.

Each year, an important part of the Walk for Life is the "Info Faire" that takes place before the Walk. The Info Faire features both local and national resources.
My dear people:

I want to take this opportunity in the space of my usual column to express to you my most sincere and prayerful hopes that the Christmas Season which continues for about two weeks after Christmas be for you a time of unparalleled joy. I pray that the grace and peace of God our Father, the love of Christ the King and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier ever abide with each of you. I pray that your Christmas celebrations have been filled with grace, that they have been times of reflection, prayer and spiritual growth.

We now stand in the early weeks of the New Year with the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ immediately behind us. We can still remember well the moving tones of Silent Night and O Come All Ye Faithful. One could sing Silent Night and other Christmas hymns at any time of the year but it is really only at Christmas when they are mixed with such marvelous graces that they have the capacity to touch our hearts. The reality is that it is God Himself who reaches into our world and touches our hearts. He did this many times over the centuries as recorded in the Old Testament. He talked to Adam, summoned Noah, called Abraham, appointed Moses, anointed David, sent Isaiah, and, at the end of that era, commissioned John the Baptist. Then in the fullness of time God spoke definitively in the Person of His own, only Begotten Son, Jesus, the Anointed One.

It is this most welcome intrusion of God into our history and into our lives which we celebrate and relive at each Christmas Season. God’s word transmuted through prophets and kings certainly had the power to touch the hearts of the Chosen People. Those Old Testament words continue to touch our hearts, affect our lives and move our actions. The spoken word, however, was not all that God had planned for us. Finally, He sent His Word in person and that Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. That Word, Jesus, is still with us, in our midst, present among us. God sent His own personal touch into the world and the world figuratively stood still and silent at the event.

It was a silent night, a holy night, a night divine, a night on which Christ our Savior was born. We enter into that same silent, holy, divine night, that same experience, as we celebrate the Christmas event in our Sacred Liturgy. In that celebration we realize again a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light and upon those who dwell in the shadow of death, Light has shone.” (Isaiah 9:2) Jesus is our Light. Jesus is our Savior. Jesus is our Redeemer. He sets foot into our world and God dwells among us. I pray that on our most recent ‘Silent Night’ you too had the opportunity to stop in silence and experience what the shepherds heard and felt. Yet, we know with faith that Jesus abides in the world not only at Bethlehem at Christmas but every day in each of our local Churches. Throughout the year, I pray that you frequently enter into the Presence of the Lord and joyfully remember the Angels’ song. Our experiences at Christmas are wonderfully heightened but we can and really must experience and appreciate every day the wonderful touch of God and His ongoing entry into our lives. I pray that God will send into the lives of each of you at the completion of this Christmas Season and throughout the year a renewed sense of wonder and awe in His presence. May you experience God in the silence of your hearts.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your faith-filled generosity to your parishes, to the Diocese and to charitable endeavors. While there are challenges ahead of us Christmas reminds us again of the presence and providence of God, fills our hearts with hopeful joy and strengthens us to face more boldly and courageously the various challenges of life. I assure you of my constant prayers for you and I ask that God send every good grace and blessing upon you throughout this New Year. ❖

From the Bishop

Bishop Robert F. Vasa is the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

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NORTH COAST CATHOLIC

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PIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. David Galeana
January 13, 2012

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank your 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.

January 3: St. Genevieve

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There’s a generation that didn’t know John Paul II — this film is for them

January 2, 2017 (EWTN/CNA) - Thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square and around their television sets to pray for Pope John Paul II as he passed away on April 2, 2005. They remembered the more than 26 years he served as the Holy Father; the courage he had in fighting communism; his immense love; and his adventurous spirit.

But that was eleven years ago.

The generations of young people who grew up during the papacies of Benedict XVI and Pope Francis might only know St. John Paul II for his canonization, which took place April 27, 2014.

The recent documentary Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism hopes to educate these younger generations on the heroic life of the Roman Pontiff—telling the stories they cannot find in their textbooks.

“One of the reasons we set out to make this film is to kind of cement the legacy of Pope John Paul II,” David Naglieri, the film’s writer and director, told CNA.

“There’s a generation now that’s graduating college, entering the workforce, that didn’t necessarily live through all these events with the fall of Communism. Perhaps they didn’t … have the chance to see Pope John Paul II in person.”

Like a real life super-hero movie, the 90-minute film focuses on the saint’s role as an integral part in the fall of communism in central and eastern Europe—except St. John Paul II did not use destructive weapons to take down some of the world’s toughest leaders.

Rather, he used prayer and solidarity to encourage those oppressed by communism in Poland to keep their hope and will alive.

According to Naglieri, this documentary is unlike any other John Paul II film.

“What helps separate our film from past works is that we looked at the entire span of central and eastern Europe and how his message not just impacted Poland, but other countries as well,” he said.

“And then we tried to connect it to the modern day and to see how John Paul’s legacy continues to impact those who are striving for freedom in Europe.”

The film reveals the events in St. John Paul II’s life through a timeline, which helps show how God’s providence guided the saint his entire life.

The late Pope grew up in Krakow, and became its archbishop in 1964. The documentary explains how he returned to the city for nine days in 1979, the year after his election as Bishop of Rome, instead of his intended two.

An interview in the documentary with Dr. Norman Davies, a historian of Poland, explains how the government’s distribution of antennas during the 1980 Olympic games led to the spreading of St. John Paul II’s message behind the Iron Curtain.

The film even tells the story of how President Reagan and the Pope met six days before the president’s famous “tear down this wall” speech in 1987.

Filled with striking stories and interviews such as these, the documentary shows who truly held the power during this difficult time in the world’s history.

Naglieri said the film was an 18-month project from beginning to end, and that “we traveled to Poland and other central European countries several times during the making of it.”

The documentary features interviews with Reagan’s National Security Advisor from 1981-82, the Prime Minister of Poland, the Archbishop of Lviv, a former Director of the Holy See Press Office, as well as journalists, historians, authors, and professors.

Narrating the documentary is Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Christ in Mel Gibson’s The Passion of the Christ. Joe Kraemer, known for his work on multiple Mission Impossible movies, composed the documentary’s original music.

How can you tell if someone is demon-possessed?

Rome, Italy, Dec. 20, 2016 (CNA/EWTN News) - Recognizing the difference between a person who’s possessed and a person struggling with a mental illness or other infirmity is a vital part of the ministry of exorcism, according to a long-time exorcist and priest.

Father Cipriano de Meo, who has been an exorcist since 1952, told CNAs Italian agency ACI Stampa that typically, a person is not possessed but is struggling with some other illness.

The key to telling the difference, he said, is through discernment in prayer on the part of the exorcist and the possessed—and in the potentially possessed person’s reaction to the exorcist himself and the prayers being said.

The exorcist will typically say “(a) prolonged prayer to the point where if the Adversary is present, there’s a reaction,” he said.

“A possessed person has various general attitudes towards an exorcist, who is seen by the Adversary as an enemy ready to fight him.”

Fr. de Meo described the unsettling reaction that a possessed person usually has, detailing a common response to the exorcist’s prayer.

“There’s no lack of frightening facial expressions, threatening words or gestures and other things,” he said, “but especially blasphemies against God and Our Lady.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between demonic activity and mental illness. From paragraph 1673: “Exorcism is directed at the expulsion of demons or to the liberation from demonic possession through the spiritual authority which Jesus entrusted to his Church. Illness, especially psychological illness, is a very different matter; treating this is the concern of medical science. Therefore, before an exorcism is performed, it is important to ascertain that one is (see Demon-Possessed, p. 4)
for women who are facing unplanned pregnancies: counseling, medical care, financial assistance, housing, adoption information, and resources to help them parent their child. Another very important aspect of the Info Faire are hope and healing programs for women who regret their abortions and are often forgotten.

Organizers invite the media, and anyone who is facing an unplanned pregnancy who needs support, to join them at the Info Faire from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM at the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco.

The 2017 Walk for Life West Coast will begin at 12:30pm with a rally in the city's Civic Center Plaza. Along with Pam Tebow, speakers include Reggie Littlejohn, founder and President of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, abortion survivor Melissa Ohden, and Rev. Childress, founder of Black Genocide.org

Following the rally, participants will walk down Market Street to Justin Herman Plaza.

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, and to view a powerful promo video for the walk that can be shared on social media, please visit: www.walkforlifewc.com

#walkforwomenwalkforlife #lovethemboth #13yearssofhopeandhealing ❖

The intruder also broke a few of the windows in 2 or 3 of the portable building area for counseling. Clean up was already underway by Tuesday Morning, the last day of school before the Christmas break.

“Good news is no one was hurt. We are all safe.”

Said Held.

Deputies booked Andrew Faulkner, 23, of Guerneville into the Sonoma County Jail, suspected of burglary, felony vandalism and being under the influence of drugs, Melinari said.

“I feel very sad that someone would feel this way.”

Cardinal Newman High School President Laura Held said Wednesday morning outside of the school. She said she had no idea why someone would violate the school community and its traditions. ❖

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Windsor, like many other parishes in our area, has a congregation that is composed of people who might be grouped about equally into two categories—Hispanic and non-Hispanic. While there are some in the Hispanic group who speak English, a great many people in the Hispanic group speak little or no English, and most people in the non-Hispanic group do not speak any Spanish. Most people in the Hispanic group attend only masses conducted in Spanish, and most people in the non-Hispanic group attend only masses conducted in English.

Most of the time, the two groups don't have much interaction however, the two groups do have two things in common. With a few exceptions, no one in either group has a lot of money, but the majority in both groups have a profound desire to have a prayer garden—a place to pray when the church building is not available.

Our goal in creating our prayer garden was to find a way to bring people from both groups together. We are a community of God's children. A significant effect of our goal prayer garden is to facilitate a sense of community where everyone's participation is of equal importance. The theme of our prayer garden is Peace and Hope, and it is open to everyone.

A great many people contributed their time, talent, treasure, and prayers to the creation of our prayer garden. Parishioners gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions, visited with our neighbors during our outreach program, and provided volunteer labor on various construction tasks.

Many professional people, who were not members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, also provided a great deal of help and support on a strictly voluntary basis. The support that we received from Bishop Vasa and the diocesan staff was outstanding. We are very fortunate that our church is located in Windsor. The staff of the town Planning Department and the Building Department went out of their way to be helpful and supportive.

The prayer garden was financed primarily through a sponsorship program. There was no single large sponsor. Approximately 300 people participated through the sponsorship of olive trees, benches, gateway marker rocks, and other sponsorships. The text on all of the bronze sponsorship plaques for each of the trees and benches is unique to each sponsor and is in the language of the sponsor's choice. The prayers on the bronze plaques for the gateway marker rocks and the platform where the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe is mounted, are in both English and Spanish.

The sponsorship bricks program was used to pay for the large, bronze statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is the focal point of the prayer garden. The statue is mounted on a platform and the sponsorship bricks are installed in the area surrounding the platform. The bricks come in two sizes, 4"x8" and 8"x8". We kept the price of the bricks intentionally low to insure that almost any family who wanted to sponsor a brick could do so. Some bricks contain text in memory of or in honor of a family member. Other bricks contain a simple prayer. The text on some bricks is in English and on others it is in Spanish.

The dedication of the prayer garden was a wonderful event. But even more wonderful was the overall effect of the prayer garden project on our entire community—we are truly a community of God's children.

If you would like additional information on our prayer garden, go to http://olgwindsor.org/Prayer_Garden.asp. ❖

(AIE) called the rise of occult activity a “pastoral emergency.”

“It usually starts out of ignorance, superficiality, stupidity or proselytizing, actively participating or just watching,” AIE spokesperson Dr. Valter Cascioli told CNA at the time. “The consequences are always disastrous.”

Father de Meo said that people often turn to “the chatter of magicians and Illusionists” for answers, rather than “the weapons the Lord has put at our disposal.”

While people often seek radical answers or signs, the best defense against demonic possession is a simple and sacramental life of prayer, the priest said.

“God’s absolutely fundamental is to rid of sin and live in the grace of God,” he said.

“The Church in fact, wants a life of prayer. Not just on the part of the priest but also the (member of) the faithful asking for the intervention of the exorcist, who benefits from the help of family members as well,” the exorcist explained.

