Amoris Laetitia Don’t Believe All the Headlines

As one who has perpetrated acts of journalism on the unsuspecting public, I admit that headlines can’t tell the whole story. If they could, there’d be no reason for articles. Still, headlines can get things more or less right. They can inform as well as provoke, without misleading.

Unfortunately, many headlines regarding Pope Francis’ recent apostolic exhortation, Amoris Laetitia, a.k.a., The Joy of Love, got a lot wrong. They provoked, all right, but at the expense of informing.

Consider USA Today’s headline: “Pope has good news for divorced, but not for gays”. Actually, Pope Francis has “good news” for everybody—divorced, non-divorced, married, unmarried, homosexual, and heterosexual people. It’s the good news of God’s pur-

May is the Month of Mary

May is known as the month of Mary. Many people join in with their families and friends to pray the Rosary.

WHY THE DAILY ROSARY?

• Our Lady has 117 titles. She selected this title at Fatima: “I am the Lady of the Rosary.”
• St. Francis de Sales said the greatest method of praying is to Pray the Rosary.
• St. Thomas Aquinas preached 40 straight days in Rome Italy on just the Hail Mary.
• St. John Vianney, patron of priests, was seldom seen without a rosary in his hand.
• “The rosary is the scourge of the devil” —Pope Adrian VI
• “The rosary is a treasure of graces” —Pope Paul V
• Padre Pio the stigmatic priest said: “The Rosary is THE WEAPON.”
• Pope Leo XIII wrote 9 encyclicals on the rosary.
• Pope John XXIII spoke 38 times about our Lady and the Rosary. He prayed 15 decades daily.
• St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort wrote: “The rosary is the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, Our Redeemer, who so loves His Mother.”

For May, often called Mary’s month in popular devotion, we offer you some articles for contemplation; Mary’s month, ways to celebrate, and a practical suggestion for a Marian coronation.

Liturgical Celebrations for Mary in May

Two Marian liturgical celebrations are commemorated in May. When Ascension falls in May, the Saturday after the Ascension of Our Lord is traditionally celebrated as the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles. The liturgy commemorates the period of time after the Ascension when the apostles were gathered in prayer with Mary.

(see Month of Mary, p. 8)
The Joy of Love

The recently published long awaited Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis, titled The Joy of Love is a very important document and needs to be read. I say it needs to be read, not because of the variety of relatively controversial things some might hope to find there but rather because it is a very beautiful statement about marriage.

The section of the Exhortation which I believe can have the greatest impact on marriage begins with paragraph 90. There Pope Francis begins a discussion of Saint Paul’s beautiful definition of love. As the Holy Father writes: “In a lyrical passage of Saint Paul, we see some of the features of true love: “Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor 13:4-7). Love is experienced and nurtured in the daily life of couples and their children. It is helpful to think more deeply about the meaning of this Pauline text and its relevance for the concrete situation of every family.”

The Holy Father then offers two paragraphs on each of the stated characteristics of true love. The first paragraph is largely metaphorical and instrumental. The second pastoral. I offer here a portion of the two paragraphs in which the Holy Father draws out the meaning and practical application of the passage which points out that love “is not arrogant or rude”. I do this to what your appetite so that you will be enticed to take up the document and read it in its entirety.

In paragraph 99 we read: To love is also to be gentle and thoughtful, and this is conveyed by the next word, achemonii. It indicates that love is not rude or impolite; it is not harsh. Its actions, words and gestures are pleasing and not abrasive or rigid. Love abhors making one’s appetite so that you will be enticed to take up the document and read it in its entirety.

From the Bishop

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

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NORTH COAST CATHOLIC  The newspaper of the Diocese of Santa Rosa

 Moor Rock, Robert F. Vasa  PUBLISHER

 Most Rev. Robert F. Vasa  PUBLISHER

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The dramatic situation in which Catholics find themselves today, particularly in the Middle East, should be a clarion call for us to remember a hero who seems to be widely forgotten today: Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty. It is high time that we recall his heroism, animated by his ardent faith, and that his life—he was a “dry martyr”—gives strength and courage to those facing similar trials today. May the Church soon give him the honor of the altars, for indeed, he was a saint.

When Nazism was defeated in 1945 many were those who acclaimed peace, while closing their eyes to the fact that monsters often have two heads, and that rejoicing the fact that the one of Nazism had been cut off did not allow us to forget that there was another one—still more dangerous because injecting its poison more cleverly.

Few were those like Dietrich von Hildebrand who, having receiving the gift of clear sightedness, went public and declared the non-aggression pact between Stalin and Hitler in 1939 to be the “hour of truth,” hoping thereby—to open the public’s eyes to the fact that these two vicious dictators were partners in crime. In 1945, Hitler’s death was acclaimed as a promise of universal peace, totally overlooking that the two headed monster of Nazism and communism still there had one left—and the more dangerous one. For the philosophy of racism based on the glorification of the “blond beast” was so incredibly stupid that one was tempted to question the intellectual sanity of those endorsing it. Moreover, it was bound to be defeated because the majority of human beings do not qualify having brown, black and even red hair. Communism was much more subtle and more dangerous: opening people’s eyes to the shocking abyss separating the rich sometimes living in insane luxury (the minority) from the poor (the majority) and therefore inviting the noble hearted to join their flanks and achieve the noble goal of a “paradise” for the worker.

It was a sort of willful blindness to the danger of communism. One of the never ending temptation of mankind is to endorse the view that the state can solve all problems and, by means of laws and social reforms, reestablish an earthly paradise. In fact, it is the Gospel and the Gospel alone that has a golden key to many of man’s problems and sufferings, and this is something that “modern man” is closing his eyes to, for the Gospel teaches us that before changing the world man should change himself. We could describe revolutionaries as men who want to reform the world, but refuse to change themselves.

The Golden Calf will never lose its attraction and I fear that if many people—by some magic—would become billionaires overnight, they would be as ruthlessly selfish as some (not far from all) are today. For money is the door not only to comfort, but also to
Eucharistic Miracle in Poland Tested and Confirmed by Bishop

April 22, 2016 by Gretchen Filz

Once again, our Lord has granted the Church a Eucharistic Miracle to strengthen our faltering faith in, and proper reverence toward, this central teaching of the Catholic faith: When Jesus said, “This is my body,” and, “This is my blood,” he meant it literally.

So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?”

Jesus answered them . . . I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh . . .

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.” (John 6)

A Eucharistic Miracle is when God allows us to see with our own eyes the consecrated host as it truly is—the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. But it is not unique. We experience a Eucharistic miracle at every Mass. Every Holy Communion that we receive into our bodies is the same miracle. We just can’t detect it with our senses, but by faith and effect we know it to be true. And it is a holy and fearful thing.

