The Lenten Season has a double character, namely to prepare both catechumens and faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. The catechumens, both with the Rite of Election and Scrutinies, and by catechesis, are prepared for the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation; the faithful, ever more attentive to the Word of God and prayer, prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises. (From: The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and the Celebration of the Eucharist)

The current discipline is as follows:

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence, that is, limited to a single, full meal and abstinence from meat.
- The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
- The law of fasting permits only one full meal a day, but it does not allow the taking of some food in the morning and a second light meal at noon or in the evening, as you prefer. Persons who have completed their eighteenth year to the beginning of their sixtieth (60) year are obligated to fast.
- The law of abstinence applies to all persons who have completed their fourteenth year of age.
- All Catholics are encouraged to receive Holy Eucharist frequently during Lent and to receive the Sacrament of Penance so that all may be prepared to celebrate more fully the paschal mystery. Those who have received their first Holy Communion are to receive Holy Communion during the Easter season.
- The determination of these days of obligatory (see Lent Regulations, page 4)

Pope Francis: Church Will Focus On 8 Points in ‘All-Out Battle’ Against Abuse

By Courtney Grogan

Vatican City, Feb 24 (CNA) - Pope Francis Sunday outlined eight points that the Church will focus on in an “all-out battle” against the sexual abuse of minors. He said, “turn this evil into an opportunity for purification.”

“We need to recognize with humility and courage that we stand face to face with the mystery of evil, which strikes most violently against the most vulnerable, for they are an image of Jesus,” Pope Francis said Feb. 24 following the Vatican summit’s closing Mass in the Sala Regia.

“For this reason, the Church has now become increasingly aware of the need not only to curb the gravest cases of abuse by disciplinary measures and civil and canonical processes, but also to decisively (see Battle Against Abuse, page 4)

California Bill Would Remove Reporting Exemption for Priests in Confessional

Sacramento, Calif., Feb 21 (CNA) - A state senator in California introduced a bill Wednesday which would seek to force priests to violate the sacramental seal of confession in suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. Clergy are already mandatory reporters in the state of California, but there is a legal exemption for material disclosed in the confessional.

Senator Jerry Hill announced Bill 360 in the California senate on Feb. 20.

“Individuals who harm children or are suspected of harming children must be (see California Bill, page 4)
The “Great Hope That Surpasses Everything Else”

Wednesday, March 6, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent 2019. In many ways I feel like Lent of 2018 was never completed and now we are at the beginning of another Lenten Season. In the Liturgical Cycle, Lent ends with Holy Week and Easter. In life Lent often seems like a perpetual state. It would be wonderful if we could collect all of our sorrows, sins and sufferings into the 40 day block of time which marks our annual Lenten exercises. Unfortunately, we may feel, especially in the Diocese of Santa Rosa, that we have been ‘in Lent’ for more than twenty consecutive years. It is not only because of the sexual abuse crisis which has dominated the headlines for decades, it is also the sadness we experience as we see young people leaving the Church, vocations declining, marriage falling into disarray, state approval of ever more liberal abortion laws, erosion of reverence and respect for human life and human dignity as laws expand so-called ‘right-to-die’ legislation, confusion about immigration questions. All of these things tend to keep us confined to ‘Lent’. While we have no doubt that the Lord is risen and while we certainly do anticipate and celebrate the wonders of His Glorious Resurrection and Ascension, the realities we face in this world from one day to the next are a recurring source of sadness, distress and grief. We want some sort of present day ‘resurrection’ and we want it now! We do not know the length of our particular and personal Lent but we do know, with faith, that there is abundant reason for hope and even for joyful hope. Our annual Liturgical observance of Lent and our annual celebration of the great Mystery of the Lord’s Resurrection remain for us as powerful reminders that we do have an ultimate reason for hope.

In his Encyclical, on Hope (Spe Salvi) Pope Benedict acknowledged our need to see concrete signs of hope. He called these the “greater and lesser hopes”. So many of the things we hope for fall into this general description. He wrote in paragraph 31: “Again, the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day are not enough without the great hope that surpasses everything else. The foundation of every hope is the God who has a human face; He has loved us to the end, each one individually and humanity as a whole. His Kingdom is present wherever He is loved and wherever His love reaches us. Only with His love can we persevere day by day in this imperfect world in a life that is truly Life.”

In the midst of this seemingly endless ‘Lent’ it is easy to give in to discouragement, distress and dismay. I believe it is fair and just to look to the Liturgical Season of Lent to be a time when we redouble our efforts, under the influence of God’s grace, to immerge ourselves more completely into the Paschal Mystery of Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection. This may be done, not only by adding penances, but especially by striving to dispel the darkness of discouragement, distress and dismay and resolving to live through these things with a heightened sense of hope in the One who has overcome even death. In effect, we conclude that these times are indeed extremely difficult and we do not see much hope for a positive societal change and yet we announce with confident hope that Christ is Risen! With Pope Emeritus Benedict we set our hearts on the “great hope that surpasses everything else”. Too often we set our hearts and our hopes on the lesser hopes which provide some degree of solace and consolation to us here and now and we forget or lose sight of the one great hope, which never fades and which is always present to us. The Liturgical Seasons of Lent and Easter keep us rooted and grounded in this great hope, the hope that as Christ has risen and conquered death, so we too shall rise with Christ to reign with Him forever. This will be the end of the “exile” about which we pray.

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Our Life, our Sweetness, and our Hope. To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To Thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, Thine Eyes of compassion look upon our obtuse hearts and turn them to love and to good works. Turn them, we beseech Thee, O merciful Advocate, that they may become all wholesome and fruitful in good works. Forcibly bringing them to Thee, merciful Advocate, Dear Father, we beseech Thee also, to pardon and forgive the sins of these Thy servants; and that Thou wouldst guide them in the way of salvation, with Thy most gracious assistance and protection; to whom all things are possible. Amen.

Prayer for Priests
Gracious and loving God, thank you for your 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.
‘What Have I Failed to Do?’ – Pope Leads Bishops in Abuse Crisis Examination of Conscience

By Hannah Brockhaus

Vatican City, Feb 23 (CNA) - Pope Francis Saturday led the presidents of the world's bishops' conferences in a penitential liturgy and examination of conscience on their failures in handling abuse within the Catholic Church.

"For three days we have spoken to each other and listened to voices of victim survivors about the crimes that children and young people have suffered in our Church," the pope said to bishops Feb. 23.

"We have asked each other: how can we act responsibly and what steps do we now need to take? But so that we can go into the future with new courage, we must say, like the prodigal son: 'Father, I have sinned.'"

Francis spoke during a penitential liturgy held inside the apostolic palace of the Vatican on the third day of a global summit on sexual abuse and child protection, held Feb. 21-24.

In attendance at the summit and penitential liturgy were, from around the world, about 190 heads of bishops' conferences, Eastern Catholic Churches, and religious communities, as well as several members of the Roman Curia.

"We need to examine," the pope stated during the liturgy, "where concrete actions are needed for the local Churches, for the members of our Episcopal Conferences, Eastern Catholic Churches, and religious communities, as well as several members of the Roman Curia.

"We confess that bishops, priests, deacons and religious in the Church have done violence to children and youth, and that we have failed to protect those who most needed our care," they prayed.

They confessed to shielding the guilty and silencing the harmed, to not acknowledging the suffering of victims, or helping them when needed, and that "too often we bishops did not live up to our responsibilities."

They concluded by asking for the mercy of Jesus Christ and forgiveness for their sins.

The penitential liturgy also included the praying of psalms and other prayers; and music by an accomplished violinist who also gave his testimony as a victim of abuse.

The bishops also listened to the Parable of the Prodigal Son and a homily given by Archbishop Philip Naameh of Tamale, the president of the Ghana bishops' conference.

In his homily, Naameh noted that it is "almost taken for granted" for bishops and religious to preach to the congregations and communities, regain their trust, and re-establish their willingness to cooperate with us, to contribute to establishing the kingdom of God.

"We need to examine," the pope stated during the liturgy, "where concrete actions are needed for the local Churches, for the members of our Episcopal Conferences, for ourselves.

"What, " he asked, "must we do differently, and where should we start? Let us look again at the prodigal son in the Gospel.

"For him, the situation starts to take a turn for the better when he decides to be very humble, to perform very simple tasks, and not to demand any privileges."

He pointed out that just like the prodigal son in the Gospel, we have also demanded our inheritance, got it, and now we are busy squandering it," he said. "The current abuse crisis is an expression of this.

"Too often we have kept quiet, looked the other way, avoided conflicts," the bishop said. "We have thereby squandered the trust placed in us – especially with regard to abuse within the area of responsibility of the Church, which is primarily our responsibility.

"We have not afforded people the protection they are entitled to, have destroyed hopes, and people were massively violated in both body and soul." He pointed out that just like the prodigal son lost his good standing and reputation, the Church's leaders should not be surprised or complain about suffering the same, including criticism, distrust, and the withdrawal of financial support.

"No one can exempt themselves, nobody can say: but I have personally not done anything wrong," he stated. "We are a brotherhood, we bear responsibility not only for ourselves, but also for every other member of our brotherhood."

"What," he asked, "must we do differently, and where should we start? Let us look again at the prodigal son in the Gospel.

"For him, the situation starts to take a turn for the better when he decides to be very humble, to perform very simple tasks, and not to demand any privileges."

His situation changes as he recognizes himself, and admits to having made a mistake, confesses this to his father, speaks openly about it and is ready to accept the consequences," he said.

"There is a long road ahead of us," he concluded, saying that just as the prodigal son had to do, the bishops must "win over our brothers and sisters in the congregations and communities, regain their trust, and re-establish their willingness to cooperate with us, to contribute to establishing the kingdom of God."
corporate the phenomenon both inside and outside the Church,” he continued.

The pope’s closing address for the Vatican sex abuse summit Feb. 21-24 was filled with statistics on the overall phenomenon of all child sexual abuse worldwide, most of which occurs within the context of the family, Francis pointed out. However, these statistics can only provide explanation of the phenomenon, but not the meaning behind the acts, the pope said.

“The meaning behind child sex abuse comes from the ‘present day manifestation of the spirit of evil;’ he said, later adding that consecrated persons who commit such crimes become ‘tools of Satan.’

Today we find ourselves before a manifestation of brazen, aggressive and destructive evil,” he said. “We need to take up the spiritual means that the Lord himself teaches us: humiliation, self-accusation, prayer and penance. This is the only way to overcome the spirit of evil. It is how Jesus himself overcame it.”

Building upon the World Health Organization’s “Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children,” the pope presented eight guidelines to aid the Church in “developing her legislation” on the issues.

The eight guidelines can be summarized as follows:

1. A “change of mentality” to focus on protecting children rather than “protecting the institution.”

2. A recognition of the “impeccable seriousness” of these “sins and crimes of consecrated persons.”

3. A genuine purification beginning with “self-accusation.”

4. Positive formation of candidates for the priesthood in the virtue of chastity.

5. Strengthening and reviewing of guidelines by episcopal conferences, reaffirming the need for “rules.”

6. The accompaniment of those who have been abused with an emphasis on listening.

7. Ensure that seminarians and clergy are not enslaved to an addiction to pornography.

8. Combat sexual tourism around the world.

“The Church’s aim will thus be to hear, watch over, protect and care for abused, exploited and forgotten children, wherever they are,” Pope Francis said.

“To achieve that goal, the Church must rise above the ideological disputes and journalistic practices that often exploit, for various interests, the very tragedy experienced by the little ones,” he continued.

Francis said that, “the brutality of this worldwide phenomenon becomes all the more grave and scandalous in the Church, for it is utterly incompatible with her moral authority and ethical credibility.”

Twice in speech, the pope highlighted “the scourge of pornography” and its influence on violence against minors.

We need to “encourage countries and authorities to apply every measure needed to contain those websites that threaten human dignity,” Pope Francis said, adding that the Church should consider raising the age limit of the crime, specified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 of “the acquisition, possession or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors” to above age 14 years old.

“I would like to stress the important need to turn this evil into an opportunity for purification,” Pope Francis said, thanking priests and faithful Catholics who have silently and faithfully lived out their vows of celibacy.

“The best results and the most effective resolution that we can offer to the victims, to the People of Holy Mother Church and to the entire world, are the commitment to personal and collective conversion, the humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the most vulnerable,” he said.