The Catechism offers further guidance on how to avoid demonic activity: anything that involves recourse to Satan or demons, or that attempts to conjure the dead or reveal future events, is to be rejected. From CCC paragraph 2116: “Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens, and lotos, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone.”

As for the exorcists themselves, it is important to remain humble and to remember that their power comes from Christ, Father de Meo added.

“Regarding spiritual preparation, humility and the conviction that we exorcists aren’t the ones who are going to cast out the demon that’s fighting Christ. We’re called to fight on behalf of Christ.”

This article was originally published on CNA March 17, 2016. ❖
He was a runner for the Japanese mafia. Now he’s a Catholic priest.
On the one hand, the Federal Emergency Management Agency listed 103 natural disasters for the year 2016, and predict more for 2017. And here is a fun little tidbit; they also held an asteroid Emergency Planning Exercise with NASA recently, to respond to (not a matter of if) when we will deal with an asteroid hitting earth. We hear the Pope say World War III has already started, and there are any number of people who say there are dark clouds peaking over the horizon of 2017: the economy is about to burst and bring about global economic collapse; social unrest will bring a time of lawlessness where people will walk right into your home and do what they want; biblical chastisements are predicted; mistrust in the political sphere has grown to revolutionary proportions; the San Andreas is wound up like a steel spring; and we can’t even trust the mainstream media anymore to produce anything but confusion. Oh, did I mention China and Korea are aiming to strike, and then we will have no electricity, which means no gas, no food, no water, no football, no internet, no facebook, and no click-bait silly ‘cat videos’.

I bet you could add some items of your own to this little list of fears.

But, on the other hand, every year, through the power of Jesus Christ, there are countless stories of miraculous healings which medical science can’t explain. As of today Since the Apparitions in Lourdes, there have been about 7000 documented cases of unexplained cures, and 69 cases have been recognized as miraculous by the Church.

Miracles happen to inspire us to put our faith in God, to place our trust in Jesus, the divine physician. Here is another story: four police officers who helped rescue a baby from an overturned car in a Utah river in March 2015 claim that they heard an unexplained voice calling from the car. “It wasn’t just in our heads,” officer Jared Warner confirmed. “To me, it was plain as day. I remember hearing a voice that didn’t sound like a child, just saying, ‘Help me!’” Authorities don’t know how the girl survived hanging upside-down for 14 hours in freezing temperatures with no food or water and skinny clothing, let alone how to explain the voice that all the rescuers heard. Little Lily has since made a full recovery and is back with her family.

God will work through anyone who has the faith to believe He can do it, knowing that we are just human vessels. In this regard, we just need to take that first step in hope, like Pope Francis did on the month before he began his visits to Cuba and the US. Pope Francis abruptly stopped his motorcade in the rain and asked his aide to bring to him the baby he saw being lifted at the barricade by her parents at St. Peter’s Square. The Pope briefly placed his palm on the chest of the three-month-old girl who was suffering from Down’s syndrome and had two holes in her heart. Later when the doctors checked on the baby, they found one of the two holes had completely closed while the other one was reduced to half its former size. Lynn Cassidy, the mother of the baby, told the Washington Post, that what happened to her child made her believe that “God can act through the pope’s blessings in miraculous ways.”

For 2017, we are most definitely looking at a year of uncertainty in many ways, but amidst the storm of confusion, there is a rock of strength in the certainty of our faith. Because Jesus has not left us, and will never leave us until the end of the age, through the Sacramental life of the Church, we have the certainty of faith. We simply have to say “Here I am Lord, I believe you can use me to bring hope and light to this world” and take the next right step. He will meet you there. He will meet us all there, and walk with us, cry with us, laugh with us, and live with us. Let’s walk together, in the hope that Jesus Christ, and allow His light to shine brightly, and so bring hope to this weary world.

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

2017: A year of fear, or year of hope?

by Chris Lyford

Pope Francis pardons priest tied to Vatileaks scandal

Vatican City, Dec. 20, 2016 (CNA/Vatican Insider) - Pope Francis has officially granted clemency to Spanish priest Msgr. Lucio Angel Vallejo Balda, who had already served half of his 18-month jail sentence for leaking confidential Vatican documents.

The Vatican announced Dec. 20 that the Pope had given Msgr. Vallejo Balda the “benefit of conditional release” and that the priest will now fall under the jurisdiction of his home diocese of Astorga, Spain.

In July of this year, after an eight-month trial weighing the guilt of five individuals in the leaking and disseminating of confidential financial documents, the Vatican reached a verdict, sentencing a Vatican official and a laywoman for the crime.

The defendants in question were Msgr. Vallejo Balda, Italian PR woman Francesca Chaouqui, Nicola Maio (Vallejo’s secretary), and journalists Gianluigi Nuzzi and Emiliano Fittipaldi.

On July 7, Msgr. Vallejo was found guilty of leaking the documents and sentenced to 18 months in prison.

After his initial arrest Nov. 2, 2015, he was transferred to the Vatican’s Collegio dei Penitentieri, a residence run by Conventional Franciscans, on house arrest. However, after violating the terms, he was moved back to the cells of the Vatican Gendarmerie, before eventually returning to the Collegio dei Penitentieri.

Chaouqui was found guilty of conspiring in the crime, but was not charged with the actual leak of the documents given a lack of evidence.

Both Msgr. Vallejo and Chaouqui are former members of the Commission for Reference on the Organization of the Economic Administrative Structure of the Holy See (COSEA). The commission was established by the Pope July 18, 2013, as part of his plan to reform the Vatican’s finances, and was dissolved after completing its mandate.

They were arrested Nov. 2, 2015, in relation to the theft and dissemination of the documents. Chaouqui was released after spending one night in jail in exchange for her cooperation with investigations, while Msgr. Vallejo remained in custody.

After a Nov. 6 Mass celebrated for prisoners in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis in his Angelus address asked his aide to bring to him the baby he saw being lifted at the barricade by her parents at St. Peter’s Square. The Pope briefly placed his palm on the chest of the three-month-old girl who was suffering from Down’s syndrome and had two holes in her heart. Later when the doctors checked on the baby, they found one of the two holes had completely closed while the other one was reduced to half its former size. Lynn Cassidy, the mother of the baby, told the Washington Post, that what happened to her child made her believe that “God can act through the pope’s blessings in miraculous ways.”

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Chris Lyford is the Communications Director for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California
Do You Have a Family Motto?

My daughter was sharing funny Catholic jokes she had seen on the internet. One, by a Catholic of a particular generation, said—“Whenever I am watching a Star Wars movie and I hear ‘May the Force be with you,’ I want to answer ‘and also with you.’”

I probably find that so funny because I thought the exact same thing when I first saw Star Wars! Now it reminds of one of the lessons in our Circle of Grace curriculum for high school. It is an alternate lesson meant to be taught if there is extra time, or the teacher feels it is appropriate for that class. It first defines the word motto:

1. A brief statement used to express a principle, goal, or ideal
2. A sentence, phrase, or word of appropriate character inscribed on or attached to an object
3. A maxim adopted as a guide to one’s conduct
4. A short saying expressing the guiding maxim or ideal of a family, organization, etc.

It asks students to come up with mottos that are either faith based, or come from popular culture.

The examples to get them started are The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want from Psalm 128, and the popular culture one from Star Wars—May the Force be with you. The students are encouraged to discuss how mottos we follow impact our behavior, our thinking, our goals, even if we are not aware of them! I imagine you can come up with some for either category. Our media certainly pushes slogans that often become mottos—think of Nike—Just Do It. Faith based mottos are not necessarily so obvious, but have become who we are—Love one another as I have loved you, judge not lest ye be judged, God is everywhere. He will never leave us or forsake us—I think you get the idea.

I started thinking about the mottos of my childhood. My father used to say “When the chips are down, it’s your family that you can count on.” My mother used to say “What good is potential if you don’t live up to it?” And our faith based one was “God doesn’t give you anything that you can’t handle with His help.” I wondered what family mottos my children would say that we live by? Which ones are faith based? When I asked them, they came up with some good ones, some funny ones and some faith based ones. We made many long car rides to see family so my personal favorite was “Life is about the journey, not the destination,” which was really just meant to get them to quit asking how—“how much longer?” When I reflect on that, from a faith based perspective, I was wrong. Our Christian lives ARE about the destination. It’s about the journey too, but I want my kids to keep their eye on the prize—eternal life through Jesus. Hmm, I guess I have some explaining to do….

So what about your family? What mottos are you teaching your children? Depending on their ages, I bet your children can already tell you the ones your family lives by! That’s a conversation that is bound to bring laughter and food for thought. If you guys haven’t come up with any yet, maybe coing up with one could be a fun New Year activity! Trust me, popular culture is ready and willing to swoop in and fill that void. Let your children suggest some, be creative, have fun with this! And when your children have children, watch and see how they pass it on.

Fatima visionary predicted ‘final battle’ would be over marriage, family

Dec. 31, 2016 (EWTN News/ CNA) - Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three children who witnessed the Marian apparitions at Fatima, died in 2005. But before her death, she predicted that the final battle between Christ and Satan would be over marriage and the family.

So says Cardinal Carlo Caffarra, who reports that the visionary sent him a letter with this prediction before her death, she predicted that the final battle between Christ and Satan would be over marriage and the family.

This reported statement by Sister Lucia, expressed during the pontificate of Saint John Paul II, was revisited earlier this year by the Desde la Fe (From the Faith) weekly of the Archdiocese of Mexico, in the midst of the debate generated by President Enrique Pena Nieto, who announced his intention to promote gay marriage in this country.

The Mexican weekly recalled the statements that Cardinal Caffarra made to the Italian press in 2008, three years after the death of Sister Lucia.

On February 16, 2008, the Italian cardinal had celebrated a Mass at the tomb of Padre Pio, after which he gave an interview with Tele Radio Padre Pio. He was asked about the prophecy of Sister Lucia dos Santos that speaks about “the final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan.”

Cardinal Caffarra explained that Saint John Paul II had commissioned him to plan and establish the Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. At the beginning of this work, the cardinal wrote a letter to Sister Lucia of Fatima through her bishop, since he could not do it directly.

“Inexplicably, since I did not expect a reply, seeing as I had only asked for her prayers, I received a long letter with her signature, which is now in the archives of the Institute,” the Italian cardinal said.

“In that letter we find written: ‘The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about Marriage and the Family.’ Don't be afraid, she added, because whoever works for the sanctity of Marriage and the Family will always be fought against and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue. Then she concluded: ‘nevertheless, Our Lady has already crushed his head’.”

Cardinal Caffarra added that “speaking again with John Paul II, you could feel that the family was the core, since it has to do with the supporting pillar of creation, the truth of the relationship between man and woman, between the generations. If the founda-
Who you gonna call (on murky moral issues)? Catholic bioethicists

by Adelaide Mena

January 1, 2017 (EWTN / CNA) - What would you do if you're a young medical student who was told that you must participate in abortion in order to get your degree?

Or if you and your family have to make the decision about what kind of life support and extraordinary care to provide a loved one in their final days?

Or if you're a priest trying to counsel a couple in your parish through the difficult struggle with infertility?

These are all questions Catholics in the 21st-century are facing—and each have complicated answers.

Luckily, the Church has the National Catholic Bioethics Center, an independent Catholic institution based in Philadelphia, Pa., working to provide guidance based in Church teaching to laity, clergy, and scientific professionals to help them clarify the murky bioethical issues Catholics wade through in our world today.

"What makes us unique," said Dr. Marie Hilliard, director of bioethics and public policy for the National Catholic Bioethics Center, or NCBC, "is that we are not a part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops."

Hilliard added that the group is recognized by the U.S. bishops and has many bishops and cardinals and board members, but pointed out that the NCBC is focused not on creating doctrine or defining teaching for new situations, but putting existing Church teaching in practice in difficult situations.

"We are there applying the principles with great adherence to the teaching of the Church," she said. "We fill a very unique role that's very different."

The NCBC was founded in 1972 as the Pope John XXIII Medical-Moral Research and Education Center, in order to deal with new bioethical challenges facing the scientific and Catholic communities. The organization's founding was "ahead of the times," as it was there to address game-changing bioethical challenges like the Supreme Court decisions permitting abortion in 1973, the HIV/AIDS crisis, stem cell isolation and research and the sequencing of the human genome, said president Dr. John M. Haas.