As reported by CNA/EWTN News this week: A bleeding Host that “has the hallmarks of a Eucharistic miracle” was approved for veneration in Poland over the weekend.

The announcement was made by Bishop Zbigniew Kiernikowski of Legnica on April 17.

On Christmas Day 2013, a consecrated Host fell to the floor and then was picked up and placed in a water-filled container (vasculum). Soon after, stains of the red colour appeared. The former Bishop of Legnica, Stefan Cichy, set up a commission to monitor the host. In February 2014, a small fragment was placed on a corporal and underwent testing by various research institutes.

As the Bishop of Legnica I hereby announce to the public and inform about an event that took place in the parish of St. Jack in Legnica which has the signs of the Eucharistic miracle. On 25th December, 2013 during the distribution of the Holy Communion, a consecrated Host fell to the floor and then was picked up and placed in a water-filled container (vasculum). Soon after, stains of the red colour appeared. The former Bishop of Legnica, Stefan Cichy, set up a commission to observe the phenomenon. In February 2014, a tiny red fragment of the Host was separated and put on a corporal. The Commission ordered to take samples in order to conduct the thorough tests by the relevant research institutes.

In the final announcement of the Department of Forensic Medicine we read as follows: In the histopathological image, the fragments of tissue have been found containing the fragmented parts of the cross striated muscle. (…) The whole (…) is most similar to the heart muscle with alterations that often appear during the agony. The genetic researches indicate the human origin of the tissue.

In January this year I presented the whole matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Vatican. Today, according to the recommendations (see Eucharistic Miracle, p. 6)
Blessed Rose Venerini  5/7 Blessed Rose Venerini  5/8 Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine
Here’s NPR: On Divorce, Contraception, Pope Calls For More Grace, Less Dogma. Contraception gets thrown in with divorce here. Pope Francis did briefly talk about contraception: he repeated the Church’s teaching against it (no. 68 and no. 222) and criticized state efforts to impose contraception (no. 42).

If we use the word “dogma” loosely again to stand for settled Catholic teaching, then we can say Pope Francis reiterated “dogma” here. He upheld Catholic teaching about openness to life and therefore opposition to contraception. It’s not clear that he called for less dogma. In fact, since grace and mercy are part of “settled Catholic teaching”, if we use dogma (again, loosely) for settled Catholic teaching, then Francis’ emphasis on grace and mercy amounts to a greater emphasis on certain aspects of dogma. That means more dogma, not less, in a sense.

But it’s true to say that Francis is concerned with how “dogma” gets applied. While upholding Catholic moral teaching on marriage and family, he doesn’t want moral teaching to be used as if it were stones to be thrown at those who sin or otherwise fall short, as we have interpreted (no 305). Some people have interpreted that as a loosening up on Catholic teaching, but in fact it involves a particular pastoral strategy or emphasis on how teaching is to be presented and how pastors (and others) should respond when people don’t live the teaching.

“In order to avoid all misunderstanding,” Francis insists, “I would point out that in no way must the Church desist from proposing the full ideal of marriage, God’s plan in all its grandeur … A Luke-warm attitude, any kind of relativism, or an undue reticence in proposing that ideal, would be a lack of fidelity to the Gospel and also of love on the part of the Church for young people themselves. To show understanding in the face of exceptional situations never implies dimming the light of the fuller ideal, or proposing less than what Jesus offers to the human being” (no. 307).

We’ve considered only a few of the headlines. Some were further off the mark than others. I’ll close with a final headline—from Catholic News Agency/ EWTN: No doctrinal change from Pope Francis— but a call for better pastoral care. Headlines can’t say everything but among the headlines I’ve seen that one seems most accurate. It also sums up the profound challenge of The Joy of Love: to apply better what we believe to family life.

Mark Brumley is President of the Board of Directors of Guadalupe Associates and Chief Executive Officer for Ignatius Press. He also oversees the online magazines for Ignatius Press, is project coordinator for the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, and is editor of Ignatius Press’s Modern Apologetics Library and A Study Guide for Joseph Ratzinger’s Jesus of Nazareth, A Study Guide for Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week, and YOUCAT Study Guide. He is associate publisher of IgnatiusInsight.com. His articles have appeared in a wide variety of publications. Mark lives in Napa, California with his wife and children.

The Joy of Love

Profound challenge of

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Advice from psychological experts, drawing on Catholic faith and modern psychology

Q: I am constantly overwhelmed with the amount of responsibilities and activities going on in my life. I feel like my anxiety is getting worse and I can’t seem to relax or slow down. How do I cope with the busyness of life when it is so hard to say no?

Response: William McKenna, M.S.; Clinical Psychology Extern at Catholic Charities

This problem with being too busy is, believe it or not, one of the most common problems in American life. When I was in college, I also had this problem and it became almost unbearable. One day, I ran into a priest on campus and he asked how I was doing. I told him about my anxiety over being so busy. He simply responded with the following: “Why have you chosen to become so busy?” I could not believe his answer! I didn’t feel that being busy was a choice on my part! But then I thought about it and realized that he was right, I had chosen to become busy.

Every extra-curricular, every invitation that I had agreed to, all of what I was doing was my choice. I realized that my vocation at that time was to be a college student and I did not have to be in a million other extracurricular activities. Indeed, those extra things were ultimately causing me anxiety by putting more noise into my life, preventing me from having silence and time for reflection and self-care.

Now, I am not claiming that we should not engage in some activities outside of our work. Leisure is incredibly important for mental health and societal well-being. Activities that provide social outlets as well as time to “recharge” are helpful in keeping a person well-rounded and can even be a wonderful chance to grow in virtue. The problem arises when those things become sources of anxiety rather than sources of joy and relaxation.

The heart of the predicament that you are now suffering is connected not just with the choice to become busy, but also with the belief that saying no to others will negatively affect your relationship with them, your self-image, or both. At the core of the need to be busy is the belief that without some work or occupation, we lose our value both to others and to ourselves. When we believe this, our self-worth becomes directly tied to how much accomplish or do and how well we do it.

One possible solution to this belief is to remind yourself that your worth and value are not based on how much you do. If you feel that a certain activity or commitment is causing you unnecessary distress or anxiety, drop it! It will probably be hard. No one wants to appear flaky or uncommitted, but it’s way better than developing anxiety or a stomach ulcer because of it. If those changes do not give you the relief you are looking for, then I would recommend going to see a therapist to work on your deeper and more personal reasons for desiring to be so busy. Finally, remember that your ultimate dignity and worth come from Christ and no matter what you do or what other people think of you, His love for you will never change.