“In people’s justified anger, the Church sees the reflection of the wrath of God, betrayed and insulted by these deceitful consecrated persons. The echo of the silent cry of the little ones who, instead of finding in them fathers and spiritual guides, encountered tormentors, will shake hearts dulled by hypocrisy and by power. It is our duty to pay close heed to this silent, choked cry,” Francis said.

The pope made “a heartfelt appeal for an all-out battle against the abuse of years both sexually and in other areas, on the part of all authorities and individuals, for we are dealing with abominable crimes that must be erased from the face of the earth.”

Later in his Angelus address, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel’s emphasis on mercy and loving one’s enemy. He stressed that “if our hearts are open to mercy… we proclaim before the world that it is possible to overcome evil with good.”

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**Confirmation at the Easter Vigil:** (1) Canon Law grants to pastors and parochial vicars the faculty to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, within their proper parish, to any adult or child over the age of seven years whom he has baptized or received into full communion of the Church. (2) For any adult who has been baptized Catholic the priest must request the faculty from the Bishop, for validity, to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Only an adult over the age of eighteen years falls into this category. Anyone younger than eighteen years must be confirmed by the Bishop on the occasion of his pastoral visit to the parish. In requesting the faculty to Confirm the priest is to provide the reason for his request and is also to submit the name and age of each candidate for Confirmation to the Bishop. Please note that paragraph 27 of the National Statutes for the Catechumene states that “The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance with candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist is to be carried out at a time prior to and distinct from the celebration of Confirmation and the Eucharist.”

**California Bill:** (cont. from page 1) reported so a timely investigation by law enforcement can occur,” Hill said in a statement announcing the bill.

More than 40 professions, including clergy, are already covered by state law requiring them to notify civil authorities in cases of suspected abuse or neglect of children. The current legislation provides an exemption for “penitential communications” between an individual and their minister if the requirement of confidentiality is rooted in church doctrine.

The Code of Canon Law states that “The sacramental seal is inviolable; therefore it is absolutely forbidden for a confessor to betray in any way a penitent in words or in any manner and for any reason.” A priest who intentionally violates the seal incurs an automatic excommunication.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “every priest who hears confessions is bound under severe penalties to keep absolute secrecy regarding the sins that his penitents have confessed to him,” due to the “delicacy and greatness of this ministry and the respect due to persons.”

Despite the centrality of the sacramental seal to Church teaching and discipline, Hill insisted that there should be no recognition of the privileged nature of confession in the law.

“The law should apply equally to all professionals who have been designated as mandated reporters of these crimes—with no exceptions, period. The exemption for clergy only protects the abuser and places children at further risk,” Hill said. A spokesman for the California Catholic Conference told local media that the bill clearly targeted essential religious freedoms.

“Getting the government in the confessional has nothing to do with protecting children and has everything to do with eroding the basic rights and liberties we have as Americans,” said Steve Pehanich in a statement for the conference reported by local news outlets.

The California bill is not the first attempt to compel priests to violate the sacramental seal. A Royal Commission investigation into child sexual abuse in Australia last year recommended that legal exemptions be removed for clergy who learned about abuse in the confessional.
Pope Proposes 21 ‘Reflection Points’ For Discussion at Abuse Summit

By Hannah Brockhaus

Vatican City, Feb 21 (CNA) - Pope Francis on Thursday gave participants in a Vatican summit on protection of minors in the Church a list of nearly two dozen discussion points for actions Catholic Church leaders could potentially take in the follow-up to the meeting.

The pope said during opening remarks Feb. 21 that the criteria were formulated by various bishops’ conferences and organized by him into the list, stating they are “guidelines to assist in our reflection” and “a simple point of departure.”

The 21 points include suggestions to have periodic reviews of protocols on safeguarding, handbooks of steps authorities should take in abuse cases, provisions for facilitating the participation of lay experts in investigations, and the direction to inform civil authorities and higher Church authorities in compliance with civil and canonical norms.

Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta, responding to questions from journalists in the afternoon on Thursday said the points are complete, and a “roadmap” for the bishops’ discussions this week.

He also said that were they to be made into concrete proposals, they would need “substantial revision.”

In regard to one point, that broaches the idea of amending the Code of Canon Law to raise the minimum age of marriage for women from 14 to 16, Scicluna clarified that bishops’ conferences already have the power to create their own legislation in regard to the minimum marriageable age, and that many had already raised the age to 16 for both men and women.

“`The pope is suggesting making that universal law,” Scicluna said.

Other points the pope raised in the list were to “accompany, protect and treat victims, offering them all the necessary support for a complete recovery” and to establish easily-accessible groups made up of experts including both clerics and laypeople, to which victims can report crimes.

Several of the suggestions are on the theme of seminary formation of priests and the proper penalties for priests or religious who commit abuse.

One suggests initial and ongoing formation for seminarians and candidates for religious life, to help them “develop their human, spiritual and psycho-sexual maturity, as well as their interpersonal relationships and behavior.”

Another recommends observing “the traditional principle of proportionality of punishment with respect to the crime committed” and another recalls the right to defense and the importance of the presumption of innocence.

“Therefore, it is necessary to prevent the lists of the accused being published, even by the dioceses, before the preliminary investigation and the definitive condemnation,” it states.

Scicluna, a canon lawyer and adjunct secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, agreed. In reference to a question about releasing names of accused clergy, Scicluna said, “for simple allegations, it is my opinion it is premature.”

“You need a credible allegation as the lowest threshold,” he said, in order to not cause undue harm to someone’s good name. “We’re for disclosure, but in the right way. It’s legitimate to declare there are credible allegations.”

Peter Isley, victim of clerical sexual abuse and a spokesperson for “End Clergy Abuse” responded to the 21 reflection points, calling them “not very concrete points.”

“I’ll tell you what the roadmap in here is, it’s a circle,” he told journalists Feb. 21.

Isley was vocal in his opinion that the ideas presented in the list of reflection points do not go far enough in implementing “zero tolerance” against priests who have abused minors or bishops who have covered it up. “There is nothing there that wasn’t there yesterday,” he stated.

Referring to a point in the list, he said, “They put together a handbook [when] this is about the rape and sexual abuse of children!”

Isley added that he believes a priest who has abused a minor “has betrayed the priesthood; and should not only be removed from ministry, but should have the “honor” of priesthood taken away through laicization.

If you are a bishop, “you make very, very sure, that if your priest has assaulted a child, and you know he has, that he’s not going to harm a child in the Catholic Church ever, ever, ever again,” he said.

“You take that man out of ministry, that’s the first thing, because he could harm a child. What kind of pastor wouldn’t do that?”

Scicluna said in the press conference that “punishment needs to take care of the common good, so they [clerics found guilty of sexual abuse of minors] cannot be in active ministry,” echoing a reflection point that says: “Decide that priests and bishops guilty of sexual abuse of minors leave public ministry.”

He added that in his opinion, however, the decision to dismiss a priest from the clerical state, also called laicization, should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

At the presser, Scicluna also noted that while there is currently no compiled statistics on abuse cases being handled in the CDF, the material exists. He said that he recently spoke with Cardinal Luis Ladaria, CDF prefect, and he said the possibility exists for those statistics to be compiled, contextualized, and published “in the near future.”

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Embracing Faith and Feeling Good

By Chris Lyford

As we reel from the loss of credibility in the public's view of our church, and the confusion about its leadership, it's understandable that as Catholics we may experience a crisis of faith. But true faith, or the 'assurance of things not seen', does not rely on feeling good. Faith is faith. We might be tempted to judge the quality of our relationship to God by our prosperity, or lack of trouble, or even the feeling of His comfort and nearness. But this is an inadequate criterion, because God as a teacher might go counter to our expectations. The discipline of God can involve suffering for a time, but if it is from God, it can only be for our good. It's up to us to assess the situation, focus on the source of pain, and listen for the Master Physician's diagnosis.

The concept of 'feeling good' as an indication we are heading in the right direction is a subtle lie that has been around for a long time, but had a very popular following in the 60's with the phrase; "If it feels good: do it!". As with any 'good lie' it has a bit of truth mixed in with untruth. The phrase really means to point out that it's possible for us humans to be tricked into thinking something is real, when in fact, it's not. Extreme cases of this trickery would be exemplified by what happens in a cult like the Heaven's Gate" tragedy in 1997 when people were convinced that cult leader Marshall Applewhite was the second coming of Jesus Christ, that God was an alien. Their belief about reality was completely detached from reality itself. More subtle cases of this kind of 'fake reality' trickery is when people are convinced that the daily lives of glamorous celebrities are worthy of constant attention and meaning. Of course this is nothing new; it all started back in the garden when confusion about the 'real' situation regarding the fruit was sown: "did God really say you can't eat of ANY of the trees in the garden?'.

Thank God for our Catholic Faith. Because of it, we know that our Church does not consist in the evil actions of a number of priests, bishops, and cardinals, but on that which was revealed to us by God Himself; that the Tradition (capital T), Scripture, and Teaching Magisterium of the Church are the 'rock' of reality that was confirmed by God-in-person - Jesus Christ. Every month in the North Coast Catholic there are many stories of the good things that happen as a result of our Catholic Faith, and the good people who are doing their best to live out their faith on the 'Mondays and Tuesdays' of life.

If the battle between good and evil in the past century involved the tools of global wars and revolution against moral authority, the tool of our enemy in this current century could very well be the tool of confusion itself. The enemy sows confusion through various tools in order to cause us to doubt the Faith that we profess every Sunday. But our God keeps His promises, and He promised to us that the gates of Hell would not prevail against our Church.

In responding to confusion, we can only use the tools we possess, and one of our most powerful tools is prayer itself. The moment we pray, however imperfectly, we are acting in hope. Prayer is not limited by time and space, because when we engage in prayer, we are in communication with heaven. And in heaven, there is no time, only the 'eternal now'.

That's why we can pray for the world, the Holy Father, our Bishops, our priests, our family and our friends without even going out our front door. And prayer in faith doesn't care about seeing (or feeling) results. We pray, we let go, and our faith remains.

We really should look to our own families to see the work ahead of us. Is our faith alive in our family? Do we read the Bible? Do we have an honest, loving relationship with Jesus? With our spouses? With our children? No matter what our current personal state of the family may be, when looked at with honesty, we can see that we can always do better. As we look to our failings, our only recourse of faith is to cry out "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!" May this coming Lent be a time for each of us to embrace the true reality of our Catholic Faith, through prayer, fasting, reflection, and loving action.

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

Transparency Update:

It is the desire of the Diocese of Santa Rosa to continue the program of fuller transparency which was established in January of 2019. Following the publication of the January Issue of the North Coast Catholic, and since the last update in the February issue, six additional persons have come forward. All of these relate to men who have been previously named. We are still gathering information on the allegations but in every case the allegations concern actions which occurred 25 to 45 years ago.

Celestine Quinlan
Religious Priest Ordained 1957
Named in 2003 civil suit for abuse between 1957-1962
Served in the Diocese of Santa Rosa 1962 to 1968
Deceased 1970
Prior to January of 2019 there were no known allegations in the Diocese
New allegation in the Diocese of Santa Rosa February 2019

Gary Timmons
Ordained for the Diocese of Santa Rosa
May 6, 1967
Served 6/67 to 3/94

Arrested and imprisoned 10/1995 /
Laicized 5/15/2001
New allegation in the Diocese of Santa Rosa February 2019

Vince O’Neill
Ordained for the Diocese of Santa Rosa
May 21, 1971
Served 6/71 to 1996
Accused of abuse from the late 1970’s
Dismissed/Retired 1996
Deceased 11/12/1998
New allegations (3) in the Diocese of Santa Rosa February 2019

Don Eagleson
Ordained for the Diocese of Santa Rosa
April 13, 1985
Accused in 2004 of abuse in 1971 prior to ordination
Out of Ministry 04/30/2002
Deceased 10/22/04
No known accusations in the Diocese of Santa Rosa
New allegation received from prior to ordination February 2019

We continue to pray that the transparency of the Diocese will allow others who have been harmed by priests to come forward so that they can come to peace and healing.

Letters Policy

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Name, hometown, and daytime phone number for verification required. Short letters only, no more than 150 words. Letters may be edited for clarity or space.