The council's existence has enabled the NCBC to respond quickly to major developments in bioethics and has many anticipated them, Haas said. He recalled a workshop the NCBC ran for the U.S. bishops in the late 1990s on the nature of man and how to approach the subject of humanity in the wake of new scientific advancements: one week after the conference ended, scientists announced that they had sequenced the human genome.

"It couldn't have been more timely or convergent with our program," Haas told CNA.

Over the years, the NCBC has developed a set of specialties where they focus their efforts. Their main areas of focus are publishing, including their award-winning National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly, along with various commentaries and books; public policy; education for scientists, bishops, and medical professionals; and consultations. In their consultation work, the team fields and responds to more than 2000 individual consultation requests a year, as well as consultations for Catholic organizations like Catholic Relief Services and Catholic hospitals, along with consultations for bishops and dioceses.

Most laypeople people who interact with the NCBC do so through their individual ethical consultations—the organization's personal consultations for people facing ethical dilemmas involving science or health care. Among the most common requests the staff ethicists receive are end-of-life issues, career selection, questions regarding sexuality and infertility, and resolving perceived contradictions between science and religion.

"In terms of cases, we don't get the easy ones—and that's when they call us," said Dr. Edward J. Furton, director of publications for the NCBC.

Even though the cases the team receives are difficult ones, and each case is different, the NCBC strives to provide practical answers to people's ethical dilemmas.

"We are so practical," Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education and ethicist for the NCBC told CNA. "It's not like sitting and writing scholarly journals at the university—we do some of that as well — but our focus is an intensely practical one."

The NCBC's consultation work also is an opportunity for ministry and even to provide comfort for people facing some of life's most difficult challenges, Fr. Pacholczyk said. Whether it's a doctor facing a difficult choice in treating a patient or a family weighing their options as a loved one reaches the very end of life, the ethicists try to assist and guide those they counsel as best as they can. Often, Dr. Haas added, they receive notes thanking them for being so helpful in life's most difficult choices.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center extends its ministerial efforts to more than individual consultations. Fr. Pacholczyk's work focuses on outreach and education, as well as answering consultations —especially those of priests and clergy. Throughout the year, Fr. Pacholczyk travels the country giving talks, helping to run National Catholic Bioethics Center's certification program in healthcare ethics, and a workshop for bishops on how to apply Catholic teaching on ethics in practical situations.

"It's a multi-pronged form of outreach," Fr. Pacholczyk said.

This multi-pronged approach also applies to the center's work on public policy, which is headed by Dr. Hilliard. The center's work in responding to topics such as physician-assisted suicide, abortion, disabilities, conscience rights and religious freedom, scientific advancement and public funding of various research and public health measures, is an essential conversation for Catholics to be involved in, Dr. Hilliard said.

"We live in a real world and we have to be there," she said, stressing that Catholics need to be there to respond to "policies that are going to impact the world."

Her role in offering an ethical analysis of policy proposals and measures has gained Dr. Hilliard recognition outside the Church as well.

"Sometimes I get called ahead of time because they know I'll be commenting extensively on something they're proposing," Dr. Hilliard said of notifications she receives of upcoming policy proposals from various government figures.

Other faith traditions and secular institutions also look to Dr. Hilliard and the NCBC for collaboration and explanations of the natural moral law, because "we don't have to pull out the Bible," but can justify their positions from a position of both faith and reason.

The NCBC's publications also have garnered attention within the scholarly community as well. The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly is an award-winning publication and major journal of medical ethics, and its readers include major pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, and ethics professors of medical schools.

The publications and the work the NCBC does more broadly fill a much-needed role in rigorously examining ethical issues. "No one out there has a moral tradition as highly sophisticated as that of the Catholic Church," Dr. Furton said.

"There's a great need for what we do, not only in the larger sphere in public comment and publications and educating people, but just one on one, it's a challenging thing to deal with these difficult moral questions that come to you in the course of a day."

Part of that great need has come in recent decades from a growing perception that science and religion (see Moral Issues, p. 23)
'I made a huge mistake’ – Why one radical feminist changed her mind on abortion

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dec. 19, 2016 (CNA) - Brazilian feminist Sara Winter used to work to legalize abortion. She was one of the founders of a radical group that carries out offensive topless protests at churches.

Now, she says people should learn from religious women who put their faith into action—and reject the powerful forces promoting abortion in her country.

What changed her mind? The birth of her child. “I understand I made a huge mistake, and I ask forgiveness from the bottom of my heart. The way to achieve public policy changes for women has nothing to do with mocking people’s religions,” she said in a Facebook post late last year.

“What I was missing was love (which changed when I became a mother), love that came to me after having reflected a lot on today’s militant feminism,” she said.

Sara Winter is the pseudonym of Sara Fernanda Giromin. Three years ago she was one of the founders of the Brazilian branch of Femen, a radical feminist organization of sometimes violent, often offensive activists who protest topless in favor of abortion and LGBT activism.

Winter asked for forgiveness “from all those people, whether religious or not, that I offended during a feminist protest last year involving a same-sex kiss in front of a church in Rio de Janeiro.”

Last month she denounced international funding to promote abortion in Brazil. She asked forgiveness for having been “part of that scheme to get abortion legalized.”

“But I never knew that all that talk about legalizing abortion in Brazil had been the work of organizations controlled by tycoons, rich men interested in reducing my country’s population.”

Sara confessed that she had always thought that an abortion was “something every woman should be able to get.”

“I’m not waving that flag any more. I don’t agree with women being jailed for having an abortion, I think they should always be treated with compassion, but I’m against the promotion of abortion being carried out by the feminist NGOs.”

The young woman also encouraged feminists “to learn from women who are religious.” While feminists are “putting on ridiculous protests (I myself used to be one of them) which are embarrassing to women, there are women of faith with homes protecting rape victims, and other women giving life by providing housing, taking in women in dangerous situations, and providing all kinds of assistance.”

“There are a lot of NGOs and institutions that need a helping hand and volunteers to care for the victims of violence, so let’s get going, help them, do your part. Take care of, assist and love other women,” she encouraged her readers.

Sara first began to speak about this radical turn-around in her life in October 2015.

“I regret having an abortion and today I’m asking for forgiveness,” she wrote on Facebook at that point, almost one month after the birth of her second child. Since her baby was born, she said, “my life has taken on new meaning.”

“I don’t want you to go through the same thing I did,” she told her readers.

Years before, she underwent an abortion using a drug provided by a feminist.

“I almost bled to death and had very serious complications,” she recalled, adding that the person who came to her aid in those circumstances was a man who had “no connection to radical feminism.”

On abortion, she urged, “feminism should be focusing more on taking care of women instead of putting their lives at risk.”

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Sara Winter has also become a critic of transgender ideology. She explained that she has no animus against people who say they are transgender, but she added, “I don’t think that changing your clothes, getting silicone breast implants and making the transition with hormones and surgery can change anybody’s sex.”

By mid-November, Sara was urging Brazilian feminists to “respect women who are religious believers.” Although she has no religious affiliation, she said that “one of the things I regret in my life is pulling away from God and devoting all my time to militant feminism.”

“Having faith is not a retrogression and other people’s religion needs to be respected,” she urged.

Sara said that she has faced a hostile reaction from the feminist faction she has abandoned.

“You have no idea of the reprisals I’ve been a victim of coming from the feminists,” she wrote. “I’m afraid of even stepping out on to the street with my baby, but I have faith that all this is going to go away.”

In early December last year, Sara published a short digital book about “seven times I was betrayed by the feminist movement.” The book is a compilation of the bizarre experiences she says she had as part of the Brazilian feminist movement, involved orgies, alcohol, drugs and misuse of funds.

For every book sold, she has offered to donate a Brazilian Real (about 25 cents) to “initiatives helping women in violent situations and against abortion.”

She said the main reason Brazilian people do not like the feminists is because many of them act hysterically and use social media “to mock and humiliate religious people, preach hatred against men, besides being extremists and disrespectful of other people’s religious heritage.”

“I’m just as guilty. I used to be like that too, but thanks be to God I’ve been healed,” she said.
What do you say to a homeless person? Advice from Catholic urban missionaries

Dec. 30, 2016 (EWTN/CNA) - It’s a common sight at a city intersection. A man or a woman holds a cardboard sign: “Homeless, Hungry. Please Give. Anything Helps.”

Most motorists, stopped at the light and eager to move on, just ignore the person.

But what should you do before the light changes? The Denver-based urban ministry Christ in the City offers some advice.

“Ask the person’s name,” said the group’s tip sheet. “One of our friends on the street told us he went four months without hearing his own name. Ask the person’s name and remember it.”

Those with a regular commute should remember that name and say hello the next time.

“You’ll be amazed how his or her face will light up that you remembered.”

“To love is to know and be known,” Christ in the City said. “And so, the chronically homeless become unknown, they become separated, not just from society but from the experience of love itself.”

The chronically homeless are the most resistant to social services and other help. They’re most likely to have substance abuse or mental health problems.

Erin McCrory, the ministry’s managing director, reflected on their situation.

“They’ve told us that once your reality becomes eating out of garbage cans and you don’t hear your name spoken for months at a time, you accept this is your reality,” McCrory told the Denver Catholic Register. “Their spirits are broken and they are lacking in hope and faith in people.”

There are other ways of making personal contact.

“Reach out and offer a handshake,” the group’s tip sheet advised. “This simple gesture breaks a barrier and expresses that you recognize their dignity. One moment of awkwardness for you can be the highlight of the day for him or her.”

Each year, a new team of Christ in the City missionaries gathers in Denver for efforts such as homeless outreach. About 25 young missionaries volunteer for two years, receiving spiritual and academic formation in their time of service.

The group says one missionary alone reaches 500 homeless and engages 80-100 volunteers to engage in more than 62,000 hours of service for the homeless.

The group advises people to give more practical items in lieu of money, like socks, water, Gatorade, or gloves. Those who give food should keep in mind that people who live on the street often have teeth problems and can’t eat hard granola bars or apples. Soft foods like bananas or soft-baked granola bars are more edible.

“Giving money is a personal decision that requires discernment. Gift cards can be a better alternative to cash,” Christ in the City said. Items showing personal care are more likely to keep a focus on friendship. “Your love and compassion is more effective than five bucks,” the group added.

The group’s final piece of advice?

“Offer to pray for them, and mean it,” Christ in the City said. “We try to be another Christ to our friends on the street, but we accept that we can only do so much. The rest we leave up to God in prayer. He loves our friends more than we ever could.”

The organization has had requests to expand into five other dioceses.
Have souls in Purgatory visited people on earth?

December 31, 2016 (EWTN/CNA) - Nestled in Rome just outside the Vatican, a small unassuming museum dedicated to the souls in Purgatory displays simple items such as prayer books and clothing.

Nothing too unusual, until you realize that each allegedly show the marks of the deceased—such as inexplicably burned fingerprints—when they appeared to loved ones asking for prayers from Purgatory.

The Museum of the Souls in Purgatory is located inside of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Prati, near Castel Sant'Angelo, and contains around 15 of these testimonies and artifacts, collected from around Europe by a French priest Victor Jouët.

In many of the cases, it is held that the marks were left as proof that the deceased had really appeared, asking for prayers or for Masses to be said for their souls.

One artifact in the museum is the fingerprint of Sr. Mary of St. Luigi Gonzaga, left on a pillowcase when she appeared to Sr. Margherita of the Sacred Heart on the night after she died in 1894.

The appearance was recorded in the archives of the monastery of St. Clare of the Child Jesus in Bastia, Italy. According to the records, Sr. Mary told Sr. Margherita that she was in Purgatory as expiation of her lack of patience in accepting God’s will.

Another is the prayer book of Maria Zaganti which shows three fingerprints left by her deceased friend Palmira Rastelli on March 5, 1871. The sister of the parish priest, she asked appeared to her friend to ask for Masses to be said by her brother Fr. Sante Rastelli.