The Institute for the Psychological Sciences is a Catholic graduate school of psychology founded in 1999 dedicated to the scientific study of psychology with a Catholic understanding of the person, marriage and the family. IPS is located in Arlington, VA.
John 3:16 and the Image of Divine Mercy

by Chris Lyford

During this year of Mercy, we have been given many opportunities to come across an image of the Divine Mercy, the image that Jesus directed Saint Faustina to render of Himself taking a step toward us, and offering us his heart. Every day I drive on a very busy street and I see a 5 foot “Divine Mercy” image mounted with a wooden frame about three feet from the sidewalk. The property owner placed it right there at an intersection where literally hundreds of cars stop each day.

Below the image the phrase “Jesus I trust in You” is visible. It’s really a very beautiful, yet unobtrusive ‘work of mercy’ that I am sure many more than I benefit from on an almost a daily basis. There are many graces attached to this image, and thankfully one need not be a theologian to access them!

Unlike some forms of nonverbal communication, facial expressions are universal. The facial expressions for happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, fear, and disgust are the same across cultures.

In the Image of Divine Mercy, we see Jesus communicating with simple body language (which is 80% of how we humans communicate). He is looking right at us, pointing to His heart, raising his hand in blessing, and actually walking toward us. The only way to describe the look on his face is that it is one of mercy. In addition to the image he wanted Faustina to include a phrase for us to pray as we contemplate him. No matter which language is used, the message is the same: Jesus is saying “place your trust in me, my attitude toward you is one of love and mercy”. He is even giving us the words with which to respond.

Everything about the image communicates the Gospel message. Jesus is saying “I did not come into the world to condemn the world but to save it.”

Many of us remember seeing the John 3:16 guy with the rainbow wig showing up on sporting event broadcasts in the 1980’s waving a sign that simply said “John 3:16” (For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life). That’s a pretty positive message, if it’s true. And it IS true.

The fact is, some day we will all meet Jesus in person. He’s about 5’9” according to the scientific studies of the Shroud of Turin. Just imagine yourself standing in front of Jesus, looking into His eyes and realizing that he knows absolutely everything about you. If you are like me you will quickly realize your own unworthiness, and have an urge to find a fig leaf to hide under. And yet, in the image of Divine Mercy, Jesus doesn’t turn away in judgement, in fact he is pointing to his heart, and attempting to communicate to anyone who gazes upon Him that he has nothing but pure love for us.

The whole point of the message of Divine Mercy is that Jesus wants us to take advantage of his infinite reservoir of mercy, so that we can take a look at Him, take a good look at ourselves, and take a better look at the difference.

And yet He wants us to know that He himself will make up the difference by taking the step towards us.

Sin brings paralysis. When we are in sin, we lack grace and we are stuck in concrete unable to move toward God on our own power. He is showing us that all we have to do is say the words “Jesus I Trust In You” and he will take the steps necessary to reach out to us, grab ahold of our hand, and pull us into eternity. No fire, no brimstone, no guilt trip, no nagging.

As these weeks and months of the Year of Mercy continue (with the political, cultural, and personal storms that are now in full swing), let’s do everything we can to spend a few minutes every day to contemplate Jesus’ Divine Mercy.

Maybe we can do this by just keeping an image of the Divine Mercy by our bed and letting it be the last thing we see before we go to sleep and the first thing we look at when we awake. Perhaps we can just imagine Jesus looking at us all day long remembering His love and forgiveness for us. And perhaps more importantly, in all of our interactions with others, whether about politics, Church teaching, culture, or pet peeves, we can always imagine the face of Jesus looking at us, and try to imitate it. It’s time to focus on the verse after John 3:16, which says “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” During this year of Mercy, God is offering everyone a chance to “get right” with him, and the first step in doing that is to make a decision to reach out to Him through His Son. May we be recipients of His Mercy through our heartfelt daily prayer, as well as vessels of His Mercy in all our interactions.

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

(Eucharistic Miracle, cont. from page 3)

of the Holy See, I ordered the parish vicar Andrzej Ziombro to prepare a suitable place for a display of the Relic so that the faithful could give it the proper adoration. Hereby, I also ask for providing the visitors with information and conducting the regular teaching that could fulﬁll the faithful to have the proper attitude to the eucharistic cult. I also command to form a book that could help the faithful to have the proper attitude in all our interactions.

I hope that this will serve to deepen the cult of the Eucharist and will have deep impact on the lives of people facing the Relic. We see the misterious Sign as an extraordinary act of love and goodness of God, who comes to humans in ultimate humiliation.

I cordially ask for your prayer and I bless you.

Gretchen is a recent convert who is completely in love with the Catholic faith. She is very active in RCIA, in pro-life ministry, and as a Lay Dominican. She holds an M.A. in Christian Apologetics and has a heart for helping people learn more about the Catholic Church. She currently works on copywriting, content marketing, and social media for The Catholic Company.

May 31: The Visitation of Mary

Letters Policy

Email: srdiocese1@gmail.com
Write: Letters to the Editor
North Coast Catholic
985 Airway Ct.,
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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

NOTE: Views of correspondents do not necessarily reflect those of this publication.
It’s Really About the Children

by Julie Sparacio

For the first time since the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was implemented, the Diocese of Santa Rosa was found non-compliant during our annual audit. The auditors felt that while the diocese had strong programs in place, they could not adequately gauge compliance. They reached that conclusion because of the apparent lack of cooperation between some of our entities and the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Diocesan policy requires that no one begin work until a background check and training has been completed. In spite of that requirement, we are able to verify that only 17 locations are currently 100% compliant. Those Safe Environment Coordinators are to be complimented!