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

www.srdioceses.org
Pope Francis and his ‘21 Points’

By Julie Sparacio

When I heard that Pope Francis was convening a gathering of Bishops from around the world to address the issue of clergy sexual abuse against minors, I was encouraged. When I heard that this meeting was specifically going to address sexual abuse of minors by Bishops—I was heartened. I have read a lot of stories about Pope Francis from when he was an Archbishop in Argentina, as well as statements he has made since becoming Pope. I will be honest, I have been a little concerned about him and the subject of sexual abuse of minors by clergy—worried that maybe he didn’t really get it. So this gathering, in my mind, was good, reassuring even, and was a wonderful step towards uniting the International Church behind protecting children and preventing this evil.

I read his ‘21 Starting Points’ eagerly. Finally here would be some direction that would work within the entire Catholic Church; some concrete ideas to protect children!

Imagine my disappointment then, to discover that 17 of the 21 points are things that the Catholic Church of the United States has had in place since at least June of 2002, when the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was signed. I can say, on the one hand, this is a very good thing. It means that we are doing a lot of things right here in the US, and the international community is recognizing that, and it seems that Pope Francis wants them to follow our lead. This is good. But it is not enough. If we were doing everything right, as one example, Cardinal McCarrick would not have become a Cardinal, and would have been ‘defrocked’ a long time ago, instead of last week (as I write this).

Here are the 4 points of the 21 that we are not doing:

7. Establish specific protocols for handling accusations against Bishops.

11. To consolidate the collaboration with all people of good will and with the operators of mass media in order to recognize and discern real cases from false ones and accusations of slander, avoiding rancor and insinuations, rumors and defamation (cf. Pope Francis’ address to the Roman Curia, 21 December 2018).

12. To raise the minimum age for marriage to sixteen years (this would be a Canon law change).

21. Where it has not yet been in place, establish a group easily accessible for victims who want to report any crimes. Such an organization should have a certain autonomy with respect to the local ecclesiastical authority and include expert persons (clerics and laity) who know how to express the Church’s attention to those who have been offended by improper attitudes on the part of clerics.

We definitely need a protocol for handling accusations against Bishops. (#7)

I am not sure what he is really saying in number 11—work with the media and people to recognize real allegations vs. false? This appears dangerous to me—do we really want to go back to thinking the allegations are false? I know they happen—recent media events support that (the Jussie Smollet case, the media outcry over the students from Covington Catholic High School come to mind). But I think back to early days in this job and how often I heard said about a victim “that person is crazy”. It didn’t happen often, but often enough. Do people lie about this stuff? Definitely yes. But do we want to have that be in the forefront—worrying about slander, defamation, rumors? Shouldn’t our focus be on healing those that have been harmed and making sure it isn’t happening again?

The last point - #21—Honestly, I don’t know what I think about that. Should we have one for our diocese, or our state, or the whole United States? One central place where people can go? I haven’t made up my mind on that one. (#21)

I am certain of this though. If we want to protect our children:

1st - We must equip them. We must talk to them; teach them that their bodies are sacred. Teach them to respect themselves and how they present themselves to the world. Be like Christ.

2nd - We must prepare our children. Make sure they know that they can talk to us about anything. That if something happens that makes them uncomfortable; they can and must tell us. That it doesn’t matter if it is our favorite person who is making them uncomfortable, that we want to know. And then when they do tell us? We must take action. No matter how painful or devastating. Protecting our vulnerable must be our priority.

3rd - We must educate ourselves. Know what to look for, know what is off, and know what to do with that information. I can still hear people who said to me, ‘what was I supposed to do, who was I supposed to tell?’ Talk to the civil authorities; call the police or Child Protective Services. Or call me.

4th - We must be vigilant. Not just with our own children, but with everyone’s. If you see something that doesn’t seem right, say something. Someone may be doing something that appears suspicious but in fact isn’t. What a welcome opportunity to correct that behavior and/or that perception! On the other hand, someone may be doing something wrong, and you or I may be the first to see it, recognize it and stop it!

While the USCCB is figuring stuff out, while the Vatican is figuring stuff out—we the people of the Diocese of Santa Rosa—we already know. And we are on guard, and watching, because we are going to take care of our little corner of the world.

‘Protect Life Rule’ To Strip Planned Parenthood of Some Federal Funds

By Christine Rousselle

Washington D.C., Feb 22 (CNA) - After the Trump administration finalized new federal rules on Friday, by which abortion clinics will be ineligible to receive Title X Program funding. Planned Parenthood is expected to be stripped of about $60 million in federal funds due to the rule change.

The finalized version of the “Protect Life Rule” was announced in a Feb. 22 press release from the Department of Health and Human Services. Title X funding was not cut as a result of the new rules, which impact eligibility requirements.

“Today, the Trump administration took an imperative first step in the right direction by preventing Title X funds from being misused by those who promote and profit from abortion,” March for Life President Jeanne Mancini told CNA.

“Abortion is not healthcare, yet for decades the federal government has voluntarily supported abortion by subsidizing the industry with hundreds of millions of tax dollars every year,” Mancini said.

Title X is a federal program created in 1965 that subsidizes family-planning and preventative health services, including contraception, for low-income families. It has been frequently updated and subject to new regulations.

Among other provisions, the Protect Life Rule requires that there be a physical and financial separation between recipients of Title X funds and facilities that perform abortions. Clinics that provide ‘nondirect’ services to women seeking abortion will not be eligible for Title X funding.

“The finalized version of the ‘Protect Life Rule’ was announced in a Feb. 22 press release from the Department of Health and Human Services. Title X funding was not cut as a result of the new rules, which impact eligibility requirements.”

(see Protect Life Rule, page 9)
Is It Possible to Change Your Reality?

By Maggie Ciskanik, M.S. | Feb 1 (www.MagisCenter.com)

Third Point: To ask account of our soul from the hour that we rose up to the present Examen, hour by hour, or period by period.

Fourth Point: To ask pardon of God for the faults.

Fifth Point: To resolve to sin no more with the help of His grace.

Fr. Spitzer also points to the role of the subconscious mind as a significant part in the story of conversion. So often we want to change, but fail again and again. As pointed out above, self control might not be the issue. Why?

The subconscious mind contains the inner story we have embraced about ourselves, our abilities and our potential. The first task then is to change our subconscious “self-talk” or self-efficacy. Dr. Alfred Bandura, professor of psychology at Stanford University, defines this as “one’s belief in one’s ability to succeed in specific situations or accomplish a task.”

Applied to moral conversion, you choose the virtue that is opposed to the vice revealed by your daily examen, find a role model (one of the saints perhaps or Jesus Himself), and then visualize yourself practicing that virtue. The second technique, to affirm what you have visualized, requires you to put your chosen virtue into a positive affirmative sentence and repeat it to yourself.

Lastly, we can use spontaneous prayers to Jesus, Mary, and the saints asking for strength and inspiration to persist in our efforts to resist temptations and to become who God is calling us to be—an image of His Son.

Hope springs from eternity

Change is possible! The techniques of visualization and positive affirmations can be applied to many areas of our lives—even in helping us keep our New Year’s or Lenten resolutions. But if we limit our thinking to material existence and block ourselves off from transcendent reality, this endless striving, this looking for “perfection,” can lead to a kind of existential despair. It may seem there is no meaning to our strivings, our sufferings, and our programs for improvement of ourselves and of society.

Longing for perfection

This very longing for perfection is telling us something about us: there is more to existence than the material world. No matter how successful or enlightened we become, our achievement of material happiness still leaves us hungry.

So Love entered the world, the Bread of Life, joining us in this broken, messy, chaotic, material world to show us how to live a good life here. We do this best by living now, through grace, within the eternal embrace of Triune Love and by sharing that love with others.

He came to give us life in abundance, to show us the truth about ourselves, and to point out the way Home. To help you start or continue the adventure of conversion, you can download a PSF on the 5 steps of the Ignatian examen plus the three steps added by Fr. Spitzer, as well as all related articles at: www.magis-center.com/is-it-possible-to-change-your-reality.

Maggie Ciskanik, M.S. Armed with a B.A. in Philosophy, a minor in science, and a trio of graduate science classes, Ciskanik landed in a graduate nursing program. With the support of her enthusiastic husband, an interesting career unfolded while the family grew: a seven year stint mostly as a neurology nurse, 15 years as a homeschooling mom of six, and a six year sojourn as curriculum developer and HS science teacher (which included teaching students with cognitive differences).

These experiences added fuel to her lifelong interest in all things related to God’s creation and the flourishing of the human spirit—which has found a new home on the Magis blog.

Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D. is a Catholic Priest in the Jesuit order (Society of Jesus) and is currently the President of the Magis Center and the Spitzer Center.
Marriage & Family Life Office: How Do You “Do” Lent?

What are you doing for Lent? Giving up chocolate, video games, TV, Facebook? If you do it the way we did it, you pig out on Fat Tuesday eating all sorts of fatty and sugar laden foods, then fast on Ash Wednesday and then give up _______ (fill in the blank) for 40 days and that is Lent.

But that is not the meaning behind Lent at all. Lent is a time of sacrifice, penance and almsgiving. The prophet Micah says: “You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8. Lent is a time to reflect on the sacrificial love Jesus the bridegroom showed for His bride, the Church. He was willing to die for our sins and open the gates of heaven to those who walk in His way. Lent is a time to look inward and do some soul-searching and ask ourselves, “Am I doing only the right, do I love goodness and do I walk humbly with God?” That is where we can use this season to offer our own sacrifices and do penance and give alms to those in need of our help. We have 40 days to focus on becoming a better version of ourselves. Instead of just “giving up” something, view Lent as a time to add things or take away things in your personal or family life to put God first and to become more of the person He calls you to be.

So what will Lent look like in your house? What can you and your family do to make this a more personal, visible, meaningful Lent? How about praying as a family? Stations of the Cross are done on Friday evenings during Lent in most parishes. Make a point of attending “Stations” every Friday as a family. Can’t get to the parish Stations? Then pray the Stations in your home. You can get pictures (Google: coloring pages stations of the cross) your kids can color and create your own stations. Go to the USCCB website for how to pray the Stations of the Cross. Afterward you can serve a vegetable based soup, as Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Or you could learn the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and say them daily. You will know them by heart if you do that for 40 days!

If you have children at home, sacrifice can be fun if you have a Sacrifice Bean Jar. From the book, Catholic All Year, get an empty jar and put next to it a dish of dried beans. Each time one of your children offers a sacrifice no matter how big (making someone’s bed) or small (spitting last when brushing their teeth), they get to put a bean in a jar. At Easter, the Easter bunny exchanges the dried beans for jelly beans and during the Easter season every time a sacrifice is made they get to take out a jelly bean and eat it.

How about your house? Do you decorate with bunnies and eggs and spring flowers? Be like our churches, where decorations are minimal and made out of dry branches, not flowers. On Palm Sunday cover your statues or religious art with purple cloth. How about your house? Do you decorate with bunnies and eggs and spring flowers? Be like our churches, where decorations are minimal and made out of dry branches, not flowers. On Palm Sunday cover your statues or religious art with purple cloth.

Did you know the tradition for fasting during Lent is about giving up meat? One treat that was given to children during Lent when they learned their prayers was pretzels. These could be made during Lent as they only had flour, water yeast and salt as the ingredients. They are shaped into praying arms and the 3 holes stand for the Trinity. Modern day restrictions are not so severe. This recipe does use an egg and a little honey.

Pretzels For Lent?

Did you know the tradition for fasting during Lent is about giving up meat? One treat that was given to children during Lent when they learned their prayers was pretzels. These could be made during Lent as they only had flour, water yeast and salt as the ingredients. They are shaped into praying arms and the 3 holes stand for the Trinity. Modern day restrictions are not so severe. This recipe does use an egg and a little honey.

2 tbsp honey 3 cups flour
1 cup warm water 1 egg beaten
1 envelope rapid rise yeast 1 tsp salt
Soften the yeast in the water. Add the honey and 1 tsp salt. Blend in the flour. Turn out dough in a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth, about 5 minutes. Divide the dough into 12 pieces and roll the dough in to ropes about 18” long and shape into pretzel shapes. Place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 425° for 12-15 minutes until the pretzels are golden brown.