A mark of fiery fingerprints were also left on the German prayer book of George Schitz by his brother Joseph on Dec. 21, 1838. He asked for prayer in expiation of his lack of piety during his life.

The Museum of the Souls in Purgatory was created by Fr. Victor Jouët in 1897. A Missionary of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Jouët founded in Rome the Association of the Sacred Heart of the Suffrage of the Souls of Purgatory. The chapel the Association used from 1896-1914 was located at the place where the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is now.

In 1897 the chapel caught on fire. When Fr. Jouët rushed into the chapel, he saw the image of a human face, looking sad and melancholy, impressed upon the wall behind the altar. He believed it to be from the soul of a deceased man trying to contact those on earth.

After this occurrence, the priest decided to create a museum dedicated to the artifacts of other appearances of souls in Purgatory. He travelled around Europe and Italy collecting the items and testimonies.

Each piece in the museum was collected by Fr. Jouët from the same person who experienced the vision. The image of the man from the chapel can also be found there.

While he travelled around, Fr. Jouët also asked for money to build a church on the site of the chapel, which he had received a message to build in a dream.

Other artifacts in the museum include the print of a hand and a cross left on a the wooden table of Venerable Clara Isabel Fornari, abbess of the Poor Clares of the Monastery of St. Francis in Todi, Italy, by the deceased Fr. Panzini, on Nov. 1, 1731.

There is also a copy of an Italian 10 lira banknote, one of 30 notes left at the Monastery of St. Leonardo in Montefalco by a deceased priest between Aug. 18 and Nov. 9, 1919.

Catholic teaching on the afterlife is that there are three places for a soul to go after death: Heaven, Hell, or Purgatory.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, those who go to Heaven are “(t)hose who die in God’s grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ.”

Those souls that go to Hell are those who have freely chosen through mortal sin “exclusion from communion with God and the blessed.”

Purgatory is a place where the souls who go who die in friendship with God but are still imperfectly purified. Purgatory is where “after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.” These
St. Agatha

❖

Child & Youth Protection

If you or someone you know has been harmed by sexual misconduct by clergy, a Church employee, or volunteer, please contact:

Julie Sparacio, Director
Child and Youth Protection
707-566-3309
jsparacio@srdiocese.org

(Souls in Purgatory, cont. from page 11)
souls are ensured eventual entrance into Heaven, once they are purified.

The Church teaches that souls in Purgatory rely on the prayers of souls still on Earth to relieve some of their temporal suffering and speed their journey to Heaven. In return, the souls in Purgatory can also pray for those on earth.

On Nov. 2, the Feast of All Souls, Pope Francis offered Mass for all the departed in Flaminio Cemetery in Rome. Speaking about the sadness of losing a loved one, the Pope said that “in this sadness we bring flowers as a sign of hope, and also, I dare to say, of celebration—not now, but in the future.”

“All of us will make this journey,” he said. “Sooner or later, but everyone. With pain, some more some less, but all. But with the flower of hope, with that strong thread of hope that is anchored in the hereafter.”

❖

January 7: St. Raymond of Penyafort

Carmelites House of Prayer, Oakville
Discalced Carmelite Friars

Services at the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville are Open to the Public

Mass Times
Sunday 9am; Monday through Saturday 8am
Except for the first Saturday of the month, Mass will be at 11am, For Holy Days & Holidays please call the office

Morning Of Recollection
Every first Saturday of the Month: Spiritual Talk 9-10am; Confessions 10-11am; Mass 11am

Bible Study
Tuesdays with Father Michael Buckley, O.C. D.
Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30am following the 8am Mass (Contact the office to confirm time & day at 707-944-2454 x103)

Confessions - English
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-12pm, 3-5pm, 8-9pm (Please ring front door bell)

Confessions - Spanish
Wednesday 10-12pm, 3-5pm, 8-9pm (Please ring front door bell)

Contact Information
20 Mount Carmel Drive, 0.9 miles west of Highway 29, off the Oakville Grade
707-944-2454 | oakvillecarmelites.org

“Spirituality in Practice”
Presented by Rev. John Boettcher
Sponsored by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education

This course will help your “practice what you preach”, to receive the blessing Jesus promised to those “that hear the word of God, and keep it” (Luke 11:28 DEVP), for “If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him” (John 14:23 RSV). We will use the Letter to the Ephesians as a guide.

Text - Selection from: Scripture, Saints and Doctors of the Church, and Ecumenical councils: Nicea-Constantinople I, Ephesus, Chalcedon, Trent, Vatican II

CLASS SUMMARY & SCHEDULE

| Introduction & General Principals | December 17, 2016 |
| Personal Relationship with God | January 28, 2017 |
| Good & Evil, Origins & Ends | February 25 |
| Dispositions, Conditions & States | March 25 |
| Dynamics | April 22 |
| Action & Works | May 20 |
| Virtues & Charisms | June 24 |
| Order & Rhythm. Constantly, Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Yearly… | July 22 |

- The course is designed for teaching adults.
- The cost of the course is $75.
- Classes are being held in Santa Rosa.
- This course can be used to satisfy some of the renewal requirements for Diocesan certificates.
- Contact the Diocesan Department of Religious Education for an application. Or use cut out & return to Carmen.

To Apply Contact: Carmen Perez Amenson,
Department of Religious Studies - P.O. Box 1297, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
dre@srdiocese.org / (707) 566-3366 / Fax (707) 542-9702 / www.santarosacatholic.org

12 NORTH COAST CATHOLIC / JANUARY 2017 / www.srdiocese.org
2/5 St. Agatha  2/6 St. Paul Miki and Companions
HOPE FOR THE WORLD

Uniting All Things in Christ

♦ HOPE FOR THE WORLD
Cardinal Raymond Burke
In a thorough and hard-hitting discussion, Cardinal Burke offers his insights on the pressing issues of our times: the role of the Catholic Church in the modern world, the liturgy, spiritual renewal, marriage and family, respect for human life, and more. Every topic is approached with deep faith and sound reasoning, without polemics. Burke, a great canonist, treats difficult subjects with clarity and directness. His lucid and straightforward answers help with understanding the essential moral and spiritual challenges of today.

“This is classic Cardinal Burke: conceptual clarity, courageous and direct expression of the truth, and comprehensive treatment.”
— Robert Royal, Author, A Deeper Vision

“Cardinal Burke candidly answers challenging questions with clarity and precision . . . inspiring as he is fearless.”
— Raymond Arroyo, EWTN News Anchor

CBI-P . . ., Sewn Softcover, $14.95

♦ CATHOLICS IN AMERICA
Russell Shaw
A collection of well written profiles of some leading figures in American Catholic history. The diverse group includes Archbishop John Carroll, St. Elizabeth Seton, Orestes Brownson, Cardinal James Gibbons, Al Smith, Dorothy Day, Flannery O’Connor, Fulton Sheen and others. Their lives tell the story of the building of the largest religious body in the United States. But this book also explores the ongoing, often controversial, effort of Catholics to work out their identity in a secular, and sometimes hostile, society. It documents various answers to the question, “Is it possible to be a good Catholic and a good American?”

“Shaw excels in intelligence, zeal, fidelity and a sharp critical eye. All of his skills combine here for a compelling experience of the tensions that exist between our Christian identity and the American secular culture.”
— Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia

GAC-P . . ., Sewn Softcover, $15.95

♦ PETER: KEYS TO FOLLOWING JESUS - Tim Gray
Renowned scholar Dr. Tim Gray masterfully guides you through the tumultuous and inspiring life of Peter—from his call to discipleship to his eventual martyrdom in Rome. Using Sacred Scripture and tradition, Dr. Gray highlights many important lessons from Peter’s life, including: How to become a trusting disciple and “cast into the deep”; The pitfalls of living discipleship at a distance; How to recover from sin and accept God’s mercy; How to become a bold witness to others of the love of Jesus. Come to better know, love, and follow Jesus through the Rock on whom he built his Church.

“Gray weaves together the scriptural and traditional evidence of Peter’s life, giving us a deep personal insight into the head Apostle—as if we are really there.”
— Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, Author, Finding True Happiness

PET-P . . ., Sewn Softcover, $16.95

www.ignatius.com
Visitors to the Napa Valley are typically attracted to its natural beauty, its rural and gentile atmosphere, and of course its exquisite food and wines. But within the bustling valley there is an attraction of a different kind, one that has been drawing families from faraway places for more than 35 years. A little school called Kolbe Academy & Trinity Prep (Kolbe-Trinity). One of their marketing brochures really says it all, "You have to travel over 400 miles to find another school like ours."

Combining a classical curriculum, traditional methods of instruction, and a fervent Catholic environment, Kolbe-Trinity offers something that is rare among schools in this age where education is centered more on improving test scores and technology than on the mastery of the traditional liberal arts and sciences. The school’s emphasis is not on the subject matter per se, but rather the bestowing of the tools of learning and clear thinking that help students to apply the knowledge they acquire to their lives and to the problems and issues they will encounter in the world. The school’s headmaster John Bertolini, himself a graduate of Kolbe-Trinity, offers this explanation. "What makes Kolbe-Trinity unique among Catholic and classical liberal arts schools in northern California is the symbiotic relationship between our faith and educational pedagogy. Throughout elementary school, our students are gradually prepared to encounter the greatest minds of western civilization by the study of the greatest books ever written when they reach high school. With proper guidance, they read and discuss the timeless themes found in works including, but not limited to, Plato’s Republic, Dante’s Inferno, Shakespeare’s Romeo & Juliet, and Twain’s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Academics and faith are not the only things at Kolbe-Trinity. With a mission of forming the whole person—mind, body and soul—the school offers inter-scholastic athletics at the middle and high school level, featuring girls’ volleyball and basketball and boys’ basketball and baseball as members of the North Pacific Athletic Conference. Junior High and High School athletic director Jim Klaczak has worked in both large and small public and private schools for over forty years and is in his first year at the helm. "At first glance," Klaczak states, "the student-athletes at Trinity were just like most high school students. They were full of energy, willing to work, wanting to win and be successful. However, once the hard work began and the reality of what it takes to be a champion their real character was revealed. They showed a level of commitment and willingness to learn and most importantly, a willingness to be coached. They wanted to be great and they also wanted to know the history of how greatness was achieved in the past. I have always used the mantra, ‘Those who remain will be champions.’ These students not only remain, but they become champions in every way, and they do it the right way. They are aware, respectful and genuinely nice: a pleasure to be around.”

Founded in 1980 by families who were seeking a more traditional yet solidly Catholic education for their children, the school has become a fixture in Napa which currently serves 100 students in grades TK through 12. Kolbe-Trinity’s small size provides an extremely low student-teacher ratio and a family environment in which the school families, faculty and staff form a close community which looks out for one another and provides a safe place where parents feel comfortable. For Sophia Castañeda, who has a second-grade daughter and kindergarten son at the school, it was an easy decision. “The first day I visited Kolbe-Trinity, I knew it was the perfect school for my children. Education is beyond textbooks, it is about a foundation of Catholic faith, respect and an education to think for yourself. It is a community where both teachers and parents work together to have an environment where our children can succeed.”

According to Dean of Students Phillip Duncan, this (see Symbiotic Relationship, p. 16)
When they compete in Kentucky in the spring, the ASBT ranks as one of the top 10-15 tournaments in the country, according to a Coach’s Poll. We wish placing so well, is truly a feat.

Competition with a new teammate this year, and still be placing so well, is truly a feat. For her to receive so many bids, come in so high as an individual and compete with a new teammate this year and still be placing so well, is truly a feat.

Novato Student at SVHS Among Top Speakers In Nation

The St. Vincent de Paul High School Debate Team in Petaluma continues to rank among the nation’s best. The team of Julia Hunter and Emma Page placed in the finals at the Alta Silver and Black Tournament in Utah recently. They are one of the last two teams left (with The College Preparatory School in Oakland) and the final round will be determined at a later date, which means they will either receive first or second place. The ASBT ranks as one of the top 10-15 tournaments in the country.

During the year, teams from all over the country compete to win a bid at the Tournament of Champions. Julia Hunter, who is competing with a brand new partner this year has managed to rack up a total of 5 bids this year and 15 bids to the TOC in her career. She has surpassed the SVHS record for having the highest number of bids ever achieved in a high school debate career. Having so many bids puts them at a placement advantage in the beginning stages of the tournament.