Christ the King - Carol Clymo
Church of the Assumption - Carolyn Luster
Our Lady of the Redwoods - Jill McClure
Our Lady Queen of Peace - Julie Swehla
St. Anthony Church, Mendocino - Marietta Coyle
St. Apollinaris School - Anna Cardwell
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church - Char Mayclin
St. Eugene School - Joan Gagas
St. Joan of Arc Church - Nubia Jimenez
St. Joseph Church, Middletown - Sandy Hood
St. Leo the Great Church - Nancy Gibson
St. Mary Immaculate Church - Barbara McIntyre
St. Sebastian Church - Deacon Tino Vera
St. Vincent Church - Sally Doolittle
St. Vincent High School, Terese Doolittle
Star of the Valley Church - Sharon Charlton
Catholic Cemeteries - Angela Scheiling

What about the rest? If people aren’t allowed to work until they are compliant, how is it possible that we have so few locations at 100%? There are some important facts to consider. When someone is fingerprinted for the diocese, we receive information about any arrests and we use this information to determine suitability. An individual may be banned or restricted from working or volunteering, depending on the information contained in the arrest report. We also get information about any subsequent arrests. Over the last 13 years, I have received arrest records for various people who have wanted to work or volunteer in our diocese. Some of the information received occurred before they came to us, and some occurred after they left. Some occurred while they worked with us. Examples of the arrests that have come in range from DUI’s to battery, assault with a deadly weapon, stalking, willful cruelty to a child, lewd and lascivious acts with a minor, sexual battery and sexual intercourse with a minor. Yes, these were people who either hoped to work with our children or had at one time! Most of our people are good, hard working individuals who want to serve God through the work of our diocese, but occasionally, another type tries to get past the blocks we have in place. This is why we must be diligent to do a background check on every person.

The training is another story. In the past, I think people were hesitant to speak out when they saw something suspicious. That isn’t true anymore; people are very willing to speak up, to report inappropriate behavior. Our current training teaches people what to look for, what to be suspicious of, and what to do with that information. So why aren’t people completing the training? What good is a voice, if your eyes are blind? I am afraid, that over the years we have become somewhat bored with the whole topic. Many of us have done the training—several times. Many people are tired of the whole subject and want to put that terrible crisis behind us. There is even a phrase for it—Charter Fatigue. As long as there are sinful nature-child abuse will continue to exist. The Church must be a safe haven for children. We adults must do everything we can to build a solid fence around the children in our care—predators are out there, looking for an opening. When we slack off and get lackadaisical about this, we allow them in.

The purpose of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is to protect our children. The purpose of the audit is to discover weaknesses so we can correct them. We have found our weakness and it looks an awful lot like Charter Fatigue. What are you going to do about it? 

MOTHERS

by Judy Barrett

In May—in addition to the Ascension, Pentecost and Corpus Christi—we celebrate the month of Mary, Mother’s Day and the liturgical Festival of the Visitation. That’s plenty to inspire contemplation for 31 days!

The Visitation always captures my imagination. According to St. Luke’s Gospel account, the young Mary, fresh with the awesome realization that she is miraculously to be the mother of the Messiah, makes her way from Nazareth in Galilee to visit her older cousin Elizabeth, who though thought to be barren, is now pregnant with John the Baptist. Can you imagine the wonder these two women had? Imagine the talks these two women had? Imagine the wonder-ment they expressed to one another, the wisdom they shared, and the quiet, homely tasks they worked at together, preparing for the births of their sons.

They were humble, simple women. They lived in obscurity in a backwater of the Roman Empire. With great faith they remained completely open to the workings of God’s plan in their lives. Who would have imagined then that because they lived out God’s will even when it seemed incomprehensible, two thousand years later their names would still be spoken with reverence around the world and that millions of people would call Mary “Mother.”

How many humble, simple people do we overlook today? We live in a pragmatic materialistic culture that ranks achievement and usefulness as major human values and too often we marginalize the poor, the sick, the elderly; in short, all those who don’t “produce.” In contrast, our Catholic faith teaches that we are created in the image of God and that all—all—human life is sacred, from conception to natural death.

Pope Benedict beautifully expressed human dignity with these words: “We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.”

My mother died several years ago at 93. She had Alzheimer’s. She needed 24/7 care. As the world sees, often in her last years she said to me “I don’t know why God keeps me around; I’m not good for much.” My response was always the same: “God needs you here to pray for your children and grandchildren.” And invariably, her face would light up as she proclaimed with delight, “I do, every day!”

Given the extent of my mother’s memory loss, I doubt she spent much of every day reciting the Our Father. But, I’m certain that with all of its frustrations and sufferings and sorrows, as well as the simple things that brought her joy, her whole life was one great offering of herself in prayer, and that our Lord understood everything she was unable to express in words. In her last years she taught me much about courage, humility, acceptance and patient endurance.

How blessed we are by the universal motherhood of Mary. How blessed we are by our mothers, grandmothers, and all the women who have nurtured us, taught us, fused over us, taken us to task when we needed correction, and who continue to pray for us on our journeys through life. This May, let’s celebrate motherhood and maternal love.

Mrs. Barrett is a frequent contributor to the North Coast Catholic. This article is adapted from her blog previously posted on the California Catholic Conference website www.cacatholic.org and is used with permission.
Mary Month—Why May?
The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary in many cultures. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. Already in Greek culture, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Roman culture, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of bloom, of blossoms. The Romans celebrated ludi florales (literally: floral games) at the end of April, asking the intercession of Flora for all that blooms. This is also related to the medieval practice of expelling winter. May 1 was considered the beginning of growth.

At one time, the custom of having a Mary-month was independent from the month of May as such:

A very old tradition known as Tricesimum (or: Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary; also called Lady Month) was originally held from August 15 - September 14. The exact dates or origin of this devotion are unknown, but the custom is still practiced here and there.

Mary Month, as yet unrelated to a specific period, has been known since baroque times (Sources: Johannes Nadasi; Theophilus Marianus, 1664; J. X. Jacolet, Mensis Marianus, 1724). This devotion was comprised of about thirty spiritual exercises in honor of Mary.

Since medieval times, we have had the combination between Mary and the month of May. Among the earliest witnesses are: Alphonsus X. “el sabio;” King of Castille, Spain (1221-1284) with his “Cantigas de Santa Maria”; “Ben venida Mayo.” Here and elsewhere, both Mary and the month of May are greeted, welcomed and celebrated on specific days in May. Later, the whole month of May became the month of Mary. On each day of this month, special devotions to Mary were organized. This custom originated in Italy (for example: Ferrara, 1784).

It was spread widely during the nineteenth century, a century well-known for its monthly devotions (Heart of Jesus in June; Rosary in October).

Ways to Celebrate Mary’s Month
There are many ways to celebrate this particular devotion. Most churches have a daily recitation of the rosary. Some include the crowning of Our Lady’s statue. The important thing is that Mary be honored in a special way. At one time, the domestic celebrations of the month of May were widespread, especially by setting up a small May altar in the home.

May crowning became popular in the United States, especially prior to Vatican II. This practice continues in many parishes today. A statue of Mary is honored with a wreath of flowers on Mary’s image. This ceremony usually took place in May and often in the context of a vigil or procession. The ceremony usually takes place in the context of a public parish devotion outside of the liturgy.