We received such positive comments on our St. Nicolas cookies we wanted to share another recipe with you. Children, husbands, wives, and friends all like to gather around food. Why not make your food an opportunity to share your faith while doing a fun activity that you can eat?

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

Abortion is not healthcare, yet for decades the federal government has voluntarily supported abortion by subsidizing the industry with hundreds of millions of tax dollars every year.

Title X funds.

“For decades, American taxpayers have been wrongly forced to subsidize the abortion industry” through Title X funds, Trump told the crowd. He said then that this new rule is “another promise” he had kept to the pro-life movement.

Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser said in a Feb. 22 statement that she was thankful Trump took “decisive action to detangle taxpayers from the big abortion industry led by Planned Parenthood.”

Dannenfelser, like Smith, wrote that she felt as though Title X had strayed from its original intentions as a family planning program.

“The Title X program was not intended to be a slush fund for abortion businesses like Planned Parenthood, which violently ends the lives of more than 332,000 unborn babies a year and receives almost $60 million a year in Title X taxpayer dollars. We thank President Trump and (HHS) Secretary Azar for ensuring that the Title X program is truly about funding family planning, not abortion.”

Planned Parenthood is still eligible for federal funds that are not part of Title X. Last year, Planned Parenthood received over $500 million in federal funding. ✤
‘Unplanned’ Gets Unexpected R Rating

By Christine Rousselle

Washington D.C., Feb 22 (CNA) - The movie “Unplanned,” which tells the true story of former Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson’s conversion into a pro-life activist, has been given an R rating by the Motion Picture Association of America, a decision the directors fear could have been motivated by the pro-life message of the film.

The rating was announced Friday, Feb. 22.

“We had hoped that (the rating) would be different, but due to the political climate, and the fact that we’re in Hollywood, it doesn’t surprise us,” co-director Chuck Konzelman told CNA.

Co-director Cary Solomon agreed, adding, “we’ve made a pro-life film in a pro-choice town. We’re very aware of (being) critical of the establishment.”

By giving the film an R-rating, Konzelman said that he believes the MPAA is inadvertently supporting the belief that “anything that has to do with abortion is an act of extreme violence.”

“Ironically, that’s (also) our viewpoint,” he said.

In the United States, a film that is rated R by the MPAA is restricted to those over the age of 17 unless accompanied by a parent or another adult guardian. The MPAA said “Unplanned” earned the rating due to “some disturbing/bloody images.”

Solomon told CNA that he found it to be “absurd” that Unplanned was given an R-rating when several, far more violent, movies to be released later this year were given PG-13 ratings.

Despite the R-rating, “Unplanned”s’ directors told CNA that Christians should not worry about seeing the film alongside their children.

“For us, R means ‘recommend.’ Because the bottom line is that this is real life,” Solomon told CNA.

“It’s time for Christians to come to the reality of the fact that (abortion) is going on. If a rating is going to keep them from even looking at this subject, then shame on us,” he added.

Konzelman agreed, and told CNA that there is no nudity or profanity in the film that would merit an R-rating.

“They’re not even mentioning violence, other than the violence directly associated with the termination of an unborn human being. That’s it. That’s all that’s in there,” said Konzelman.

Unplanned is based on Johnson’s 2012 book of the same name. Johnson quit her job at Planned Parenthood in October of 2009, one year after being named employee of the year, after she had been asked to administer the second drug in an abortion drug protocol.

“For us to avoid that, for the sake of appeasing the MPAA, would make the story untrue,” said Solomon.

Even if the filmmakers sought to make changes to get a lower rating, it would be quite difficult as “(the MPAA) pretty much objected to everything, including black and white images of a sonogram,” said Konzelman.

To make any changes would require that the filmmakers “put the entire movie,” which they said they did not want to do.

Johnson herself had two abortions prior to her ideological conversion. Since then, she has founded the organization “And Then There Were None,” which seeks to assist abortion industry workers with finding new jobs outside the industry. Since the group was founded, nearly 500 clinic workers have left the industry.

After Johnson left her job at Planned Parenthood, she converted to Catholicism. She and her husband are now expecting their eighth child.

“Unplanned” stars Ashley Bratcher as Abby Johnson. During filming, Bratcher discovered that her own mother had planned on having an abortion when she was pregnant with her, but changed her mind minutes before the procedure was to begin.

“Unplanned” was written and directed by Konzelman and Solomon, who also wrote “God’s Not Dead” and “God’s Not Dead 2.” The movie was partially funded by Michael Lindell, a born-again Christian and the founder of the company MyPillow.

“Unplanned” is the first-ever R-rated film distributed by PureFlix, and will be released in theaters nationwide on March 29.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church Supports Armory Winter Homeless Shelter

For the second year in a row, the Saint Vincent de Paul District Council of Sonoma County stepped up to take on the responsibility of operating the winter homeless shelter located at the National Guard Armory in Santa Rosa. And, for the second year in a row, members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Windsor stepped up to provide support to the shelter.

Every night, starting on November 23rd, and with a commitment to continuing through March 3rd, members of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, using their own personal vehicles, transported meals from the kitchen of the Redwood Gospel Mission to the homeless shelter. Without the support of these volunteers, the clients staying at the homeless shelter would not have had a hot, nourishing meal. For many individuals staying at the shelter, this was their only meal of the day.

In addition to transporting meals, members of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish contributed significant amounts of warm clothing for distribution to shelter clients throughout the entire time that the shelter has been open. Terms of the shelter agreement restrict the hours that clients can remain in the shelter to from early evening to early morning, thus clients must spend the daytime hours outside in the elements, and often arrive at the shelter cold and soaking wet.

At Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are a community of God’s children, and truly believe that the commitment to the support of the Armory winter homeless shelter is a response to God’s directive to love one another and care for those in need.

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Men On a Mission: ‘Exodus 90’ Encourages Spiritual Growth in Contrast to Culture

LAWTON, Okla. By Judy Roberts (National Catholic Register) Faced with the troubling news of the Church’s clergy sex-abuse scandal, Father Brian Buettner and the priests in his support group wanted to find a way to “fix it.” Recognizing that the task was beyond them individually, they decided to embark together on a 90-day journey of rigorous abstinence and prayer known as “Exodus 90,” offering their prayers and fasting for the victims of sexual abuse and for a deep and lasting purification of the Church.

From Sept. 5 to Dec. 6, they followed the Exodus 90 regimen of making a daily Holy Hour, limiting internet use to essential tasks and fasting from alcohol, sweets, eating between meals, TV and comforts like hot showers, meeting regularly for encouragement and accountability.

Now, from Jan. 21 until Easter Sunday, Father Buettner’s bishop, Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, and thousands of other priests and laymen will be offering their Exodus 90 experience as a campaign of prayer and sacrifice for the Church.

“I’m eager to get started with Exodus 90 as a way of offering some concrete form of penance for the healing of our Church during a time of crisis,” Archbishop Coakley told the Register. “It will certainly enhance my experience serving as a priest.”

Originally developed for seminarians who were seeking greater personal freedom in a society enslaved to sin, and later expanded to include laymen, the program is taking on a new dimension in the wake of the abuse crisis.

Ryan Foley, who had solicited prayer intentions from friends and others for his own Exodus 90 experience Sept. 21 to Dec. 25 last year, said one came from a bishop asking him to pray for the healing of the Church “because of the great injury of the sex-abuse crisis.”

After Foley completed Exodus 90, he approached James Baxter, the program’s executive director, with an idea: Make Exodus 90 participants men of prayer for others and specifically for the Church.

Foley, vice president for business development at Covenant Eyes, an internet accountability firm, also proposed asking apostolates, dioceses and Catholic leaders like Jason Evert, Fradd and Father Michael Schmitz to invite men to join the campaign. Those who sign up will be put on a waitlist keyed to the individual or group that registered for others and specifically for the Church.

Baxter said he thinks Catholic leaders were receptive to promoting Exodus 90 because of what they are witnessing in their own apostolates. "These folk are in the trenches. They see that the times we are in are different. There’s a darkness over the Church, and they now feel like there’s actually a place to move people.”

How It Works

About 7,000 men, including 1,100 who signed up at the recent “SEEK 2019” conference for college students, are currently on waitlists for the next Exodus 90, but as momentum builds, Baxter said he is confident no fewer than 10,000, and possibly more, will have registered by Jan. 21. Registrations tend to flood in the day before and the first day of a new 90-day cycle, he said, and those on waitlists will be asking others to join them.

Even though men register for Exodus 90 individually, one of the program’s four “pillars” is “fraternity,” meaning participants make the spiritual exercise as part of a small group that meets regularly and is guided by a spiritual director, who can be a priest or layman.

The other pillars of Exodus 90, which is designed specifically for the spirituality and struggles of men, are 90 days, prayer and asceticism, or self-denial. Ninety days is considered both a manly challenge and the length of time needed for the brain to “reset,” and the four pillars in combination are part of the Tradition of the Church, particularly the spirit of the early Christian hermits known as the Desert Fathers.

Thomas Wurtz, a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) staff member who went through Exodus 90 in 2017, said the program’s pillar of asceticism is key to revitalizing men in the current culture. “Men tend to be lazy and fearful,” he said, in contrast to their calling to guard, protect and engage. “Something like this pulls men out of themselves.”

Since Exodus 90 began in 2013 as a pilot program for seminarians, 7,500 men, 60% of them between the ages of 20 and 39, have been through the program. Wurtz, who is 40, said younger men are being drawn to it because they know they were made for something more in a culture that is promoting mediocrity.

Wurtz, the director of Varsity Catholic, the FOCUS outreach to athletes, has promoted Exodus 90 among FOCUS missionaries for the last three years, and they in turn have led dozens of others into the program. “I am impressed by our men and their love for this regimen. It demonstrates that the Church has been lacking in this kind of spirituality for men since the 1950s, when asceticism was much more common and when it was talked about and promoted.”

Wurtz said of his own Exodus 90 experience: “It purifies you, it reorients you to proper priorities and helps you understand the attachments you have. Some of the things you’re asked to give up really open your eyes. You didn’t realize how hard it was going to be — how much you love to snack between meals, for example.”

Priestly Perspective

Father Buettner, who has been ordained five years and serves as a pastor and vocations director, said the program changed his priesthood and refocused his mission. Although it was difficult, he said the fraternity of his support group was sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and they grew closer as brothers with each penance.

Additionally, he said he noticed that the advice he was giving in confessions felt inspired by the Spirit, as did his celebration of Mass. “Everything was becoming more clear about the true sanctity of who I am as a priest. … It felt like my heart was being bathed with the Lord’s.”

The Exodus 90 image is one of walking with Moses through the desert to the Promised Land, Father Buettner said. “We have become slaves in our world in a culture that is trying to enslave us with technology or any distraction that will separate us from the Lord. Like Moses, we leave slavery behind and start walking toward the Promised Land.”

By committing to 90 days of prayer and self-denial, he said, men discover that in surrounding themselves with the comforts of the world, they have become like the culture.

Father Buettner said he and his fellow priests realized, for example, that they were coming home and turning on the TV in the evening, wasting the time before they went to bed. “[Exodus 90] allowed us to get back to reading, listening to music, spending time in fraternity with one another, purifying every hour of our day and sanctifying it.”

Judy Roberts writes from Graytown, Ohio.
African Priest Who Sacrificed to Serve Kenya’s Drought-Stricken Poor Seeks Help From U.S. Catholics

As the nephew of an ailing tribal chief, Fabian Hevi stood next in line to lead his community in Ghana, West Africa. He had the skill set for the job — intelligence, a winsome personality and a knack for peacemaking — but rather than take the easy route, the young Catholic chose a surprising path. He committed his life to the priesthood and to serving the poorest of the poor.

Today, Father Fabian of the Society of African Missionaries is facing an incredible challenge in a region of Kenya plagued by drought and famine. His mission: to rescue and restore Turkana families struggling through drought and extreme heat.

“Fr. Fabian Hevi has undertaken an almost impossible task, so we feel compelled to help him and to rally other Catholics around the world to do the same. He’s surrounded by people desperate for water, and he is eager to serve them, but he can’t achieve his noble aims without our help,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a U.S.-based Catholic charity specializing in supporting missions in the developing world. Cross Catholic Outreach seeks out and empowers priests and nuns like Fr. Fabian because the charity believes dedicated Catholic leaders serving the poor should be encouraged and empowered.