Besides being part of the finalist team with Emma, who is a brand new varsity debater, she ranked 6th out of 180 competitors as an individual speaker. Last year she came in 2nd at the same tournament. The SVHS team won the Alta Tourney last year, and perhaps will win again.

Tom Woodhead, her debate teacher, says, “She is basically amazing and exceptional.” For her to receive so many bids, come in so high as an individual and compete with a new teammate this year and still be placing so well, is truly a feat.

Julia is the daughter of Catherine and Tom Hunter and Emma is the daughter of Jennifer and Anthony Page. Both students reside in Novato.

Nationally SVHS ranks among the top 20 teams in the country, according to a Coach’s Poll. We wish them continued success and will be cheering for them when they compete in Kentucky in the spring.

150 Served at Saint Helena Catholic’s Thanksgiving Lunch

This past Thanksgiving the parish at Saint Helena Catholic Church hosted approximately one hundred and fifty guests from their annual community lunch. Many of the guests who attend this event are retirees, veterans, or from single-parent or under-served families. This yearly event continues to be a great way for parishioners within the Church to meet, whether they be volunteer, donor, or guest. Volunteers from five other parishes were in attendance, some coming from as far away as Lodi for this great event! Our neighbors at Grace Episcopal Church helped deliver over fifty meals to the home-bound in our community. This event really sums up what the Thanksgiving holiday is all about: community. As we go into the Advent season, it reminds us how blessed we are to have found a community in Christ. If you are interested in next year’s meal, contact Bernadette Meyer—the Church’s Business Manager—for details: 707-963-1228 / bernadette@sthelencatholic.com

Health & Wellness Free Family Event

On Sunday October 23, 2016 from 1:00 pm to 5:00pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Windsor sponsored a fun-filled Health & Wellness Free Family Event which was very successful.

Approximately 685 families visited 43 community agencies’ tables where the families obtained an array of services ranging from medical screenings to voting and hair-cuts.

The goal of the event was to reach out to those who lack health care services, preventive services and community resources awareness. Hence providing: Health access—medi-cal, Food security—Cal fresh, Dental —children’s varnishes and fluoride,—Oral health prevention education, Vision- eye exams/screening, Vaccinations, - flu shots, Diabetes—Glucose testing and education,—Blood pressure screenings, Education —school retention, success and financial aid, Mental health-resources, Immigration services—including DACA, Legal services- related to employment, housing, health, Disaster prevention and more.

This could not have been accomplished without the wonderful help of the 59 members of the Spanish Young Adults Group under the leadership of Vanessa Ponce & Luis Mario Rodriguez. Edie Urtega from Binational Week Outreach was the project lead and Joe Tembrock from the parish Peace & Justice coordinated the project.

Sharing Christmas Joy

As it has for the past many years, this year’s Holiday Assistance program for UpValley families (Rutherford, St. Helena, Angwin, Deer Park, Calistoga, Pope Valley) was coordinated by members of the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry of St. Helena Catholic Church. The UpValley Family Center received and processed the applications and generated a list of needed toys and gifts.

Beginning the first weekend of Advent, Christmas Love Trees were set up at the Church as well as Harvest Inn, Meadowood and St. Helena Hospital. The trees were decorated with paper ornaments (made by Maria Phelp’s students at St. Helena Catholic School). Each ornament listed the needs for a family: age specific gifts for children, gift cards for teens, and grocery cards. Unwrapped gifts and gift cards were returned to the church the weekend of December 10-11, and the following week volunteers sorted and boxed according to the recipient families’ situations. Families came to the Catholic school to pick up their gifts, fresh produce and a turkey on December 17th. This year more than 150 family baskets (representing 400+ people) were distributed.

These gifts to our neighbor families were possible because of many generous individuals and businesses that partnered to complete the intake for eligibility, provide gifts, gift cards, monetary donations, turkeys, and produce, as well as dozens of volunteers to organize, sort and give our the Holiday Assistance boxes. Among the community partners: St. Helena Fire Department, Herdell Printing, Meadowood Napa Valley, St. Helena Hospital, Harvest Inn, UpValley Family Centers, Steves Hardware, Sciambra-Passini French Bakery, Sorensen Catering, National Wild Turkey Federation, Project Glimmer, and the St. Helena Presbyterian Church.

St. Eugene Cathedral Preschool Earns National NAEYC Accreditation

St. Eugene Cathedral Preschool, Santa Rosa, CA has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

“We are very proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC and to be recognized for reaching the highest professional standards” said Sharon Caesare, St. Eugene's Preschool Director. “The process itself brought us closer as a staff, as we worked together to complete the Program and Classroom Portfolios. I could not have done this on my own; my entire staff really stepped up to help with this, especially my lead teachers, Susan von Tagen and Jennifer Salnas.” “This process really forced us to take a good look at our program and to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses” said Jennifer Salnas (Teacher). “It feels good to complete a goal that we set for ourselves, I have always had an interest in pursuing NAEYC Accreditation and was excited to” said Susan von Tagen, who is one of the founding teachers of the preschool clocking in her 20th year with the program this year. “It is a lengthy and rigorous process to achieve NAEYC Accreditation, and the preschool should be commended for their quality improvement efforts and dedication to the children and families that come to our school” said Barbara Gasparini, the elementary school principal.

(see News Briefs, p. 16)
To earn NAEYC Accreditation, St. Eugene Catholic Preschool went through an extensive self-study process measuring the program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by an NAEYC Assessor to ensure the program meets each of the ten program standards. The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for program for young children since 1985. In September 2006, the Association revised the program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards today reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to using the newest studies and analysis on positive child outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest quality of care and education possible. The NAEYC Accreditation system was created to set professional standards for early childhood education, and to help families identify high-quality preschools, child care centers, and other early childhood education programs. To learn more about NAEYC Accreditation, please visit their website at www.NAEYC.org.

Cursillo Gathering

Members of the Catholic Cursillo Community of the Diocese of Santa Rosa gathered together to celebrate the Christmas season on December 4 at St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park. There was holiday food and caroling. Items raffled off included Catholic religious gifts, food and drink items, kitchen linens, and more. The afternoon also included fellowship and members sharing how they are living their life of holiness. The event concluded with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Cursillo movement originated in Spain by Eduardo Bonin in 1944, in his effort to revitalize the lukewarm faith of Catholics. It is now a worldwide lay movement within the Catholic Church. The Catholic Cursillo Movement of Santa Rosa is under the direction and authority of the Bishop and is affiliated with the Regional and National Catholic Cursillos. Through friendship, we support and encourage one another in our walk toward holiness. We believe our surroundings are evangelized through our friendship and living the gospel message. Our motto is “make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.”

Our name comes from the Spanish word “Cursillo” which means small course. Its original full name is “Cursillo de Cristiandad” (short course in Christianity). However, it is not a theoretical course nor a traditional retreat; it is best described as an experience, an experience that leads to discover and better live what is fundamental in Christianity. The four-day weekend begins on Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday evening. Each person experiences the weekend differently, but it always centers on the Eucharist, prayer, daily Mass, the rosary, and a series of presentations designed to lead participants to personally encounter Christ. Weekends are currently being planned for July and August 2017. We would love to meet you and become your friend. Please join us this fall (September 16-19).

International

Benedict XVI: Mother Angelica was ‘a great woman’

Vatican City, Dec 18, 2016 (CNA/EWTN News) - Pope emeritus Benedict XVI praised the founder of the EWTN Global Catholic Network on Thursday. “Mother Angelica was a great woman, very brave,” he said Dec. 15.

He had greeted the editorial staff of the EWTN-backed Italian-language news agency ACI Stampa, who met him to give him a Christmas card.

Mother Angelica passed away on Easter Sunday 2016 at the age of 92. In March, Benedict XVI had a special response to the timing of her death: “It’s a gift,” he said, his personal secretary Archbishop Georg Ganswein told CNA.

Soon after the nun’s March 27 death, at a March 30 general audience Pope Francis encountered members of EWTN’s Rome Bureau who carried a framed photo of Mother Angelica. The Pope saw the image and blessed it. Pointing to the sky, he said “she’s in heaven.”

Pope Francis’ Benedict XVI’s latest praise came in a gathering with ACI Stampa staffers after the afternoon Rosary prayer Dec. 15 at the Grotto of Lourdes in the Vatican Gardens. They presented to the former Pope a collection of all the articles dedicated to him since ACI Stampa began in March 2014.

Benedict leafed through the small collection with interest.

At Thursday’s encounter with Benedict XVI and Archbishop Ganswein were ACI Stampa director Angela Ambrogetti and journalists Andrea Gagliarducci, Mario Mancini and Veronica Giacometti.

In his short personal conversations with each one, the Pope emeritus voiced interest in their work. As their time concluded, he blessed the journalists and their families.

ACI Stampa is one of the newest additions to CNA Global, a multi-lingual international news service which includes Catholic News Agency. CNA Global is part of the EWTN Global Catholic Network, which Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation founded in Alabama in 1981 as the Eternal Word Television Network.

The network today reaches millions of homes around the world through television and shortwave radio. It publishes the National Catholic Register as well as the news agencies of CNA Global.

Kolbe-Trinity was already providing Catholic education and had remained faithful to the Church and its teachings, joining the diocese did not change the school’s curriculum or religious practices, but represented a normalizing of the school’s relationship with the diocese and recognition of its Catholic identity. There were two notable changes that resulted from joining the diocese. One was the appointment of Fr. Gary Sumpter as the school’s chaplain making him available to provide frequent daily Mass, confessions and to teach. The other is the need for the school to become WASC-WCEA accredited, a requirement of all schools in the diocese. This process is expected to begin next year under the direction of Diocesan Superintendent of Schools Linda Norman.

Since 1995 the school has resided at 2055 Redwood Road in Napa, renting the facility from a former Baptist church. Recently the school completed a purchase of the property which now provides Kolbe-Trinity with a permanent home and a significant boost to its operating budget with the elimination of a monthly rental payment. "Purchasing the school property was the realization of a dream that we have had since the beginning," stated school board president Wilt Birdsell. "It was miraculous, really: the result of more than 10 years of negotiations with the property owner, the hard work of our board and staff, and of course the generosity of our school families and benefactors. It is a significant milestone in our history that gives us a permanent place to call home and a foundation on which to build."

Building the school’s enrollment is a key initiative currently being pursued by Bertolini and Duncan.

"What we offer here is an exceptional value both in terms of the academics and the faith formation, at a very reasonable price," says Bertolini. "We are constantly hearing from new families and others who come to find out about us that they had no idea we existed, and are amazed to find out what we do here." Finding the school to be a “pearl of great price,” many families who send their children here moved to Napa specifically to attend the school or commute from nearby communities outside of the Napa Valley such as Vacaville, Fairfield, Vallejo, Sonoma and Marin County. Duncan agrees. "We have a very unique curriculum that serves students from different backgrounds and with different talents. Our mission to encourage critical and independent thinking, and to form minds and hearts in the light of Catholic intellectual tradition has attracted families to our community.”

Fine gems like fine wines withstand the test of time and similarly Kolbe Academy and Trinity Prep has withstood the test of time to become a rare gem of Catholic education, and right here in our own Santa Rosa Diocese. For information about the school please visit the school’s website at www.kolbetrinity.org, drop in for a visit at 2055 Redwood Road in Napa, or contact the office at 707-258-9030.
Can classical education save us from victimhood culture?

December 31, 2016 (EWTN/CNA News) - “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”
This quote from British author Evelyn Beatrice Hall (often misattributed to Voltaire) might sound rather foreign on many college campuses throughout the country today, who in many ways seem to prefer to be defended from the First Amendment rather than to defend it.

Earlier this year, students at Emory University in Atlanta protested that their safety was threatened by chalk messages showing support for Donald Trump for president. The president of the University agreed.

In early March, two student government representatives at Bowdoin College faced impeachment proceedings for attending a fiesta-themed party with mini sombreros, since the event was deemed an example of “ethnic stereotyping.”

In April, North Carolina’s Lt. Gov. Dan Forest proposed a policy for the state’s public university system that would punish “those who interrupt the free expression of others,” such as hecklers during a speech.