May Crowning Suggestions
Everyone Crowns
Recommendation for pre-schoolers and younger elementary school children. Have all the children participate. Here’s how:

Make a big crown out of chicken wire or similar wire with holes large enough to stick flower stems through it. A good size for a normal congregation is about two and half feet high and three feet wide. (Once this is made, your parish can use it year after year.) The crown will be “flat” - or semi-curved. Set it up in front of the main altar or in front of the Marian altar - just high enough so the congregation can see, but that the children can reach it. You may wish to pre-decorate the edges somewhat with greens.

Have every child bring whatever flowers can be found: lilacs, dandelions... or even just green leaves or fresh tips of evergreens. Most little children know the joy of bringing mom a gift of a bouquet. (Be sure to have a pair of extra for those who forget; funeral homes are very obliging in providing suggestions, too.) The little bouquet stands for the love the child has for mom. This also applies to our love for Mary, Jesus’ mother and our mother.

Explain that every flower is different! Every flower is God’s gift. This one reminds us of this, and that of that. There truly is no one single symbolic meaning to any flower. The children can be creative and think of whatever it means to them.

Ideal would be that your Mary statue (or icon/picture!) also has Jesus on it! Mother and Child undivided! You can then explain to the little ones that the reason we thank Mary is that she brought Jesus to us. We thank Mary and love her because she loved Jesus! She also loves us and wants to do everything possible to bring us to Jesus. When Jesus was a little boy, He probably picked His mother flowers, too—just as we do—and took them to Mary!

During the actual ceremony, have a procession that EVERYONE takes part in. During the procession decades of the rosary, interspersed with songs, can be prayed and sung.

Have three “moms” positioned behind the crown. The children (and all participants) stick in the flower stems, the moms pull from behind to make sure the flowers stay in and get spaced a bit. Line the little ones up two or three in a row in the procession so that it goes quickly enough. (Too long is very bad for the little ones!)

The crown will last only a day, but it will be beautiful! The children will ALL have crowned, and it will have been a joyful time for them.

Brief History of Coronation
Since the Council of Nicaea in 787, the Church has often asserted that it is lawful to venerate images of Christ, Mary and the saints. This is an ancient practice of the Christian churches in both the East and in the West. As an official, liturgical Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary [published in 1987 by the United States Catholic Conference] states:

Coronation of Mary: Coronation is one form of reverence frequently shown to images of the Blessed Virgin Mary. ... It is especially from the end of the sixteenth century that in the West the practice became widespread for the faithful, both religious and laity, to crown images of the Blessed Virgin. The popes not only endorsed this devout custom but “on many occasions, either personally or through bishop-delegates, carried out the coronation of Marian images.”

[See Pius XII, Encyclical Ad Caeli Reginam, Oct 11, 1954]

In the seventeenth century a special rite was composed for the coronation of religious images of Jesus, Mary and the saints. In the nineteenth century a rite was written for crowning images of Mary. New rites were approved by the Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship in Rome of March 25, 1981. The English translation was approved by the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States on March 24, 1987 and confirmed ad interim by the Apostolic see by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship on May 22, 1987. The new Order of Crowning includes three types of coronation. (for the full rite see: http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/resources/crowning.html)

Why put a crown on Mary’s head?
The queen symbol was attributed to Mary because she is a perfect follower of Christ, who is the absolute ‘crown’ of creation. As the Order of Crowning states:

She is the Mother of the Son of God, who is the messianic King. Mary is the Mother of Christ, the Word incarnate.... "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and his kingdom there will be no end." [Luke 1:32-33]... Elizabeth greeted the Blessed Virgin, pregnant with Jesus, as “the mother of my Lord.” [Luke 1:41-43]

She is the perfect follower of Christ. The maid of Nazareth consented to God’s plan; she journeyed on the pilgrimage of faith; she listened to God’s word and kept it in her heart; she remained steadfastly in close union with her Son, all the way to the foot of the cross; she persevered in prayer with the Church. Thus in an ever-growth she won the “crown of righteousness,” [See 2 Timothy 4:8] the “crown of life,” [See James 1:12; Revelation 2:10] the “crown of glory” [See 1 Peter 5:4] that is promised to those who follow Christ.

How is Mary crowned?
In the United States, a custom developed that grew in popularity prior to the Vatican II council. In parishes, at Marian shrines, and at grottos, someone was chosen to place a wreath of flowers on Mary’s image. This ceremony usually took place in May and often in the context of a vigil or procession. In the United States, a rite was written for the blessing of the Blessed Virgin statue [published in 1987].

The Order of Crowning, however, as mentioned here, is an official, liturgical act fittingly carried out by the diocesan bishop or delegate. It may take place at any time of the year, fittingly on solennities and feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary or on other festive days. As the Order of Crowning states, “...it should be noted that it is proper to crown only those images to which the faithful come with a confidence in the Mother of the Lord so strong that the images are of great renown and their sites centers of genuine liturgical cultus and of religious vitality. For a sufficient period before the celebration of the rite, the faithful should be instructed on its meaning and purely religious nature... The crown ... should be fashioned out of material of a kind that will symbolize the singular dignity of the Blessed Virgin.” The instructions ask that the crown nevertheless be simple and avoid “opulence.”

Mary’s prayers for us and our intentions are requested. We rejoice with her that one day we may share her dignity when we ourselves may receive the “crown of glory.”

❖

[5/18 St. John I • 5/19 St. Celestine V • 5/20 St. Bernadine of Siena • 5/21 Blessed Eugene de Mazenod]
Daughter Got a Secret Kik Account—
Just a Few Hours Later, Her Nightmare Started

by Whitney Fleming

“My 12-year-old thought it would be fun to get a Kik account, and she did so against my rules…within 24 hours she was being blackmailed for nude photos.”

As a mom, and a communications professional in the technology space, I’ve heard some pretty scary stories about kids’ use of social media. Predators lurking on Facebook, bullying happening via Twitter and even suspicious activity occurring on Minecraft.

As parents, we try to stay on top of what our kids are doing, but the technology seems to be outpacing our ability to monitor. And there seems to be a new breed of apps out there that are wreaking havoc on our children. Snapchat and askFM seem to be particularly problematic. Well, at least that was before a friend—someone I have no doubt is an engaged mother—wrote the following words to me:

“I want to share my story to as many moms as possible, so it doesn’t happen to anyone else.”

I thought she would share a bullying story gone wrong, but it was much, much worse. My heart ached for her — but even more for her 12-year-old daughter.