“They have sacrificed their lives to benefit others. Supporting their missions is the least we can do,” Cavnar said. “Our work is to go and evangelize.”

“Fr. Fabian said, ‘We talk about the love of God, but some of these poor people find it very difficult to understand. What are you talking about? What is love? I am here suffering every day. I don’t even have food to eat, and you’re telling me about the love of God?’

‘Trying to relieve their sufferings gives them a better understanding that there is a God who loves them.’

Right now, Fr. Fabian is working to supply the Turkana with clean, abundant water to satisfy their thirst and save their livestock. He has relied on help from Cross Catholic Outreach before and is now asking the ministry to help him install water systems that are a safe and reliable alternative to scooping dirty water from hand-dug pits.

Thankfully, Fr. Fabian need not face this most recent challenge alone. Cross Catholic Outreach has stepped forward to assist him, and the charity is currently mobilizing U.S. Catholics to add their support to his transformative work.

Donations made to Cross Catholic Outreach for water projects will help the African priest in profound ways. Cross Catholic Outreach funds the rig, purchase pumps, and cover the other expenses of the job. In the end, this cooperative effort by Cross Catholic Outreach, local parishes and American Catholics will transform impoverished communities and — in many cases — save lives.

“My hope and prayer is that American Catholics will become more involved in the work of Catholic heroes like Fr. Fabian,” Cavnar said. “As a Catholic who regularly sees the sacrifices our priests and nuns make overseas, I’m awed by their selflessness and the incredible challenges they face. To have an even greater impact on missionaries like these, we encourage people to become Mission Partners and contribute a set amount monthly. Those gifts are particularly helpful.”

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO). “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Haiti, El Salvador and areas of Belize impacted by natural disasters.”

Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, supported this mission in a recent endorsement, writing: “It is a privilege for me to support Cross Catholic Outreach. This organization funds ministries to our neighbors in need in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Pacific. Through the generosity of so many, the love of God is made visible to many who are coping with the most difficult of daily living conditions.”

In addition to praising CCO’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that Pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel Charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick, shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the Papal Encyclical Deus Caritas Est.”
“Roughly 10 percent of the world’s population lives without ready access to clean water. As a result, about 700,000 children die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation — that’s almost 2,000 children a day. And about 90 percent of the deaths caused by diarrheal diseases are among boys and girls under 5 years old. “No one would deny the importance of water to sustain life, but few of us realize just how critical the need for this blessed resource has become in some parts of the developing world. It’s literally a matter of life and death.”

With his recent statement, Cross Catholic Outreach president Jim Cavnar put the stark statistics of UNICEF and the World Health Organization into terms every American Catholic can easily understand. A serious water crisis threatens the world’s poorest countries, and it should be a major concern to those of us who value the sanctity of life.

Thankfully, the Catholic Church is aware of this problem and has stepped forward to act on behalf of the poor, according to Cavnar.

“Priests and nuns serving in developing countries are identifying the areas of greatest need and are planning to help solve the problems,” he said. “All they lack is funding. If we can empower them with grants of aid and with other resources, amazing things can be accomplished.”

Cavnar’s own ministry, Cross Catholic Outreach, was launched in 2001 with this specific goal in mind. It rallies American Catholics to fund specific projects overseas, and many safe water initiatives have been successfully implemented as a result.

In one case, tapping a spring in Haiti allowed Cross Catholic Outreach to reduce infant mortality in a poor, remote part of the country.

“Catholic leaders in the village of Cerca reported children were dying at an alarming rate. If you visited, you could see the funeral processions carrying the tiny coffins. They discovered contaminated water was the problem, and they asked us to help find a solution. Working together, we were able to tap a spring and provide clean, safe water,” Cavnar explained.

Because every area’s water problem is different, Cross Catholic Outreach needs to be flexible. Over the years, its projects have included everything from digging wells to channeling water from springs to installing filtration systems to providing large holding tanks for purchased water. They also work worldwide and have done water projects in Africa, South and Central American countries, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

“This year, some of our biggest water projects are planned for Zambia, Kenya and Guatemala,” Cavnar said. “Of course, our ability to take on that work will depend on getting contributions here in the U.S.”

Cavnar is clearly grateful to American Catholics who choose to support Cross Catholic Outreach’s work with their prayers and gifts, and he emphasizes their role often, describing them as the real heroes in every success story.

“Take the water project needed in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima, Guatemala, for example. Drilling for water wasn’t an option due to the terrain. So it’s an ambitious plan that will develop a complex water and distribution system to pump clean water to every home in a community currently relying on contaminated lakes and streams for survival. The Catholic priest in the area desperately needs it and its impact will be profound — but it takes outside funding to turn that dream into a reality. So, when our Catholic benefactors support a project like this, they are literally an answer to prayer.”

The same has been true in other important outreaches too. Over the years, Cross Catholic Outreach donors have built homes, schools and clinics — and have further blessed those outreaches with gifts to fund medicines, school supplies, teacher salaries and more.

“It is possible to bless people, save lives and transform communities,” Cavnar said. “It just takes concerned Catholics working together to achieve those goals.”

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01462, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify a specific aid project with your gift, 100% of the proceeds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.
Cardinal Cupich Lays Out Framework for Bishops’ Accountability

Vatican City, Feb 22 (CNA) - The Church needs to establish a new rules and standards for the accountability of bishops regarding sex abuse and its mishandling, the Archbishop of Chicago said Friday at the Vatican.

“We must move to establish robust laws and structures regarding the accountability of bishops precisely to supply with a new soul the institutional reality of the Church’s discipline on sexual abuse,” Cardinal Blase Cupich said Feb. 22.

In his speech at the Meeting of the Presidents of the Bishops’ Conferences on Safeguarding of Minors, Cupich stated that the Church needs to assume the role of a loving mother to her children in working to end the sexual abuse crisis, and how acting in a synodal, collegiate manner will result in much good.

Cupich laid out what he believes will be an effective framework for his brother bishops, with an increased number of responsibilities for metropolitan archbishops, to ensure accountability in combating the crisis of sexual abuse in the Church.

“My aim is to offer a framework that is in keeping with our ecclesiological and canonical traditions in order to spark conversations among ourselves, knowing that there are differences in culture, civil and canonical laws and other factors that need to be considered,” said Cupich, who added that he felt as though “decisive action” needed to be taken “without delay.”

Cupich laid out what he believes will be an effective framework for his brother bishops, with an increased number of responsibilities for metropolitan archbishops, to ensure accountability in combating the crisis of sexual abuse in the Church.

Cupich said he believes each episcopal conference, province, or diocese should “collegially establish” a standard for the investigation of a bishop for potential misconduct or cover-up, and that the process of creating these standards should involve both lay experts and the use of a metropolitan archbishop.

“All mechanisms for reporting allegations of abuse or mishandling of abuse cases against a bishop should be transparent and well-known to the faithful,” said Cupich, adding that a direct line of contact to report abuse allegations to either an apostolic nuncio or metropolitan should be established.

The cardinal said he thought it would be useful for episcopal conferences to adopt a set of procedural steps that would both mesh with the traditions of the Church, and also “fulfill modern needs” for the identification and investigation of misconduct by bishops.

These procedures and norms need to include compassion for those who report abuse and their families, which includes providing access to counseling and other support at the expense of the diocese, as well as all reports of offenses being made public. A person who reports abuse should not fear any sort of discrimination or retaliation for their report, said Cupich, and he suggested that “due attention” be given to the involvement of laypersons who are experts in the process.

The role of the metropolitan archbishop should be increased, suggested Cupich, and the metropolitan should be able to recommend “precautionary measures” to dioceses with accused bishops, and the metropolitan should be free to request an authorization from the Holy See to investigate an allegation of abuse against a bishop.

“After the metropolitan receives authorization, he should gather all relevant information expeditiously, in collaboration with lay experts, to ensure the professional and rapid execution of the investigation,” which Cupich advised should be concluded promptly. A common fund could be established at different levels in order to pay for these new investigation techniques, said Cupich.

After the investigation, Cupich said the metropolitan archbishop would forward all information gathered to the Holy See, where the pope would then proceed to make a final decision in the ensuing penal process.

These new frameworks will require “steadfast trust and openness in identifying with the aid of everyone in the Church, and with due regard for the diverse cultures and the universality of our Church.”

In order for these changes to happen, Cupich said, the bishops need to adopt what he termed a “synodal vision” that is “rooted in discernment, conversion and reform at every level.” The Church, he explained, has a sacred bond with her members, much like the bond between a parent and child.

“The Church must truly be Pietà; broken in suffering, consoling in enveloping love, constant in pointing to the divine tenderness of God amidst the pangs of desolation in those who have been crushed by clerical abuse.”

Cardinal Gracias Emphasizes Collegiality to Address Sex Abuse

Vatican City, Feb 22 (CNA) - Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay called Friday for the “entire Church” to “act decisively to prevent abuse from occurring in the future and to do whatever possible to foster healing for victims.”

Calling the abuse suffered at the hands of those in the Church “a profound betrayal of trust,” he offered practical solutions mainly focused on fostering better communication on all levels of the Church’s hierarchy during a Feb. 22 speech at the Vatican.

“As serious as the direct abuse of children and vulnerable adults is, the indirect damage inflicted by those with directive responsibility within the Church can be worse by re-victimising those who have already suffered abuse,” the cardinal noted.

Gracias is one of the principal organizers of a Vatican summit taking place this week to address the sexual abuse of minors, which features the presidents of national bishops’ conferences worldwide.

Gracias himself admitted to the BBC Feb. 21 that he could have handled sexual abuse allegations that were brought to him in the past, after several Indian victims of sexual abuse told the BBC that Gracias failed (see Cardinal Gracias, page 20)
National

Statement by the National Council of Catholic Women
Washington, D.C. February 13 The National Council of Catholic Women is deeply saddened by the passage of late term abortion legislation in New York and now being promoted in other states of the country. It is with profound sadness that the National Council of Catholic Women contemplates the passage of the late term abortion legislation in New York now being promoted in other states of our country. The act of killing a child at any stage of life is unconscionable but killing a baby about to be born into the world that could even be in the birth canal or partially delivered can be considered as nothing more than a barbaric act unworthy of this great nation; a nation that noted the right to life in our Declaration of Independence. We pray that our legislators will understand the sacredness and extraordinary gift of life and that abortion is not a political issue but that there is a moral imperative to preserve and cherish life at all stages.

We believe that there is always forgiveness for those who have chosen abortion and we know that God loves them as He does all His children and hope they find the healing they will come to need. There are wonderful options for those who carry a child but do not feel they can parent a child. With medical advances, there are few cases where the choice must be made of one life over another.

The National Council of Catholic Women, deeply shocked and saddened by abortion legislation and, in particular, by late term abortion, wishes to register our opposition to these laws that destroy rather than preserve that precious gift, life itself.

The National Council of Catholic Women, founded in 1920 by the US Catholic bishops, acts through its membership to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. For information about the NCCW in the Santa Rosa Diocese contact Gloria Krzyzanowski, <srdccwgloria@hotmail.com>

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International

Venezuelan Bishops Call for Humanitarian Aid to be Distributed
Caracas, Venezuela, Feb 23 (CNA) - The Venezuelan Bishops' Conference is calling on Nicolas Maduro's government to allow humanitarian aid to enter the country and be peacefully distributed to people who are desperately in need of it.

The bishops of the country urged Nicolas Maduro to listen to the "cry of the people," stressing that the humanitarian aid is responding to a "grave crisis," and not politically motivated.

Maduro was sworn in for a second term Jan. 10, after winning a contested election in which opposition candidates were barred from running or imprisoned. Amidst the protests that followed, the head of the nation's parliament, Juan Guaidó, declared himself interim president on Jan. 23, pledging a transitional government and free elections. The United States and more than a dozen other European and South American nations no longer recognize Maduro as Venezuela's president.

Food and medical aid are currently being warehoused in Cúcuta, Colombia and Roraima, Brazil. While the supplies have been offered to Venezuela, Maduro has not allowed it to enter the country, claiming that there is no humanitarian crisis.

The Venezuelan National Assembly has helped organize the aid, which Guaidó says will start entering the country over the weekend, despite Maduro's opposition.