The rise of a culture designed to protect students from words and ideas that seem threatening has proceeded for attending a fiesta-themed party from words and ideas that seem threatening has moved from obscure terms to everyday language on campus, they said.

This new climate is slowly being institutionalized, and it is affecting what can be said in the classroom, even as a basis for discussion,” they wrote.

Another recent piece in the Atlantic by Conor Friedersdorf explored a new scholarly paper by sociologists Bradley Campbell and Jason Manning, who say that this new cultural phenomenon is different from previous cultures that have come before it, such as cultures that valued dignity or honor when faced with an aggrievance.

Now, the new cultural norm is “victimhood culture,” which values immediately and publicly airing one’s grievances, in hopes of “provok[e] sympathy and antagonism” toward the initial offender by “advertising (one’s) status as an aggrieved party,” Friedersdorf wrote.

A Catholic college perspective

Anne Forsyth is the Director of College Relations and Assistant to the President at Thomas Aquinas College (TAC), a Catholic liberal arts school in Santa Paula, California. She said she found it concerning when, for the first time a few years ago, she started hearing about “free speech zones” on college campuses.

“I remember thinking ‘What is this? The whole country is a free-speech zone, what are they talking about? This is America, we all have the freedom to speak’

But while she was aware of the culture of victimhood picking up speed on other college campuses, Forsyth said the student body of Thomas Aquinas College seems to be untouched by the phenomenon.

“What we see here is endless conversation on all subjects, on which people can really disagree,” she said.

The reasons for the differences are complex, she added. One of the reason is the Christian faith of most of the students, she said, and that “where charity and love prevail, hopefully things will go a little bit better, so hopefully feelings won’t be so hurt, people won’t seem so doctrinaire, and those things are somewhat muted.”

Other reasons are likely the differences in pedagogy and curriculum, she said. Every class at TAC is in the form of a conversation-based seminar where the students are able to engage with their subjects on a level that wouldn’t be as possible in a large lecture class of hundreds of students, she said.

This engagement allows students to be able to grapple with differing opinions and ideas in ways that other students may not be being equipped to do, she said.

“I think it’s the advancing of an idea different or contrary to your own is what is triggering this (victimhood cultures), precisely because they just don’t have the tools to deal with it,” she said.

The school also takes steps to reduce “emotional reasoning” in the classroom by requiring students to address each other during discussions as “Mr.” or “Miss,” she added.

“We’re trying to minimize the personal part of it,” she said. “Not that everybody doesn’t have a personal stake in these arguments or discussions, because we do, but we don’t want to be personal about it in the point of feelings.”

Thomas Aquinas College also provides students with a classical education, with required courses in areas of philosophy, theology and literature that used to be the bread and butter of higher education.

What’s God got to do with it?

Dr. William Fahey is the president of Thomas More College, a small, Catholic liberal arts school in New Hampshire. He said that the recent articles about “victimhood culture” are identifying something that’s been happening for several decades in higher education and the culture at large.

“If you have what Benedict XVI called ‘the emancipation of man from God’ in the public square, then it means certain things are going to be absent, certain things are going to become more prominent,” he said. “So if you’re not allowed to talk about God at the center, then you can’t have traditional (see Classical Education, p. 20)
Mis queridos feligreses:

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad en el espacio de mi columna habitual para expresar mi más sincera y devota esperanza que el Tiempo de Navidad, el cual continuará por dos semanas después de Navidad, sea para ustedes un tiempo de gozo sin igual. Ruego que la gracia y paz de Dios nuestro padre, el amor de Cristo Rey y la comunión del Espíritu Santo el Santiificador le acompañe a cada uno de ustedes. Orando por sus celebraciones a la Virgen de Guadalupe la mañana del lunes, encontraron una nueva Virgen de bronce de cuatro pies de altura de la Virgen de Guadalupe, como un “símbolo de fe y devoción”.

En esa celebración nos damos cuenta otra vez del evento de Navidad en nuestra Sagrada Liturgia. Entiendo que cada Navidad es una repetición de la venida de Jesús al mundo, que llena nuestros corazones de esperanza gozosa y nos permite experimentar a Dios en la Navidad. “(Isaías 9:2) El pueblo que andaba en tinieblas vio gran luz; los que moraban en tierra de sombra de muerte, la luz resplandeció sobre ellos. El pueblo que andaba en tinieblas vio gran luz; los que moraban en tierra de sombra de muerte, la luz resplandeció sobre ellos.”

Dios les bendiga y colme de su gracia a lo largo del año, ruego que con frecuencia entremos en la presencia de Dios. Que puedan experimentar a Dios en el silencio de sus corazones.

Ruego que Dios envíe a la vida de cada uno de ustedes al finalizar este Tiempo de Navidad y durante todo el año un renovado sentido de maravilla y asombro en su presencia. Que puedan experimentar a Dios en el silencio de sus corazones.

También quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecerles su generosidad, llenna de fe, a sus parroquias, la Diócesis y labores caritativas. Mientras que hay retos por delante, la Navidad nos recuerda una vez más de la presencia y providencia de Dios que llena nuestros corazones de esperanza gozosa y nos fortalece para enfrentar con audacia y valentía los diferentes desafíos de la vida. Les aseguro que les tendré presentes en mis oraciones y pido que nos tendré presentes en mis oraciones y pido que sus celebraciones de Navidad, tanto en nuestras vidas, sean llenas con la gracia, oración y crecimiento espiritual.

Ahora estamos en las primeras semanas del nuevo año habiendo recientemente celebrado el nacimiento de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Todavía podemos recordar las notas musicales de los villancicos, Noche de Paz y Venid Fieles Todos. Aunque uno podría cantar Noche de Paz y otros himnos de Navidad en cualquier momento del año, es sólo en Navidad cuando son mezclados con tantas maravillosas gracias que tienen la capacidad de tocar nuestros corazones. En realidad es Dios mismo quien llega a nuestro mundo y toca nuestros corazones. Lo ha hecho muchas veces por los siglos como se registra en el Antiguo Testamento. El habló con Adán, convocó a Noé, llamó a Abraham, nombró a Moisés, ungió a David, envió a Isaias y, al final de la época, encargó la misión a Juan el Bautista. Entonces, en la plenitud de la promesa, habló Dios mismo, en su Hijo Unigénito, Jesús, el Ungido. Jesús es nuestra luz. Jesús es nuestro Salvador. Jesús es nuestro Redentor. Jesús entra en nuestro mundo y Dios habita entre nosotros. Ruego por que en nuestro más reciente ‘Noche de Paz’ también hayan tenido la oportunidad del silencio y la experiencia que escuchaban y sentían los pastores. Sin embargo, sabemos por medio de la fe, que Jesús entró en este mundo no solo en Belén en Navidad pero cada día en cada una de nuestras parroquias, la Iglesia local. Durante todo el año, ruego que con frecuencia entremos en la presencia del Señor y recordemos con alegría la canción de los Ángeles. Nuestras experiencias en la Navidad maravillosamente se intensifican pero podemos y realmente debemos experimentar y apreciar en cada día el toque maravilloso de Dios y su ingreso permanente en nuestras vidas.

Es la noche silenciosa, noche santa, una noche divina, una noche en que Cristo nuestro Salvador nació. Entraamos en esa misma noche silenciosa, santa, divina, esa misma experiencia, al celebrar el evento de Navidad en nuestra Sagrada Liturgia. En esa celebración nos damos cuenta otra vez del cumplimiento de la profecía de Isaias, “El pueblo que andaba en tinieblas vio gran luz; los que moraban en tierra de sombra de muerte, la luz resplandeció sobre ellos.”

Desde el Obispo
Mons. Robert F. Vasa es el sexto obispo de la Diócesis de Santa Rosa en California.

Peregrinos guadalupanos encontraron nueva Virgen de bronce

by Dan Taylor (Press Democrat)

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, cerca de la esquina de Old Redwood Highway y Alden Lane, en Windsor, fue oficialmente inaugurado—después de dos años de planeación, recaudación de fondos y construcción, con la bendición del arzobispo, Robert Vasa, el domingo por la tarde.

Vasa habló de forma breve adentro de la iglesia a una muchedumbre compuesta por cientos de personas, alabando el jardín, que cuenta con una estatua de bronce de cuatro pies de altura de la Virgen de Guadalupe, como un “símbolo de fe y devoción”.

Vestido de negro y rojo, el obispo se trasladó al exterior con el párroco de Windsor, el reverendo Michaelraj Philominsamy, para la bendición, con la lluvizna de agua bendita y la quema de incienso. “Consideramos éste nuestro santuario”, dijo el parroquiano Néstor Rodríguez, de 63 años, vecino de Windsor. “Cuando necesitemos orar, aquí estaremos”. Bette Ann Fleischacker, gerente de proyectos del jardín de oración, enfatizó que la campaña para la nueva instalación ganó el apoyo no sólo de los miembros de la parroquia, sino también del vecindario circundante y de la comunidad de Windsor. "El jardín de oración está abierto para uso de todos", dijo.

Vasa bendice con agua bendita la nueva estatua de bronce de la Virgen de Guadalupe, en Windsor. Beth Schlanker/The Press Democrat.

(vea Peregrinos, p. 21)
Noticias en Español

Windsor, CA
El domingo 23 de octubre del 2016, La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe patrocinó un exitoso Evento Familiar de Salud y Bienestar lleno de diversión para todos.
Aproximadamente 685 familias visitaron 43 mesas de las agencias comunitarias donde las familias obtuvieron una serie de servicios desde exámenes médicos hasta asistencia de votaciones y cortes de pelo.

El propósito del evento era alcanzar aquellos que carecen de servicios de salud, servicios preventivos y conocimiento de los recursos disponibles en la comunidad. Por lo tanto proporcionando: Acceso a la salud—medi-cal, Seguridad alimentaria—Cal Fresh, Dental—barnices para los niños y fluoruro.- Educación de prevención de la salud oral, Visión—exámenes de la vista, Vacunas,—contra la gripe, Servicios de migración—incluyendo DACA, Servicios legales relacionados con el empleo, la vivienda, la salud, La prevención de desastres y mucho más.

Esto no pudo lograrse sin la estupenda ayuda de 59 miembros del Grupo de Jóvenes Hispanos bajo el liderazgo de Vanessa Ponce y Luis Mario Rodríguez. Edie Urteaga de la Semana Binacional fue el líder del proyecto y Joe Tembrock de la parroquia Peace & Justice coordinó el proyecto.

Hispano que ahogó a su hija fue declarado incompetente para juicio
Paul Payne (De Press Democrat)
Un hombre residente de Healdsburg acusado de ahogar a su hija de 4 años en una pila bautismal fue encontrado incompetente para ser juzgado, por lo cual será ubicado en un hospital psiquiátrico para recibir tratamiento, dijo un juez el lunes.

Gerardo Ordz, de 42 años, comparció brevemente ante el juez de la Corte Superior del Condado de Sonoma, Arthur Wick, después de que un psicólogo indicara que no era capaz de auxiliar en su propia defensa.
Wick ordenó que los procedimientos penales contra Ordz permanezcan suspendidos mientras una agencia determina dónde será reubicado, muy probablemente en el Napa State Hospital.

Podría permanecer ahí hasta tres años, mientras se restauran sus capacidades.
Ordz, quien en anteriores apariciones sollozaba y gritaba en la corte, parecía estar más compuesto el lunes. Respondió “sí”, cuando el juez le preguntó si estaba tomando medicamentos prescritos y si continuaría tomando los de forma voluntaria.
Volverá el 11 de enero para determinar dónde será tratado.
Ordz fue arrestado el 20 de noviembre pasado afuera del departamento de policía de Healdsburg, después de que llegara desnudo sosteniendo el cuerpo sin vida de su hija de 4 años. Su hijo de 9 años estaba cerca.
La policía dijo que ahogó a la niña a pocas cuadras de distancia, en la iglesia católica de San Juan Bautista. Fue acusado de asesinato. Permanece bajo custodia sin fianza.