You see, we continue as parents to try to give our kids an inch of technology so they can feel accepted and part of their generation. We often complain that we see only the tops of our kids’ heads because their noses are always in their phones — but we don’t take them away or limit their use. We think we have explained the rules, controlled the mechanism, established boundaries — but then a new company comes along with a new “app” that is better, faster, easier in every way, and it probably is. Until it’s used for evil and not its original intent.

And we don’t even know it’s happening.

Enter Kik (and several other messengers that fly under the radar of parental controls because they are apps. And oh yeah, kids can delete the messages so they are no longer on their device — although they can remain on the recipients.)

Kik Messenger (launched in late 2010, but gained a lot of popularity in 2012) is an instant messaging app for mobile devices. The app is available on most iOS, Android, and Windows Phones operating systems free of charge. It uses a smartphone’s data plan or WiFi to transmit and receive messages, so kids that have limited texting or no cellular texting at all love it. I sent her to her room, and started looking at other things on the device to see what was new and what she was interested in. She started sobbing dramatically and when I saw the Kik file, my heart just broke into a million pieces. Photos of my daughter in her underwear posed in sexy selfies in front of her mirror. I started sobbing and my knees gave out.

I immediately thought she was sending these photos because she thought all her friends were doing it. But then—august the sexual scandals selfies—were photos of her crying. Like she was trying to send the photos but mis-angled the camera and it showed her face instead. The million pieces of her heart broke into a million more. Something was really wrong.

We called her to the living room and had a very serious discussion with her. She said she downloaded Kik at camp (free wifi) on Thursday. Then, on Friday she “kik’d” some cute guy (reportedly a teen boy) who posted a photo with the comment, “Kik me,” so, she said she did exactly that. He asked for a simple photo of her, and she complied. Once she gave him a harmless photo, he started demanding more scandalous photos, like the ones in her underwear.

She didn’t know how to make him go away, and he kept telling her he would “upload her picture” and “ruin her life” and her “friends and family would disown her if they found out” if she didn’t comply with his demands. This all happened in two short days of her having a Kik account.

The officers came to our house and had no idea what Kik was.

The below is a first-hand account of the incident. It is abridged for privacy and publication:

I picked up my 12 year old from summer camp one day, and her counselor made a joke about my daughter with her “phone” during a fire drill. Oddly enough, she doesn’t have a phone, but she does have a Galaxy Player. It’s an android device like the phone, just without the phone components. She is strictly forbidden from taking this device to camp, so, I took it from her right then and there as a punishment.

When I got home, I started investigating what was on the device to see what was new and what she was so interested in. She started sobbing dramatically and announced through hysterics, “Mom, please don’t be mad… I got a Kik account.”

Because I try to keep up with the latest in social media for tweens/teens, I was familiar with her. I knew that these sorts of apps were bad news. I pulled it up and sure enough she had deleted the conversations as she went so I had no idea what she had been doing on it. I sent her to her room, and started looking at other things on the device to see what else was on it.

I pulled up the photo gallery section of her device, and when I saw the Kik file, my heart just broke into a million pieces. Photos of my daughter in her underwear posed in sexy selfies in front of her mirror. I started sobbing and my knees gave out.

The offices came to our house and had no idea what Kik was.

The officers came to our house and had no idea what Kik was.

app of course, this app is designed for adults. And the usual parental controls on your child’s device won’t work within the Kik Messenger app. So blocking YouTube for example on your child’s iPod won’t disable the YouTube app within Kik Messenger. Some parents are sharing messaging apps with their children to supervise their interactions. This can be especially helpful for younger users. Kik Messenger doesn’t enable this ability. The moment you log into the same Kik account on another device previous messages and conversations are deleted from the account. Logging out (resetting) of Kik messenger also deletes all previous conversations and messages, which for many parents makes parent supervision quite unreliable.

So, if you are like me, this is where you say: “This wouldn’t happen to me. I’d monitor my kids’ devices better. And they understand the dangers of talking to strangers.”

And then I read this from my friend, and realized that if placed in a situation like this, I’m just not sure my daughters wouldn’t act the same.

The below is a first-hand account of the incident. It is abridged for privacy and publication:

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God Captured my Heart—
The story of a nun killed in Ecuador’s quake

Guayaquil, Ecuador, Apr 19, 2016 (CNA/EWTN News) Sister Clare Crockett, an Irish religious sister, was among those who died in the massive Ecuador earthquake on April 16th. Her vocation is the story of a woman who left the party life for an “amazing” life in God.

“I knew that I had to leave everything and follow Him. I knew with great clarity that He was asking me to trust in Him, to put my life in His hands and to have faith,” Sister Clare Crockett said in her vocation story, according to EWTN. “It never ceases to amaze me how Our Lord works in the souls, how He can totally transform one’s life and capture one’s heart.”

Sister Clare, from Derry in Northern Ireland, was 33 years-old. She was the voice of Lucy on the long-running EWTN children’s television series “Hi Lucy.”

Residents of Playa Prieta, some 125 miles from Guayaquil, were able to recover the bodies of six members of the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother who died in the earthquake that struck the coast of Ecuador Saturday night.

The residents recovered the bodies of Sister Clare; the Ecuadorian candidates Jazmina, Mayra, María Augusta and Valeria; and Catalina, a resident who was 21 years-old.

The women lived on the second floor of Holy Family School in Playa Prieta in Ecuador’s Manabi Province. In recent weeks the region suffered from severe floods, which may have damaged the structure of the building.

The 7.8-magnitude earthquake caused the premises to collapse. Five women were rescued alive after the earthquake: three sisters from the community and two candidates. They were evacuated to Guayaquil with various injuries.

Area residents organized a search for those missing.

The Servant Sisters reported that their founder, the Spanish priest Father Rafael Alonso Reynundo, will be traveling to Ecuador with other members of the community to preside at the funeral services.

Sister Clare in her vocation story recounted she grew up at a time of Catholic-Protestant tension and violence in Derry that meant there was “no room for God.” In her mid-teens she aimed to become an actress. By age 18, she parted “a lot” and spent her money on alcohol and cigarettes.

One day a friend asked if she wanted to go on a free trip to Spain. “The trip turned out to be a 10-day pilgrimage with people in their forties and fifties.”

“I tried to get out of it, but my name was already on the ticket, so I had to go. I now see that it was Our Lady’s way of bringing me back home, back to her and her Son,” she said. “I was not a very happy camper. Nevertheless, it was on that pilgrimage that Our Lord gave me the grace to see how He had died for me on the Cross. After I had received that grace, I knew that I had to change.”

She entered the Servant Sisters in August 2001 and made her perpetual vows in 2011.