In a Feb. 17 statement, Bishop Mario Moronta of San Cristóbal, Venezuela, urged Maduro not to continue saying “the aid is unnecessary.” The bishop said that “countless officers from the Armed Forces, and high-ranking government officials are quietly coming to many priests and laypeople, institutions in this region, so we can obtain in Cúcuta medicine for them, or their relatives, food, etc. Out of fear they’re certainly not telling you. But it’s true.”

In their statement, the Venezuelan bishops said that "the preserve has the obligation to attend to the needs of the population, and therefore to facilitate the entrance and distribution of humanitarian aid, avoiding any type of repressive violence.”

They argued that requesting and receiving aid is not “any kind of treason to the homeland,” as Maduro has said, but “a moral duty that is incumbent on us all.” They also mentioned the pastoral and social work the Church is carrying out through Caritas.

"The aid basically consists of emergency food supplies, supplements for malnourished children and the elderly, and medical supplies, mainly therapeutic," the bishops’ conference said in its statement.

The bishops called on the National Armed Forces “to stand on the side of the people to which they belong,” noting that their members swore to uphold the Constitution and that they “serve the Venezuelan people first.”

“It is their commitment to defend them, to protect their inalienable rights and to make their human dignity shine forth. In conscience, you must not to follow orders that attack the life and safety of the population,” the bishops said.

The bishops asked the intercession of the Virgin of Coromoto, patroness of Venezuela, to accompany the people “in these times of so much hope for the country,” so that what Christ taught might become a reality: “I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance.”

Maduro's leadership in Venezuela has been marred by violence and social upheaval with severe shortages and hyperinflation leading millions of Venezuelans to emigrate. Those who have stayed have faced a serious lack of food, medicine and other necessities.

According to research by the NGO Médicos para (see News Briefs, page 16)
Polish Sex Abuse Victims Meet Pope Francis, Release Abuse Report

By Courtney Grogan

Vatican City, Feb 21 (CNA) - A Polish delegation of sex abuse educators and advocates met Pope Francis Wednesday, and presented the pope with a report documenting alleged clergy sexual abuse cases and cover-up throughout their country.

“It was a very powerful moment for … [the] victims in Poland to see this gesture,” Anna Frankowska, a board member of the Have No Fear foundation, told CNA Feb. 21.

The pope met a delegation from Have No Fear, a Polish organization that hosts support groups for sex abuse survivors in Poland.

The report documents more than 20 cases of clergy sexual abuse and the responses by their respective Polish bishops. Unlike recent reports of clergy abuse in the United States, the documented cases are not from the 1960s-80s, but only come from the last three decades.

In the report, Have No Fear accuses 24 former and current Polish bishops of having protected or transferred child-abusing priests.

“Since 2005, the Catholic Church has been particularly involved in efforts to protect children and young people against sexual abuse by clerics,” a Polish bishops’ conference document states.

At least 11 of the cases listed in the report occurred after 2005, and four are alleged to have taken place as recently as 2011-2012.

In one case, a priest who had been convicted and sentenced to prison in the United States for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl in 2005, was deported to Poland, where he served as a parish priest working with young people beginning in 2009, and worked as a religious educator in a middle school.

The priest, Father Roman Kramek, testified to U.S. police that “he had intercourse as a therapeutic tool in order to help the girl forget an earlier rape,” according to the report.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith was notified of the case nearly ten years later, in October 2018, and Kramek continues to serve as a parish priest in Poland, according to Have No Fear.

A Polish bishops’ conference responded to the report by “sorrowfully and decisively condemn[ing] all sexual abuse of minors in the Church and in society as a whole.”

“The Polish bishops have taken the report by ‘sorrowfully and decisively condemn[ing] all sexual abuse of minors in the Church and in society as a whole.’

“In the Catholic Church, every believer can present his case to the Holy Father as the Supreme Pastor. The Holy See, on the other hand, has the opportunity to evaluate and verify reported cases,” Polish bishops’ spokesman Father Pawel Rytle-Andianik told CNA.

“According to the Church and civil law, there is the principle of presumed innocence of a person until the contrary is proven,” he said, adding that various dioceses in Poland were already claiming misinformation in the report.

Recently, the Polish bishops’ conference took additional steps to further develop prevention programs and meet with victims.
Super Bowl champ: I’ve won AND lost the big game – Here’s the incredible thing I learned

By Clint Gresham | Fox News

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ - FEBRUARY 02: Long snapper Clint Gresham #49 of the Seattle Seahawks celebrates with teammates on the field after winning Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium on February 2, 2014 in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The Seahawks beat the Broncos 43-8.

On Sunday evening, players of either the Los Angeles Rams or the New England Patriots will experience the euphoria of being deemed the best team in the NFL and winners of Super Bowl LIII.

I have walked in their shoes. The high fives, the teammate embraces, the confetti flying, the tears flowing. I played six seasons as a long-snapper with the Seattle Seahawks and was part of the team in 2013 ing. I played six seasons as a long-snapper with the Seattle Seahawks and was part of the team in 2013 when we crushed the Denver Broncos to win the coveted title of Super Bowl XLVIII champ.

That day was a whirlwind for me. I remember standing on top of the truck I was on with punter Jon Ryan and kicker Steve Hauschka holding the Lombardi trophy and starting a massive ‘SEA-HAWKS’ chant.

All of it led to the concluding ceremony at Century Link Field, where each player was introduced and all kinds of insanity ensued. It is a day I’ll never forget.

But two months later the celebrations ended and the cameras quit rolling. I can’t tell you how many times I heard my teammates say, ”I keep waiting for it to sink in that we won the Super Bowl.” I said it, too.

Was it awesome winning a Super Bowl? Absolutely. Did it make me happy and satisfy my core need for significance, joy, love, or value? Not even close.

You may not be able to relate to winning the Super Bowl, but we all have a “Super Bowl” for which we are waiting. Unfortunately, in focusing on this, we incorrectly place our identity in the wrong things.

For me, it was football. I’ve struggled with anxiety and depression my entire life. Sports were a way for me to perform, to feel strong and to feel like I mattered.

But I’ve learned it is a trap to fix our whole identity around the things that give us a false sense of significance.

I went back to the Super Bowl with the Seahawks in 2014, only to be defeated by the New England Patriots. It was an insanely raw moment for my teammates and me as we processed our defeat. We were all looking for something that would make us not feel pain, but pain is OK. The idea of running from our pain is actually what is destroying our world.

It’s only in your pain that you can grow. God really

(see Super Bowl Champs, page 20)
La “Gran Esperanza Que Sobrepasa Todo lo Demás

El Miércoles 6 de Marzo, Miércoles de Ceniza, marca el inicio de Cuaresma 2019.

En muchos sentidos me siento como que Cuaresma 2018 nunca se terminó y ahora estamos en el comienzo de otro tiempo de Cuaresma. En el Ciclo Litúrgico, la Cuaresma termina con Semana Santa y Pascua. En la vida Cuaresma a menudo parece ser un estado perpetuo. Sería maravilloso si pudieramos recordar todas nuestras penas, pecados y sufrimientos en el bloque de 40 días de tiempo que marca nuestros ejercicios anuales de la Cuaresma. Desafortunadamente, podemos sentir, especialmente en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa, que hemos estado ‘en Cuaresma’ durante más de veinte años consecutivos. No es solo debido a la crisis de abuso sexual que ha dominado los cabezados por décadas, es también la tristeza que experimentamos al ver a la juventud abandonar la Iglesia, vocaciones en declive, matrimonios en caos, el estado aprobando más leyes liberales de aborto, falta de reverencia y respeto por la vida y la dignidad humana al ampliar leyes llamadas “derecho a morir”, confusión sobre cuestiones de inmigración. Todas estas cosas tienden a mantenernos ‘en Cuaresma’. No obstante, preguntó: “¿Hacemos justicia a lo que hemos ocasionado?”, reconoció Cardenales, Obispos y demás participantes en el Encuentro sobre la Protección de Menores.

Hemos ocasionado violencia a niños y jóvenes, y que no hemos protegido a quienes nos hemos ocasionado violencia a la Iglesia, que es ante todo nuestra responsabilidad. No hemos brindado a las personas la protección a la que nos ha confiado? Sin duda, no podremos responder a esta pregunta con un sí sincero”, reconoció.
La “Gran Esperanza Que Sobrepasa Todo lo demás de 2018 aborto.

nunca vemos mujeres con recursos acusadas de sistema que la encarceló. abortó, sino que fue víctima de violación y luego del público sobre el aborto”.

las 17 mujeres (acusadas) de infanticidio, que están sido instrumentalizados por el lobby feminista para de que es provida, siempre ha mantenido un apoyo este trabajo “nos dimos cuenta de que Nayib Bukele, en entrevistas, en medios digitales y en sus propias políticas. Y no ha sido la excepción el tema de la vida e aborto y del mal llamado “matrimonio” gay. ¿Qué hay de verdad?

Entrevistada por EWTN Noticias, Sara Larín, por-tavoz de la plataforma provida salvadoreña VIDA SV, advirtió que el Presidente electo de El Salvador “es un político pro aborto”.

El que algunos medios lo presenten como un político a favor de la vida y la familia, dijo, es una “confusión”, producto de que “Nayib Bukele siempre ha mantenido un doble discurso sobre todas sus ideas políticas. Y no ha sido la excepción el tema de la vida”.

“Nosotros, como movimiento de jóvenes provida, investigamos cada una de sus declaraciones públicas en entrevistas, en medios digitales y en sus propias redes sociales”, señaló Larín, e indicó que durante este trabajo “nos dimos cuenta de que Nayib Bukele, a pesar de que dice que está en contra del aborto y de que es provida, siempre ha mantenido un apoyo directo a todos aquellos casos mediáticos que han sido instrumentalizados por el lobby feminista para legalizar el aborto en El Salvador”.

“El apoyó el caso Beatriz, el caso Imelda y el caso de las 17 mujeres (acusadas) de infanticidio, que están siendo utilizados como arrete para abrir el debate público sobre el aborto”.

Se ha demostrado en sede judicial que Imelda no abortó, sino que fue víctima de violación y luego del sistema que la encarceló.

Esto no hubiera pasado si Imelda no fuera pobre, nunca vemos mujeres con recursos acusadas de aborto.

Soy pro-vida, pero estoy feliz por Imelda. — Nayib Bukele (@nayibbukele) 18 de abril de 2013

¿Por qué los “defensores de la vida” no defienden el derecho de Beatriz a vivir? Talvez son defensores del “fanatismo”, que es diferente.

La portavoz de VIDA SV indicó que Bukele “dice que está a favor de aquellos casos en los que corre riesgo la vida de la madre. Es decir, Nayib está a favor del aborto por causales, sin embargo no lo va a decir directamente, porque el juego de palabras de decir que está en contra le conviene políticamente”.

Larín advirtió que en cuando al nuevo Presidente de El Salvador “le toque negociar un tema de su interés con la comunidad internacional no va a dudar de negociar con el tema de la vida y la familia”.

“Hay que estar muy alertas”, advirtió.

¿Es Verdad Que El Papa Dijo Que El Feminismo es Un Machismo Con Falda?

VATICANO (ACI Prensa) - Concluida la ponencia de la Subsecretaria del Dicastério Laicos, Familia y Vida, Linda Ghisoni, este 22 de febrero, el Papa Francisco dirigió un breve mensaje sobre la necesidad de “inte-grar a la mujer como figura de la Iglesia en nuestro pensamiento” y advirtió que “cualquier feminismo termina siendo un machismo con falda”.

En el marco del encuentro convocado por el Papa Francisco con los presidentes de las conferencias episcopales de todo el mundo para trazar el drama de abusos sexuales de menores por parte del clero, Ghisoni alentó la creación de comisiones que pue-de ser practicar “una sana colaboración entre laicos, reli-giosos y clérigos” para abordar los casos de abusos.

“No se trataría de personas que juzgan a los obispos, sino de fieles que ofrecen su consejo y asistencia a los pastores valorando su actuación con criterios evangélicos y que informan a todos los fieles del territorio sobre los procedimientos apropiados”, dijo.

Al concluir su discurso, el Santo Padre señaló que al escucharla “he sentido a la Iglesia hablar de sí misma. Todos nosotros lo hemos hecho en todas las inter-venciones, pero esta vez era la Iglesia misma la que hablaba. No es solo una cuestión de estilo: el genio femenino que se plasma en la Iglesia que es mujer”.