Homenaje al Santo Cura Brochero con el “Camino del Peregrino”
Buenos Aires (ACI) - El 17 de diciembre el gobierno de la provincia de Córdoba en Argentina inauguró el “Camino del Peregrino”, tramo de 25 kilómetros que recorrió San José Gabriel del Rosario Brochero arriba de su mula durante su vida al servicio de la evangelización y que ahora cuenta con ocho estaciones destinadas al descanso, la oración y el servicio sanitario de los peregrinos.
El recorrido, caracterizado por los hermosos paisajes de la Transasierra, al oeste de Córdoba, tiene una duración aproximada de seis horas y comienza en Giulio Césare—kilómetro 105 del camino de las Altas Cumbres—pasa por Villa Rafael Benegas y concluye en Villa Cura Brochero.

Las estaciones se ubican cada 4,5 kilómetros y cada una tiene un pilar de hormigón de más de 6 metros de altura, coronado con piezas de metal rústico que forman la imagen de la Cruz y la figura de San Brochero.

Destaca la estación de inicio en Giulio Césare que tiene un pilar de 9,5 metros de altura con la figura del primer santo que nació, creció y falleció en Argentina, la cual puede verse desde diferentes puntos de la región.

El Obispo de Cruz del Eje, Mons. Santiago Olivera, participó en la ceremonia de inauguración y dijo a ACI Prensa que “el mismo camino que recorrum los pasos y el aire que respiró Brochero, nos invita a recordar el verdadero camino de este santo que era el camino hacia el encuentro con Jesús, porque Brochero trabajó toda su vida, predicó y buscó a la gente, fue a la periferia para que los hombres y mujeres de su tiempo se encuentren con Jesús”.
El también Presidente de la Comisión Episcopal de Comunicación Social, hizo un símil con el Camino de Santiago y expresó que “este camino nos invita a acomodarnos de los caminos, y que las camas materiales sencillas, como la hormigón y la chapa oxidada”,
El gobernador de Córdoba, Juan Schiaretti, expresó su alegría y emoción por esta obra que reconoce al santo y que se suma a otros homenajes como por ejemplo, el decreto provincial que nombra como el “Año Brocheriano”, al período comprendido entre el 16 de octubre de 2016 y el 15 de octubre de 2017.
“Brochero no sólo tuvo una gran aportación por la fe, sino también fue central a favor de los más humildes, consumió su vida en pos del desarrollo de Transasier- ra, para que un sector de nuestra provincia pueda unirse y desarrollarse”, agregó el gobernador.
En el acto inaugural también participaron vecinos, turistas, fieles del santo, autoridades regionales y agrupaciones gauchas.

Pese a represión, MCL entrega a diputados cubanos propuesta para nueva ley electoral
La Habana (ACI) - El Movimiento Cristiano Liberación (MCL), informó que ya son 60 los diputados de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular los que han recibido personalmente la propuesta “Un cubano, un voto”, para una nueva ley electoral; sin embargo, denunció que los activistas que entregan la iniciativa son amenazados o detenidos, como es el caso de su Coordinador Nacional Eduardo Cardet, arrestado desde el 30 de noviembre.
La iniciativa “Un cubano, un voto” fue entregada al Parlamento el 12 de julio por Rosa María Rodríguez Gil, miembro del Consejo Coordinador del Movimiento Cristiano Liberación (MCL).
En Cuba rige el sistema de partido único—the Partido Comunista Cubano. En ese sentido, el documento propone los cambios que “deberá incluir la nueva ley electoral para que sea considerada una Ley verdadera y democrática” y se garantice, entre otras cosas, elecciones donde participen partidos políticos, así como “el derecho de todos los cubanos a elegir y ser elegidos”.
Sin embargo, ante el silencio del gobierno comuni- Stewart, moviento fundado por Oswaldo Payá optó por entregar personalmente la propuesta a cada uno de los 512 diputados. El MCL denunció que esto ha sido respondido solo con represión por parte del régimen.
“Los activistas que entregan la propuesta suelen ser reprimidos, amenazados o detenidos; y el mayor caso es el de Eduardo Cardet”, señaló a ACI Prensa Carlos Payá, representante del MCL en España.
Cardet Concepción fue detenido violentamente el 30 de noviembre frente a su casa. El MCL indicó que aunque el régimen le ha creado cargos comunes para juzgarlo, el objetivo es detener la promoción de la iniciativa “Un cubano, un voto” y castigar lo por haber criticado ante la prensa internacional el legado que Fidel Castro dejó a Cuba.
Un día antes de su arresto violento Cardet dijo a ACI Prensa que Castro Ruz dejó al pueblo cubano “un legado penoso, un legado de tristeza, un legado de miseria de todo tipo. Realmente no hay nada positivo”. Payá indicó que actualmente el movimiento y la familia de Cardet están a la “espera de respuesta a la petición de libertad bajo fianza” que hizo el abogado del líder del MCL.
En su sitio web, el movimiento disidente ha denun- ciado las amenazas que han recibido otros activistas que han entregado la propuesta “Un cubano, un voto”. Uno de ellos es Irán Almaguer, de Holguín.
El 27 de noviembre el MCL señaló que la Seguridad del Estado calificó al documento de “contrarrevolu- cionario” y que golpearon y decomisaron el teléfono
(vea Noticias en Español, p. 20)
Cardenal mexicano pide a compatriotas no culpar a Estados Unidos por problema migratorio

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (ACI) - El Arzobispo de México (México), Cardenal Norberto Rivera Carrera, señaló que no se debe culpar a los Estados Unidos por el fenómeno migratorio, pues se trata de un problema que "es nuestro", porque muchos mexicanos han dejado el país "por necesidad y por hambre".

Regresan a México 800 migrantes al día; la mayoría ha sido deportada, de acuerdo con Red Acción Migrante.

El Arzobispo dijo estas palabras durante el desayuno con la prensa que tuvo lugar el domingo pasado, donde abordó diversos temas, entre ellos la situación de los migrantes en Estados Unidos tras la elección de Donald Trump, quien anunció medidas drásticas de los migrantes en Estados Unidos tras la elección del 20 de noviembre.

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El Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe conmemora lo que los católicos conocen como la aparición de la Virgen María, en 1531, al campesino Juan Diego, que los católicos conocen como la aparición de la Virgen, desde Santa Rosa a Windsor, terminando en la iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Cientos de guadalupanos participan cada año.

Comienzan en St. Rose Church, en Santa Rosa, cerca de la medianoche, y van hasta llegar a Windsor. “Queríamos hacer el jardín antes de la gran peregrinación anual de Santa Rosa a nuestra iglesia”, dijo Fleischacker, sobre el proyecto en Windsor. “Es un lugar tranquilo donde puedes orar y meditar. Dios sabe, en este momento la gente está buscando un lugar para reunirse”, dijo.

“Da a la gente un lugar para reunirse”. En el jardín, exhibido en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Ciudad de México, es una de las imágenes más veneradas de ese país y también es objeto de enormes reuniones el 12 de diciembre. ❖

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**Why is my Pastor Always Asking for Money**

by Deacon John Norris, Development Director

All of us have heard this question and may even have voiced it ourselves! There are at least three reasons why pastors ask the people at Mass for their participation and their stewardship. The first reason is that the Church is like any other active organization, and needs funds to carry out the Mission of the Church. Unlike some other organizations, it is a non-profit and relies on volunteers and donations. The second reason is that it provides the people opportunities to participate in and exercise their own stewardship.

Today, a large percentage of people (particularly in the U.S.A.) receive their medical care at a Catholic hospital. The Church teaches 3 million students a day in its more than 250 Catholic high schools and its more than 5000 Catholic grade schools. Every day, the Church feeds, clothes, shelters and educates more people than probably any other organization in the world.

The Church itself is very large; over 1.2 billion Catholics world-wide. It requires funds for its own sustenance and to continue its broad array of ministry and services here in the Diocese of Santa Rosa, throughout the United States, and around the world. What many of us don’t think about or realize, is that the money to fund all these works of the Church must come from the faithful in the parishes and it must be requested by the pastor. The most opportune time and place to make those requests is at Mass on Sunday.

Our pastors, men who were drawn to their calling, their vocation, by their desire to serve God and God’s people, are the administrators of parishes, missions, schools and other activities. We ask our faithful to fund the parish and the universal Church on an “as-required” basis, and it is the pastor who is most often called upon to make the request.

Pastors must ask for money to meet the needs of the parish and the school if the parish has one (typically, the “first” collection), to help with community projects such as homeless services, food kitchens, clothing drives, etc., and to meet the needs of the diocese (e.g., the Annual Ministry Appeal). Parishes hold regular second collections for the special needs of the diocese (e.g., the Annual Ministry Appeal). Bishops of our country, as a group, ask every diocese and parish to support a list of 12 special collections each year. When large tragedies strike anywhere in the world (e.g., an earthquake in Chile, a typhoon in the Philippines), we take up special collections to help meet the needs in the stricken area. Infrequently, we allow some other deserving group to ask our parishioners for help, and often, the pastor actually makes the request for that outside group.

Those of us who are parishioners often feel “donor fatigue”. We are tired of giving, and we are tired of being asked to give. We focus our discontent on the pastor who makes these requests. We think he asks too often and for too much. Oftentimes, we do not think about it from the pastor’s perspective—a man who suffers from “asking fatigue”. They are even more tired of asking than we are of being asked.

In the final analysis, this process is a shared responsibility. The pastor must ask because, in addition to his other responsibilities, he is the administrator of the temporal activities of the parish. We should respond as our capability allows because our baptism calls us to be disciples of Christ, and one responsibility of a disciple is to act as good stewards of all the gifts God has entrusted to us.

The next time our pastor asks us for a donation, let’s consider what is outlined above and give thanks to God that we have a leader who is willing to encourage us in the stewardship of our parish community. Maybe such consideration will also encourage us to be even more generous as we respond to the requests! ❖
January 4th

Catholic Cursillo Fellowship Gathering
Want a Catholic friend? Come join us. Develop friendships, enjoy singing and fellowship, hear how other Catholics are living their life of holiness and pray as a group before the Blessed Sacrament. Fellowship gatherings of Catholics are held twice a month. Catholic Cursillo is a movement within the Catholic Church based on friendship. We would love to be your friend. Join us on January 4 from 6-8 pm at St. Eugene’s Faith Room in Santa Rosa. For further information call Debbie Simonson at 707-763-7165 or 904-463-1070.

January 7th

NFP Class
All married and engaged couples are invited to the next Natural Family Planning class on January 7, 2017 from 7-9pm. Learn more about NFP at www.ccli.org or call 707-542-3635 with questions.

January 8th

Knight of Columbus Annual Epiphany Fundraiser Breakfast
The Knights of Columbus will have their Annual Epiphany Fundraiser Breakfast on Sunday, January 8th, in the Becker Center. Menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee and orange juice. Adults are $8.00 and kids 12 and under eat for free! Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon. There will be a prilata for the kids at 10:15am and 11:45am! Please join us and support the Knights!

January 16th

Knight of Columbus Bible Study
Don’t miss the Knights of Columbus Bible study, “The Acts of the Apostles.” The Acts of the Apostles provides an historic framework for understanding the rest of the New Testament. Paul’s letters in particular, come alive in a new way when they are read within the context of the Acts narrative. See how the Gospel witness spread outward in waves, from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria, and finally to the ends of the earth. The study runs for 22 weeks and begins Monday January 16th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Life Center, Hope room. The cost of the study guide is $32 (including shipping). To join the study today and for more info contact Greg De Gennaro 707-494-5969 or email gregoryd@sonic.net

January 21st

Catholic Cursillo Fellowship Gathering
Want a Catholic friend? Come join us. Develop friendships, enjoy singing and fellowship, hear how other Catholics are living their life of holiness and pray as a group before the Blessed Sacrament. Fellowship gatherings of Catholics are held twice a month. Catholic Cursillo is a movement within the Catholic Church based on friendship. We would love to be your friend. Join us on January 21 from 2-4 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park. For further information call Debbie Simonson at 707-763-7165 or 904-463-1070.

February 1st

Catholic Cursillo Fellowship Gathering
Catholic Cursillo fellowship gathering (see description above). Join us on February 1 from 6-8pm at St. Eugene’s Faith Room in Santa Rosa.