Father José Xavier Martins, pastor of Our Lady of Loreto in Guayaquil, told CNA that the Servant Sisters have been working for eight years at the school. They were getting ready to start the school year. Their school served more than 500 students.

“Everything came falling down. We’ll need financial assistance and all kinds of help,” the priest said. “We thank everyone who has been working many hours in the rescue effort. A lot of people have come to give their all to help us.”

The Saturday, April 16 earthquake has taken the lives of at least 413 people and injured more than 2,500, CNN reports.

The Holy Family of the Mother is seeking donations for earthquake relief through its website: www.hogardela-madre.org/en/mghm/projects/earthquake
He smiled easily, welcomed me warmly and shook my hand through the bars. “How are you?” I asked. He tilted his head, let his eyes slip over his shoulder and said, “All right.” Jermaine was on death row for a crime we never discussed. The past was between him and the Lord. For us, the focus was on the present. The future was framed only in eternal terms. We shared biblical passages and talked about following the Lord. Before I realized it, my time was over and a guard appeared to escort me out.

That Saturday evening started as usual. I was searched and screened for weapons and contraband. The rest of our team went through the same careful examination, and then we convened in the small waiting area before the imposing metal bars were opened.

“I wondered how long it would take for the guards to get to me if something happened.”

The guards were professional and polite but sober and matter-of-fact. Just as the last person of our team joined us, one guard emerged from behind the heavy metal door and sternly ordered us into the administration office that handled visitors. “Wait here,” he said and hurried off. Four other guards rushed into the office with side arms, shotguns, and scoped rifles. One pulled down a trap door that unfolded stairs like an attic entrance. The guards climbed the stairs and stomped across the roof. Everyone was silent, even the guards. Eventually we were informed there had been an “incident.” There would be a lot of these. When one occurred, our part was to do exactly as we were told and to stay out of the way. To do otherwise could be disastrous. I thought back to how I got myself into this? “Would you be able to help?” asked my pastor. One of his colleagues needed help. He was working virtually alone as the chaplain for Angola, the parish (county) correctional facility in northwest Louisiana. The situation was bleak—the prison was full and overcrowding. A federal court ordered no more prisoners could be added until the overcrowded conditions (see Imprisoned p. 12)
Pope Urges Teens to Practice Works of Mercy

Rome, Italy (CNA/EWTN News) - Pope Francis has challenged young people to commit to practicing the corporal works of mercy in order to recognize the face of Jesus in each other. “As you know, the works of mercy are simple gestures, which belong to the life of every day, allowing you to recognize the face of Jesus in many persons. Even young people!” the Pope said in a video message to a youth rally at Rome’s Olympic Stadium.

“Even young people like you, who hunger, who thirst; who are refugees, or foreigners, or sick, and seeking our help, our friendship. "Let us not remain with resentment or the desire for revenge," he urged the young people. "Let us forgive! Let us forgive and forget the wrong done in order that we may understand the teaching of Jesus and be his disciples, and be witnesses of mercy."

The Pope expressed his regret at not being able to go through the Holy Door. “You have gathered for a moment of celebration and joy,” he said. “This morning you transformed St. Peter’s Square into a great confessional, and then you went through the Holy Door.”

“It can happen that, at times, in the family, at school, in the parish, at the gym, or in places of amusement, someone can do us wrong and we feel offended; or, in a moment of irritability, we can be the ones who offend others, he reflected.

But, the Pope warned, revenge is a worm which eats our soul and does not allow us to be happy.

“Do not forget that the Door points to an encounter with Christ, who introduces us to the love of the Father, and who asks us to become merciful, as he is merciful.”

The Pope also encouraged young people to foster a personal relationship with Jesus. He warned Christians risk closing in on themselves when they are not close to Christ.

He compared a healthy relationship with Christ to a strong phone signal.

“Remember when Jesus is not in our life, there is no signal!”

(Imprisoned, cont. from page 11) were addressed. The result was that a handful of minimum-security correctional facilities (such as the one I was visiting) were classified as maximum-security units to accommodate the overflow. The problem was that the transfers were made without updating the facilities, making these units not only overcrowded but consistently tense.

Luke’s Gospel indicates that Jesus’ public ministry is composed of two particular features. First, Jesus declares himself to be a prophet in the tradition of Elijah and Elisha, both known for boldly proclaiming the words of God and performing his deeds. In a prophetic voice, Jesus proclaimed and fulfilled the promises of restoration originally announced by prophets such as Isaiah to the exiles held captive in Babylon. The message of restoration restated God’s commitment to the covenant broken by the Israelites because of their infidelity and idolatry, which resulted in their exile in Babylon that was seen largely as a return to the slavery of Egypt. The message was also a deeper revelation of God’s mercy.

In the Exodus event, God was bound by the covenant he made with the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 2:23-25; 6:2-5). In a sense, God had to act to deliver the Israelites (his covenant partners) from Egypt and to restore them to the Promised Land. Yet many hundreds of years later, the Israelites, specifically the Judeans, found themselves in a different situation. They had flagrantly indulged in idolatry and flaunted the covenant as a kind of insurance policy that would guarantee their protection from harm regardless of their offences against God (Jeremiah 7). After repeated warnings the continued abuse of the covenant would result in divine judgment, God finally acted. The covenant ceased to exist, as did its benefits. The Babylonians conquered Judea. No covenant meant no priesthood, no king, and no land. Everything the Israelites clung to for identity was suddenly gone. They were no longer a people set apart and blessed by God in the world as a sign to the nations. Gone was their dignity, and God no longer was there to ensure peace and protection. They were utterly alone, imprisoned, and reduced to slavery once more.

One question haunted the exiles: Would God forgive their iniquities and take them back into his fold? To do so would be an astonishing display of divine mercy. God wasn’t bound by a covenant that necessitated his act to forgive and restore. Would God be so merciful as to forgive the worst of sins of the most undeserving? How deep is God’s love and mercy? The “restoration,” as it came to be known, held the answer (see the oracles in Isaiah 40-66). Through his prophets, God announced that his mercy is without measure, greater than any offense against him and it is powerful enough to alter history, to change lives.

This became the message at the heart of the Gospel proclaimed by Jesus.

The second feature of Jesus’ public ministry—highlighted in all four Gospels and by Luke thematically—is his proclivity toward the poor and the afflicted, those who were just as forlorn as the exiles

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

Julie Sparacio, Director
Child and Youth Protection
707-566-3309
jsparacio@srdicoese.org
At a High School Conference at the Reagan Ranch...