“Invitar a hablar a una mujer no es entrar en la modalidad de un feminismo eclesiástico porque, al final, cualquier feminismo termina siendo un machismo con falda. No. Invitar a hablar a una mujer sobre las heridas de la Iglesia es invitar a la Iglesia a hablar de sí misma sobre sus heridas”, dijo.

“Creo que este es el paso que debemos dar con mucha fuerza: la mujer es la imagen de la Iglesia que es mujer, esposa y madre. Un estilo. Sin este estilo hablaríamos del pueblo de Dios pero como organi-zación, tal vez sindical, pero no como familia parida de la Madre Iglesia”.

El Papa destacó que “la lógica del pensamiento de la doctora Ghisoni era la de una madre y ha terminado con el relato de lo que sucede cuando una mujer da a luz a un hijo. Es el misterio femenino de la Iglesia que es esposa y madre”.

“No se trata de dar más funciones a la mujer en la Iglesia –si bien es bueno, pero así no se resuelve el problema- se trata de integrar a la mujer como figura de la Iglesia en nuestro pensamiento. Es pensar también la Iglesia con las categorías de una mujer. Gracias por su testimonio”, subrayó.

Mons. Scicluna: Una Persona Peligrosa Para Los Padres

VATICANO (ACI Prensa) - Mons. Charles Scicluna, Miembro del Comité Organizador del Encuentro sobre la Protección de Menores que se está desar-rollando en Roma, aseguró que “una persona que constituye un riesgo para los menores ya no puede pertenecer al ministerio. No es cuestión de adónde desplazarlo: ya no puede ejercer una actividad en el ministerio”.

Durante el encuentro con periodistas que se ha celebrado este sábado 23 de febrero en el Vaticano para explicar el progreso de los trabajos del Encuentro, Mons. Scicluna, que también es Arzobispo de Malta y que es una de las cabezas visibles de la Iglesia en la lucha contra los abusos, señaló que el Papa Francisco se ha sentido conmovido “por el testimonio increíble de las mujeres”.

En su intervención, también explicó que existe un problema de comunicación exterior e interior en la Iglesia que agrava más el problema de los abusos, y que, por lo tanto, es urgente solucionar.

“No sólo tenemos un problema de transparencia a la hora de encararnos con la sociedad, con las autoridades, sino también en el seno de la misma comunidad de la Iglesia: diócesis que no hablan con otras diócesis, órdenes religiosas que no hablan con otras órdenes religiosas, y que no comparten informaciones fundamentales. Esto ocurre en el seno de la Iglesia”. En este sentido, defendió también que se debe for-talecer la comunicación entre la Iglesia y las víctimas que han denunciado abusos sobre los procedimientos canónicos; porque, en muchos casos, una vez realizada la denuncia, no se vuelve a informar a las víctimas del estado del procedimiento.

En ese mismo encuentro participó también en Cardenal Reinhard Marx, Arzobispo de Munich y Presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal Alemana.

En su explicación señaló que el camino emprendido en la búsqueda de soluciones que pongan fin a los abusos y que den justicia a las víctimas no se puede terminar cuando se concluya el Encuentro, sino que “hay que encontrar un camino para que todos estos documentos, ideas, informaciones, confluyan. Habrá que traducir todo eso en decisiones”.

“Creo que deberían darse unas líneas vinculantes para toda la Iglesia. En nuestro grupo de trabajo se ha hablado de una actividad de monitorización, como si las diócesis de alguna forma se sometieran a una certificación sobre sus acciones, si esas acciones son conformes a esas líneas guía”, defendió.

También intervino en la reunión con los periodistas el P. Arturo Sosa Abascal, General de la Compañía de Jesús.

Dijo que la Iglesia acepta “el desafío de acompañar el proceso de maduración afectiva de todos los miembros de la Iglesia. Es una estrategia necesaria. La maduración afectiva es lo que permite una relación sana entre los seres humanas que termina siendo una relación segura, en paz, y para eso tenemos que poner atención a los programas de formación, formación a todos los niveles: consagrados, consagradas, los que se preparan para el ministerio y cualquier persona bautizada para que esa madurez afectiva sea un signo de nuestra propia Iglesia”.

El Papa Francisco Se Reunirá Con El Consejo De Presidencia Del Episcopado Mexicano

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (ACI Prensa) - El Arzobispo de Morelia y Vicepresidente de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano (CEM), Mons. Carlos Garfias Merlos, anunció que el 1 de marzo el Papa Francisco se reunirá con el Consejo de Presidencia de la CEM en el Vaticano.

El Consejo de la Presidencia de la CEM está conformado para el periodo 2018-2021 por Mons. Rogelio Merlos, anunció que el 1 de marzo el Papa Francisco se reunirá con el Consejo de Presidencia de la CEM en el Vaticano.

El Consejo de la Presidencia de la CEM está conformado para el periodo 2018-2021 por Mons. Rogelio Cabrera López, Arzobispo de Monterrey y Presidente de la CEM; Mons. Carlos Garfias Merlos, Arzobispo (vea Noticias en Español, página 20)
En un video mensaje publicado este 22 de febrero, Mons. Garfias Merlos destacó que para él se trata de una experiencia nueva y la de encomienda que hizo de elaborar un proyecto serio y cualificado que nos ayude a realizar la evangelización, dijo. El Vicepresidente de la CEM destacó también el trabajo que se realizó del 21 al 24 de febrero en Roma, con el objetivo de hablar directamente con el Papa en relación a lo que estamos viviendo en México, sobre todo presentarle nuestro Proyecto Global de Pastoral, presentarle nuestro Plan Nacional de Construcción de Paz.

“Y presentarle el empeño que estamos haciendo como Iglesia a partir de su visita y de la encomienda que hizo a los niños y para protegerlos de la mejor forma posible, y de el delito directo contra los niños, sobre todo pensando en los temas de la pederastia o de la pedofilia”. “El Papa está en este contexto de expresar el compromiso para darle la mejor atención y el mejor cuidado a los niños y para protegerlos de la mejor forma posible. Y cuando haya algún delito que sepa realizarse, sobrado en todo en algún consagrado, en algún sacerdote, y darles el mejor el castigo tanto en las autoridades en el seno materno, envuelto en el seno de su madre como en un abrazo amoroso que los une”. “Todo esto nos invita a ver, sin ideologías, la concepción y el nacimiento no como un hecho mecánico o solo físico de la perspectiva de la relación y de la comunión que une a la mujer y a su hijo”, afirmó, y subrayó que “defender la vida del hijo concebido es defender también, y de qué modo, la vida de la madre y su dignidad”. Por eso pregunta “¿cómo es posible que podamos considerar aún la generación de una nueva vida humana solamente una obra nuestra, hasta sentirnos con derecho a dispensar de ella como queramos? Es un disparate”. El Prelado recordó que el Papa Francisco dijo que “los concebidos son hijos de toda la sociedad, y su asesinato en un número enorme, con la aprobación de los Estados constituye un grave problema que socava en su base la construcción de la justicia...” “Extinguir la vida voluntariamente mientras está floreciendo es, en cualquier caso, una especie de traición a nuestra vocación, así como al pacto que siempre une a las generaciones, pacto que nos permite mirar adelante con esperanza”, subrayó, y alertó al riesgo de reducir la vida humana en “un bien de consumir, de usar y tirar, para nosotros y para los demás”. El Prelado concluyó, “el delito racial es un delito de soberanía, y un delito de los que cometen el delito reciben el castigo debido”. Al finalizar su mensaje, el Arzobispo de Morelia pidió a los fieles que ante la próxima reunión del Consejo de Presidencia de la CEM con el Santo Padre “nos acompañen con su oración”.

El Papa Francisco Se Reunirá Con El Consejo De Presidentes Del Episcopado Mexicano

MADRID (ACI Prensa) – El Arzobispo de Toledo, Mons. Braulio Rodríguez, envió una carta con motivo de la Fiesta por la Mujer y la Vida que se realizará el 23 de febrero, en la que defendió el derecho a la vida y advirtió que en la conciencia de esta generación “está lo inaudito” de haber aprobado el aborto.

En su carta, el Prelado afirmó que la fiesta del 23 de febrero tiene como finalidad “la defensa de la vida humana y de la mujer”. Esta defensa de la vida es una “realidad de tanta importancia para la sociedad española” que a los políticos deberían estar “doliéndoles la cabeza en buscar en los próximos programas cómo conseguir generar vidas humanas y la defensa verdadera de la mujer”, señaló. Ya que, según precisa, “el programa del descenso de la natalidad humana es tan grave, que me consideraría un irresponsable, si no hablarla de este tema”. Una defensa “del valor primario de la vida humana” “desde su concepción hasta su extinción natural” que no compete sólo a la Iglesia, sino a toda la sociedad, también los políticos.

“En la conciencia de nuestra generación está lo inaudito de tener en España una ley del aborto, en la que se dice que este es declarado un derecho de la mujer. Ni siquiera dice de la pareja, sino de aquella que lleva en su seno una nueva vida humana”, afirmó. Esta baja natalidad es, según explicó el Prelado, una “situación insportable” para los católicos; pero también para la Europa laica y laica “es algo que se vuelve contra nuestra misma sociedad y su futuro”. Mons. Rodríguez subrayó que “los católicos defendemos no sólo cuidar de la vida durante toda la vida, también luchamos porque se preste atención a las condiciones de vida”, es decir, “todo lo que permite a una persona vivir de manera digna”. En ese sentido el Prelado apuntó que los movimientos por la defensa de la vida “son muy pocos en la izquierda española y tampoco abunden en el campo de la derecha”, se esfuerzan por multiplicar acciones, atenciones y iniciativas. Entre estas acciones en defensa de la vida, el Arzobispo destacó las que se realizan en la Archidiócesis de Toledo “con poquito dinero público”. Indicó que la defensa de la vida es “un asunto grave” que tiene su punto de apoyo “en la acogida de los que han sido generados, ya concebidos, y están todavía custodiados en el seno materno, en su seno de su madre como en un abrazo amoroso que los uno”. “Todo esto nos invita a ver, sin ideologías, la concepción y el nacimiento no como un hecho mecánico o solo físico de la perspectiva de la relación y de la comunión que une a la mujer y a su hijo”, afirmó, y subrayó que “defender la vida del hijo concebido es defender también, y de qué modo, la vida de la madre y su dignidad”. Por eso pregunta “¿cómo es posible que podamos considerar aún la generación de una nueva vida humana solamente una obra nuestra, hasta sentirnos con derecho a dispensar de ella como queramos? Es un disparate”. El Prelado recordó que el Papa Francisco dijo que “los concebidos son hijos de toda la sociedad, y su asesinato en un número enorme, con la aprobación de los Estados constituye un grave problema que socava en su base la construcción de la justicia...” “Extinguir la vida voluntariamente mientras está floreciendo es, en cualquier caso, una especie de traición a nuestra vocación, así como al pacto que siempre une a las generaciones, pacto que nos permite mirar adelante con esperanza”, subrayó, y alertó al riesgo de reducir la vida humana en “un bien de consumir, de usar y tirar, para nosotros y para los demás”. El Prelado concluyó, “el delito racial es un delito de soberanía, y un delito de los que cometen el delito reciben el castigo debido”. Al finalizar su mensaje, el Arzobispo de Toledo, Mons. Braulio Rodríguez, envió una carta con motivo de la Fiesta por la Mujer y la Vida que se realizará el 23 de febrero, en la que defendió el derecho a la vida y advirtió que en la conciencia de esta generación “está lo inaudito” de haber aprobado el aborto.

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Venezuela: Arzobispo Alerta De Graves
Consecuencias Tras Destrucción De Ayuda Humanitaria

CARACAS (ACI Prensa) - El Arzobispo de Ciudad Bolivar (Venezuela), Mons. Ulises Antonio Gutiérrez Reyes, advirtió de las "consecuencias muy graves" para el régimen de Nicolás Maduro tras la destrucción de la ayuda humanitaria que ingresó al país.

¡Atención Venezuela! Anúnciamos que los camiones de la ayuda humanitaria provenientes de Colombia ya están en territorio venezolano. El régimen usurpador está impidiendo su paso. No podrán con nuestra decisión irreversible de vivir en libertad.