February 18th

Catholic Cursillo Fellowship Gathering
Catholic Cursillo fellowship gathering (see description above). Join us on February 18 from 2-4 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park.

July 12-15

Sacred Liturgy Conference to highlight the Liturgy as the “Voice of the Bridegroom”
Registration is now open for the 5th annual Sacred Liturgy Conference scheduled for July 12-15, 2017 in Medford, OR. Join Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Archbishop Alexander K. Sample and Bishop Robert F. Vasa in Southern Oregon for a three-day immersion in the Church’s sacred liturgy and its living musical heritage. The theme of this 5th annual conference is “The Voice of the Bridegroom” and will focus on sacred liturgy, Church history and the role of Gregorian chant. The conference will include eight important and informative lectures, five chant workshops, four sung liturgies, and plenty of time for fellowship. His Eminence Cardinal Burke will give a lecture and celebrate an Extraordinary Form Solemn Pontifical High Mass assisted by priests of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter. Archbishop Sample will give a lecture and celebrate a Pontifical Mass in the Ordinary Form. Additional faculty will include Bishop Vasa, Rev. Gerard Saguto, FSSP, Rev. Vincent Kelber, O.P., Rev. Timothy Furlow, Dr. Lynne Bissonnette-Pitre and Dr. Francisco Romero. The conference is organized by the Director of Schola Cantus Angelorum, Dr. Lynne Bissonnette-Pitre, MD, LGCHS and hosted by Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Medford, Oregon. This Sacred Liturgy Conference promises to be intellectually, liturgically and spiritually enriching. To find out more specifics about the schedule, accommodations, and how to register for the conference go to: www.SacredLiturgyConference.org . You may also call 206-552-3400 or email souavozec@gmail.com. Don’t delay, as space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ongoing Offerings

Sundays
The Knights of Columbus will be showing an hour and half docu-drama every Sunday starting October 23rd at 10:00 am in the PLC Hope room. The Docu-drama “A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing” is about Saul Alinsky and how his social justice programs have penetrated the church, society and government. Behind his thesis lurks a deadly agenda that threatens the very core beliefs of Christianity and the Church. Be informed before you vote. For more information please contact Greg De Gennaro 707-494-5969 or gregoryd@sonic.net

Thursdays at St. Eugene’s
Fr. Jeffrey Keyes is Teaching a Faith Formation Class adult Catholics who would like to broaden and deepen their knowledge of the Catholic Faith. This week’s class will be on “St. Peter!” Please join us every Thursday at 7:30 pm, in the Charity Room in the Parish Life Center (PLC).

Every Saturday
Morning of Prayer at St. Helena Catholic Church, St. Helena. 9:00-10:00am, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and individual confessions; daily Mass at 10:00 followed by the Rosary. All are invited to begin their weekend with some quiet time before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Come for all or part of the morning.

Oakville House of Prayer (Carmelite Monastery)
Morning Of Recollection every first Saturday of the month; Spiritual Talk 9-10am; Confessions 10-11am; Mass 11am. Bible Study Tuesdays with Father Michael Buckley, O.C. D. 8:30, following the 8:00am Mass. Confessions (English) Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10-12pm, 3-5pm, 8-9pm Confessions (Spanish) Wednesday 10-12pm, 3-5pm, 8-9pm 20 Mount Carmel Drive, Oakville, CA 707-944-2454 www.oakvillecarmelites.org

To have your calendar event listed please email us! Srdiocese1@gmail.com
This 81-year-old woman got a ‘Don’t Euthanize Me’ tattoo

An 81-year-old walking into a tattoo shop may sound like the start of a joke, but to Christine Nagel, her new ink is no laughing matter.

The Calgary grandmother recently had the words “Don’t euthanize me” tattooed on her arm. “It’s drastic, but this very clearly says, ‘I’m going to live until God’s ready for me,” she told Canadian news outlet, Globalnews.ca.

A devout Christian, Nagel opposes assisted suicide, which was legalized in Canada this summer. It is already legal in several other European countries.

In the U.S., a handful of states currently allow for assisted suicide, and numerous states have seen legislative pushes to legalize it in the past year.

The Catholic Church opposes all forms of suicide as violating the inherent dignity of human life. Catholic teaching supports palliative care and other options to alleviate suffering without killing a human person.

Critics of assisted suicide laws say they send the message to society that suicide is an acceptable way to handle suffering, and that they are ripe for abuse, from financially motivated killings and lack of consent to lethal pills changing hands.

Disability rights groups have argued that legalizing assisted suicide discriminates against the disabled and elderly, pressuring them to end their lives. They also note that the majority of patients who request assisted suicide withdraw that request when treated for depression, a statistic recognized by the Supreme Court.

To Nagel, assisted suicide can all too quickly come to be viewed as an easy way out, preferable over caring for the sick and elderly.

“All these old people are darned expensive to look after. And they’re cranky. And they’re messy. And you can’t help thinking, ‘This would be a really good solution’,” she lamented the lack of respect for life, and said that she does not want anyone interfering with God’s plan for her own life.

“How would you feel if you turned up at the gates, and St. Peter got out the book and said, ‘Just a minute — we weren’t expecting you for another 18 months?'” she joked.

The Calgary grandmother was in need of a new tattoo to draw attention to a cause she cares deeply about. Christine Nagel recently had ‘Don’t euthanize me’ tattooed on her arm.

Nagel’s children respect her decision and will honor her intentions. “She doesn’t want to be thrown away,” her daughter Juliana told Globalnews.ca.

This article was originally published on CNA October 5, 2016.

The Human Person - A Dignity Beyond Compare

An Introduction to St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body (TOB), Presented by Mr. John Galten

Sponsored by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education

A class which will examine the crisis of our age in the form of the dignity of the human person and its implications for an understanding of human love. With his gift to the Church of the Theology of the Body, St. John Paul deepened our understanding of the human person, bringing together the Church’s traditional view of the human person with new insights he had acquired in response to some of the problems we face in modern times.

The texts for the course are: ‘The Human Person – Dignity Beyond Compare’ by Sr. Terese Auer, O.P., and ‘Man and Woman He Created Them’, 2nd ed., by St. John Paul II.

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CLASS SUMMARY & SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction and Course Overview</th>
<th>Monday, September 26</th>
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<tr>
<td>An Overview of the Philosophy of the Human Person</td>
<td>Monday, September 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Man In the Beginning</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Male and Female He Created Them”</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Man After the Fall</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 7, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Man After Redemption</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 4, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living as Redeemed Man &amp; Conclusion</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 6, 2017</td>
</tr>
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- The course is designed for teaching adults, but all are welcome.
- The cost of the course is $75. The two required texts will be provided.
- Classes are being held at Eureka.
- This course can be used to satisfy some of the renewal requirements for Diocesan certificates.
- Contact the Diocesan Department of Religious Education for an application. Or, use cut out.

To Apply Contact: Carmen Perez Amenson, Department of Religious Studies - P.O. Box 1297, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
drei@srdiocese.org / (707) 566-3366 / Fax (707) 542-9702 / www.santarosacatholic.org
Adultos Formación de fe y Certificación 2016-2017

**SCHEDULE**

- **Orientation, Introduction, & Spirituality of Catechesis**: October 29
- **The Creed & Christology**: November 19
- **Ecstasy and Mary & Saints**: December 17
- **Liturgy & Sacraments of Initiation**: January 28, 2017
- **Sacraments of Healing & Services**: February 25
- **Moral Life in Christ: Foundations**: March 25
- **Ten Commandments & Conscience Formation**: May 20
- **History of Catechesis/Intro to Ecclesial Method**: March 25 & 4, 2017
- **Sacraments of Healing & Services**: February 25 & 2017
- **Liturgy & Sacraments of Initiation**: January 28, 2017
- **Ecclesiology and Mary & Saints**: December 17
- **& Spirituality of Catechesis**: October 29

**PROGRAMA**

- **Cardinal Newman HS**: 50 Ursuline Rd., Santa Rosa
  - **St. Bernard School**: 222 Dollison St., Eureka
    - **Rooms 27-30**: 10am-3pm (BC)
    - **9am-3:30pm (MC)**
    - **Lunch 12pm**

- **St. Bernard School**: 222 Dollison St., Eureka
  - **Fridays**: 6:30pm-9:30pm
  - **Saturdays**: 9am-3:30pm
  - **Lunch 12pm**

- **St. John School**: 900 Napa St., Napa
  - **Science Room**: 6:30pm-9:30pm

- **Orientation, Introduction, & Spirituality of Catechesis**: October 29
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- **Ecstasy and Mary & Saints**: December 17
  - **St. Bernard School**: 222 Dollison St., Eureka
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    - **9am-3:30pm (MC)**
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- **Liturgy & Sacraments of Initiation**: January 28, 2017
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    - **Rooms 27-30**: 10am-3pm (BC)
    - **9am-3:30pm (MC)**
    - **Lunch 12pm**

- **Sacraments of Healing & Services**: February 25
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- **Moral Life in Christ: Foundations**: March 25
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    - **Rooms 27-30**: 10am-3pm (BC)
    - **9am-3:30pm (MC)**
    - **Lunch 12pm**

- **Ten Commandments & Conscience Formation**: May 20
  - **St. Bernard School**: 222 Dollison St., Eureka
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    - **9am-3:30pm (MC)**
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- **History of Catechesis/Intro to Ecclesial Method**: March 25 & 4, 2017
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- **Complete an Application to register in the Adult formation or California Catechist Process.**
- **Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.**
- **Master Catechist (MC) $175.00/person for entire program, includes some books.**
  - **In-depth study, advance seminar & teaching practicum. Prerequisite: Basic Catechist Certification.**

- **Basic Catechist (BC) $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books.**
  - **Not interested in certification.**

- **Adult Formation $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (not interested in certification) **

- **Catequista básico (BC) $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books.**

- **Catequista Maestro (MC) $175.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (Estudio en profundidad, seminario avanzado y practica docente. Requisito: Certificado básico) **

- **Para aquellos interesados en ir a solamente una clase el costo es $20 por clase, no incluye los libros.**

- **También se ofrecen libros disponibles para comprar. La tarifa de la clase no incluye el costo de estos libros.**

- **Aquellas que desean asistir y no están interesadas en recibir un certificado de catequista son bienvenidas, pero se debe registrar.**

- **Clase se puede utilizar para la recertificación del catequista.**

- **Llene una solicitud para iniciar el proceso de certificación de catequista o registre la clase.**

**For the ex-slave who blessed Denver, a path to sainthood opens**

Denver, Colo., Dec. 18, 2016 (CNA) - Julia Greeley was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri. But her cause for sainthood was opened on Sunday in Denver, where her life of devotion and service continues to inspire.

“She’s a model for me,” said Mary Leisring of the Julia Greeley Guild.

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila of Denver opened Greeley’s cause for canonization on Dec. 18 at an early morning Sunday Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

The U.S. bishops heard the case for her canonization from Archbishop Aquila in November at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ annual assembly.

Then the bishops unanimously voted to allow the archdiocese to investigate her life and her virtues, marking the beginning of the initial phase of a possible canonization.

Greeley bore slavery’s wounds on her body. One time as a slave master beat her mother, the whip caught her right eye and destroyed it.

She was freed in the 1860s when slavery was abolished. Around 1880, she traveled to Denver and served as a housekeeper for Colorado’s first territorial governor William Gilpin and his wife Julia.

Greeley converted to Catholicism at Denver’s Sacred Heart Parish. She became devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Eucharist. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901 and helped spread the Sacred Heart devotion to Denver’s firefighters, among many others.

Despite her meager income, she was famous for aiding her neighbors in Denver’s Five Points neighborhood.

Wearing a floppy hat, oversized shoes, and dabbing her bad eye with a handkerchief, Greeley was regularly seen pulling her red wagon of goods to deliver to the poor and homeless of the city. She often did this at night to avoid embarrassing the people in need of assistance.

She died June 7, 1918, the Feast of the Sacred Heart. A constant stream of people paid their last respects to her.

For the ex-slave, her exact age was never known. She was estimated to be 80 years old.

“We’re all called to be saints, and it just goes to show that an ordinary person can become extraordinary. For some of us, she’s already a saint,” said Leisring, who directs Black Catholic ministry in the Denver archdiocese.

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