A través de Twitter, Mons. Gutiérrez Reyes señaló que "los crímenes cometidos hoy, asesinando personas en las fronteras con Brasil y Colombia y la destrucción de la ayuda humanitaria, plantea otro escenario que traerá consecuencias muy graves para el régimen. Basta ya".

Horas antes, el Arzobispo de Ciudad Bolivar aseguró que "en toda Venezuela se libra hoy la gran batalla por la dignidad. Hoy es un día histórico pues el régimen. Basta ya".

La ayuda comunitaria coordinada por la comunidad internacional y el Presidente interino de Venezuela, Juan Guaidó, comenzó su ingreso a Venezuela este 23 de febrero desde Colombia, Brasil y Curazao. Sin embargo, grupos paramilitares y policiales del régimen de Maduro atacaron con disparos e incendiaron al menos tres vehículos que portaban alimentos, medicamentos y otros insumos para los venezolanos.

Se estima que al menos cuatro personas fueron asesinadas por los simpatizantes de Maduro y decenas resultaron heridos.

Guaidó destacó que el gobierno que encabeza el régimen usurpador está impidiendo su paso. "Dijeron que no íbamos a llegar a la frontera: llegamos todos y llegó el Pueblo a recibir la ayuda. Dijeron que la ayuda no iba a entrar; los camiones cruzan el país. Dijeron que tenían Pueblo: están solos y decenas de soldados los han abandonado".

Regulaciones para la Cuaresma del 2019 en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa

"El tiempo de Cuaresma tiene un doble carácter, principalmente para preparar a los catecúmenos y a los fieles para celebrar el misterio pascual. Los catecúmenos, con el Rito de la Elección y los Escrutinios y por la catequesis son preparados para la celebración de los sacramentos de la iniciación cristiana; los fieles, por una mayor atención a la Palabra de Dios y a la oración, se preparan ellos mismos por la penitencia para la celebración de la Santa Comunión frecuentemente durante la cuaresma y recibir el sacramento de la Penitencia de manera que puedan estar preparados para celebrar más conscientemente el Misterio Pascual. Aquellos que han recibido su Primera Comunión, deben recibir la Santa Comunión durante el tiempo Pascual."

La disciplina actual es como sigue:

- Miércoles de Ceniza y Viernes Santo son días de ayuno y abstinencia, esto es, limitarse a una sola y completa comida y abstenerse de comer carne.
- Los demás Viernes de Cuaresma son días de abstinencia.
- Las leyes del ayuno permiten una sola comida al día pero es posible tomar algo ligero en la mañana o según se prefiera, al mediodía o la noche. Las personas en buen estado de salud entre 18 y 60 años de edad están obligadas a ayunar.
- Las leyes de abstinencia de comer carne obligan a los mayores de 14 años. Sin embargo es altamente recomendable que niños entre 7 a 14 años también cumplan con la práctica de la abstinencia.
- A todos los católicos se les recomienda recibir la Santa Comunión frecuentemente durante la cuaresma y recibir el sacramento de la Penitencia de manera que puedan estar preparados para celebrar más conscientemente el Misterio Pascual. Aquellos que han recibido su Primera Comunión, deben recibir la Santa Comunión durante el tiempo Pascual.
- La determinación de los días obligatorios de penitencia, como está arriba, no debe ser entendida como limitante de la práctica de la penitencia. La penitencia es para ayudarnos a ver y acortar la distancia entre nuestras vidas presente la vida que Dios quiere para cada uno de nosotros. "La penitencia del tiempo cuaresmal no debe ser sólo interna e individual, sino también externa y social."
- Los matrimonios pueden celebrarse con la misa y siempre se debe dar la bendición nupcial. Sin embargo es contrario al espíritu de la cuaresma elaborar las bodas con muchas decoraciones o flores.
- Confirmación en la Vigilia Pascual: (1) El Obispo visitará pastoralmente a las Parroquias. Por escrito las razones porque lo solicita, y además deberá enviar al Obispo el nombre y la edad de ese/a candidato/a. Cualquier otro joven menor de dieciocho años entrará en esta categoría. Cuando el Sacerdote invite a confirmar deberá presentar por escrito las razones porque lo solicita, y además deberá enviar al Obispo el nombre y la edad de ese/a candidato/a. Cualquier otro joven menor de dieciocho años debe ser confirmado cuando el Obispo visite pastoralmente a las Parroquias. Por favor, note que el párrafo 27 del National Statutes for the Catechumenate establece que "La celebración del sacramento de la penitencia con los candidatos de la Confirmación y Eucaristía se debe hacer en un momento adecuado anteriormente y distinto del momento de la celebración de la Confirmación y la Eucaristía".
Celebration of Christian Brothers in California Slated for March, 2019

NAPA, CA February 11 The District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools has announced that it will sponsor a special celebration of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Brothers in California.

The celebration will take place on Saturday, March 16, 2019, in San Francisco. The day will begin at 11 a.m. with Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, San Francisco. Presiding will be His Excellency, the Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco. Most Reverend Thomas Daly, Bishop of Spokane, will be concelebrant and homilist. This will be followed at 12:30 p.m. by a reception in the Cathedral hall. Both events are open to the public.

According to planning committee chair person Brother James Joost, FSC, SFNO Auxiliary Visitor, the day will recognize the achievements of the De La Salle Christian Brothers in California, celebrating with the Lasallian family the life of the Brothers and their mission with their Partners in the world today.

On the evening of August 10, 1866, the first Brothers sailed into San Francisco Bay and the next day made the five-mile trip to Saint Mary’s College. At enrollment of 2,306. Current Lasallian schools in California include Cathedral High School, Los Angeles; Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento; Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School, Oakland; De La Salle Academy, Concord; De La Salle High School, Concord; De Marillac Academy, San Francisco; Justin-Siena High School, Napa; La Salle High School, Pasadena; Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, San Francisco; Saint Mary’s College of California, Moraga; and Saint Mary’s College High School, Berkeley.

The San Francisco event is one of three 2018-2019 Lasallian anniversary observances by the SFNO District under the theme, “Procuring God’s Glory from Generation to Generation.” In July, 2018, a District commemoration in New Orleans marked the 100th anniversary of the Christian Brothers’ continuous presence in Louisiana. Throughout 2019, the Institute will commemorate the 300th year since the entry into eternal life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and Patron Saint of Teachers of Youth.

For more information on the New Orleans celebration or on the De La Salle Christian Brothers, contact Brother James Joost, brojames@dlsi.org.

Most Reverend Thomas Daly, Bishop of Spokane, will be concelebrant and homilist.

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Calendar

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

March 16th
The Catholic Cursillo
Ultreya (pronounced Uf-trey-a), a monthly diocesan meeting for all current Cursillistas and those interested in the Cursillo, meets monthly. As its name implies, the Ultreya (meaning onward), is a call to move forward and to keep the flame of the Cursillo burning brightly. The Ultreya is a lively event including refreshments, music, prayer, a witness speaker, and spiritual reflection. The next Ultreya will be held Saturday, March 16, from 2 – 4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. For further information, call Molly Touchette at 707-292-8389 or Olga Dorado at 707-755-0022.

March 17th
Our Lady of Guadalupe
The Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef Dinner on March 17, 2019 in the Mary Agatha Furth Center hall at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church located at 8400 Old Redwood Hwy in Windsor. Doors open at 5:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Dinner includes corned beef and cabbage and all the trimmings. There is a no-host bar. Guests will be treated to special “Irish” entertainment. Tickets are $20.00 each for persons 12 years old and up. Tickets for children 11 through 6 years old are $3.00 and children under 6 are free. Tickets may be purchased after the 5:00pm mass on Saturday and the 9:00am mass on Sunday. Tickets are also available at the church office during normal business hours. The last day for ticket sales will be March 13th. For additional information, please call Bob Nickell (707)481-2267.

April 13th
Pilgrimage Information St. Rose
Pilgrimage Catholic Charities of California (CCC) is excited to be hosting walking pilgrimages in Spain along the Camino de Santiago, and in Italy along the Via Francigena, as well as non-walking pilgrimages visiting colonial Catholic churches in Cuba and following in the footsteps of martyrs in Mexico! These pilgrimages will change your life and support the work of Catholic Charities of California.

Please join us for an informational meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Rose Church, Santa Rosa, or at 2:00 p.m. at St. Francis Solano Church, Sonoma. To RSVP for the meeting or, for more information, contact CCC pilgrim@catholiccharities.ca.org or call 916-706-1539 ext. 12.

Ongoing in Santa Rosa
Catholic Charities’ Senior Transportation Program is a free service for seniors 60+ living in Santa Rosa. Our dedicated and trained volunteer drivers take seniors to medical appointments, grocery shopping and other similar errands. Medical appointments are given priority. Our program operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To schedule a ride, call 707-526-2063 and leave a message with your ride request the week before you need your scheduled ride.

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

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

❖

Brother James Joost, brojames@dlsi.org.

Most Reverend or on the De La Salle Christian Brothers, contact
Brother James Joost, brojames@dlsi.org.
In November 2018, the town of Paradise and surrounding areas in Butte County were ravaged by the worst wildfire in state history. Paradise itself was virtually obliterated and nearly 90 lives were lost in the Camp Fire, one of the nation’s deadliest.

Indeed, the Catholic Church, as a whole, has always sought to provide both material and spiritual support in times of peril. "The fire and its aftermath have displayed since this horrific event wreaked havoc on our county," reflected Heinert. "It's been heartwarming to watch the kindness and selflessness our students have displayed since this horrific event wreaked havoc on our county," reflected Heinert.

For those interested in supporting the Diocese’s effort to provide tuition-free education to families affected by the Camp Fire, the Diocese has created a special Camp Fire Student fund. Monies collected by the fund will be used to pay for uniforms, school materials, hot lunches, field trips, and other educational expenses. The diocese also plans on using the donations to assist currently enrolled school families who were affected by the fire and are in need of material and tuition relief. Donations can be made at https://www.scd.org/catholic-foundation/camp-fire-student-fund.

Sacramento Camp Fire Tuition Fund - https://www.scd.org/catholic-foundation/camp-fire-student-fund

More on Education - https://www.cacatholic.org/education

March 17: St. Patrick
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, a non-profit and the largest human services provider in the North Bay, serves the most vulnerable regardless of their religious, social, or economic background. We challenge poverty, counsel immigrants, and care for our seniors by supporting the dignity and independence of all we serve. We support, educate, create opportunities, ensure the well-being of our staff, and engage community leaders in the betterment of those most in need.

Want to be Part of our Team?

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Case Manager I, II & III

Position Summary

The Community & Recovery Case Manager Level I, II and III provides case management services to clients of Catholic Charities. The Case Manager is responsible for providing client assessment to clients who were affected by the 2017 Fires; the purpose of this position is to provide long-term support to families as they rebuild their homes and their lives.

Case management activities will include determining appropriate financial assistance including but not limited to access rental subsidy assistance to obtain long-term housing; facilitation of credit counseling and financial education, guiding participants with the development, implementation and monitoring of individualized opportunity plans, providing assistance with finding and accessing appropriate related community resources and assisting participants with identifying and overcoming any barriers to access services and achieving goals. This position is full-time, non-exempt with a starting salary of $18 to $22 (Level I, II & III).

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Assistant Director of Shelter & Housing

Position Summary

Catholic Charities is seeking an Assistant Director of Housing Programs to oversee the operations of the housing programs within the shelter and housing department. Responsibilities include facilities, grants management, reporting related to grants compliance, human resources, accreditation, systems operations and enhancements and program management. This position plays a key role in meeting agency goals for housing programs within the shelter and housing department. Responsibilities include facilities, grants management, reporting related to grants compliance, human resources, accreditation, systems operations and enhancements and program management. This position plays a key role in meeting agency goals for

PERKS

10 Vacation days per year
13 Holidays per year
Very Affordable Health, Vision and Dental Insurance
Referral Bonus for employees
403b Plan with 5.5% contribution
Team Spirit and Supportive Work Environment
Great Organizational Mission

Visit our website at www.srcharities.org/about/careers

for an Application and additional information about this position and other exciting opportunities at Catholic Charities.

We look forward to receiving your completed application, resume and cover letter.

Administrative Office - 987 Airway Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 528-8712 • Fax (707) 575-4910

Want to be Part of our Team?

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Case Manager I, II & III

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