Your Teenager Can Walk in President Reagan’s Footsteps and Learn Conservative Ideas

You can send your teenager to visit Ronald Reagan’s California ranch to learn about the 20th Century’s greatest president. What better way to celebrate freedom than by walking in President Reagan’s footsteps and learning about the ideas he championed?

At a Young America’s Foundation High School Conference at the Reagan Ranch, the student in your life will expand his or her knowledge of economics, American history, personal responsibility, and President Reagan’s lasting accomplishments through a series of innovative lectures, discussions, and briefings.

For dates and information, and to register a student for this invaluable, historical experience, please contact Young America’s Foundation’s conference director at 800-USA-1776.

For information and to apply for this and other conferences, please visit YAF.org or contact Conference Director Jolie Ballantyne at 800-USA-1776 or jballantyne@yaf.org

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The Diocese of Santa Rosa Department of Religious Education

Invites you to a day of prayer and fellowship

Religious Education Conference

“The Year of Mercy”

Saturday, June 18, 2016 9am - 3pm

Held at St. Bernard Catholic School, 222 Dollison St., Eureka

“I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God’s mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed.” — Pope Francis, September 1, 2015

INFORMATION

• The day will begin with Holy Mass with Bishop Vasa at St. Bernard School, Gym.
• Some of the day’s presenters: Bishop Vasa, Jessie Romero and Rev. John Boettcher and Mark Brumley
• Registration begins May 1, 2016.
• For free admittance you must register before June 1, 2016.
• A charge of $10.00 for any registrations received after June 1, 2016 & at the door.
• Due to limited seating please register early, the room fills up quickly.
• We are unable to provide child care.
• Email or fax your registrations.
• Bring a bag lunch

To Register Contact:
Carmen Perez Aanenson, Diocese of Santa Rosa, Department of Religious Studies
dre@srdiocese.org / (707) 566-3366 / Fax (707) 542-9702 / www.santarosacatholic.org

La Diócesis de Santa Rosa Departamento de Educación Religiosa

Te invita a un día de oración y compañerismo

Conferencia de Educación Religiosa

“El año de la Misericordia”

Sábado, 18 de junio de 2016 9am - 3pm

Lugar : El escuela de St. Bernard Catholic School, 222 Dollison St., Eureka

“Deseo que la indulto jubilar llegue a cada uno como genuina experiencia de la Misericordia de Dios, la cual va al encuentro de todos con el rostro del Padre que acoge y perdona, olvidando completamente el pecado cometido.” — Papa Francisco 1 de septiembre de 2015

INFORMACION

• El día comenzara con la Santa Misa con el Obispo Vasa en la escuela de St. Bernard Catholic School, en la gimnasio.
• Los presentadores serán Jesse Romero y sacerdotes Juan Carlos Gavancho, Juan Carlos Chiariotti and Oscar Diaz.
• La registracion comienza el primero de mayo de 2016.
• Para la entrada gratis se debe registrar antes de 1 de junio de 2016.
• Abra un cargo de $10.00 para las inscripciones recibidas después de 1 de junio de 2016 y el mismo día del evento.
• Como tenemos una cantidad limitada de asientos por favor registrese a tiempo.
• No podemos ofrecer cuidado de niños este año.
• Favor enviar el registro por fax o correo electrónico o habla con Carmen y dejar su nombre, numero de teléfono, cuantas personas asistan a la conferencia y la parroquia.
• No ofrecemos almuerzos. Por favor traiga su propio almuerzo.

Para Registrarse a Esta Invitación: Carmen Perez Aanenson, Diocese of Santa Rosa, Department of Religious Studies
dre@srdiocese.org / (707) 566-3366 / Fax (707) 542-9702 / www.santarosacatholic.org

Holy Year Pilgrimage Tour to
ITALY

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Sponsored by St Apollinaris Parish, Napa

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Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress
Congreso de Educación Religiosa de Santa Rosa

Saturday, August 20, 2016
Sabado, 20 de Agosto 2016

Cardinal Newman High School, Santa Rosa

• Registrations begins July 1, 2016.
• Mailings go out in June 2016.
• If you wish to receive the brochure, please send us your name, email & mailing address.
• El registro comienza el 1 de julio de 2016
• Folletos salen en junio.
• Si desea recibir el folleto, por favor envíenos su nombre, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección postal.

Contact: Carmen Perez Aanenson
Diocese of Santa Rosa Department of Religious Education
(707) 566-3366 dre@srdiocese.org
Catholic school students combine efforts for a great cause
St Rose, St Eugene’s, & St John’s (in Sonoma County, CA) all coordinated a simultaneous “free dress” fundraiser for Wyatt Pope in March.

The three schools raised $2250 for Wyatt Pope, a 7 year old cousin of a St. Rose family, diagnosed with Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor. For more information about Wyatt and his battle: wwwwywstrong.com

Social Justice Committee Holy Spirit
Catholic Charities currently has 3 safe parking lots where the working homeless live in their cars in Santa Rosa. These people are fed a warm meal in the evening and a small breakfast with hot coffee or hot cocoa in the morning. If you could spare a little food they have requested soup, coffee, cocoa, tooth brushes and toothpaste. Also socks and beanies or a note of encouragement are always welcome as well. Please drop these items in our box where you enter church. More information is on our bulletin board.

Local

This counseling student says he was expelled for his Christian beliefs
Springfield, Mo. (CNA/EWTN News) - A former counseling student says that he was pushed out of a university after saying that he would refer same-sex couples to another counselor, due to his Christian beliefs.

"Traditionally, universities have been places for free exchange of ideas and values, both religious and secular," Thomas Olp, executive director and attorney for the Thomas More Society, said April 21.

"Unfortunately, Missouri State University departed from its mission by denying educational opportunity to Mr. Cash simply because he expressed, in an academic setting, sincerely-held religious beliefs which his advisor deemed hostile to her own and therefore unacceptable."

Andrew Cash was dismissed from a master’s program in counseling at the university after his advisor claimed that it was unethical for him to decline to counsel same-sex couples and refer them to another counselor instead.

Cash is seeking reinstatement in the program in a lawsuit against the governors of Missouri State University. The Chicago-based Thomas More Society filed the lawsuit on Cash’s behalf.

The lawsuit charges that Cash was “penalized for expressing his religious views.” The suit claims that the counseling program treated him differently than other students “because he is a Christian and because of his Christian beliefs.”

Suzanne Shaw, a spokeswoman for the university, told the Springfield News Leader she could not comment on the specifics of pending litigation. She said the university “strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion or any other protected class.”

Cash was almost finished with his degree in the program at Missouri State University in January 2011 when he sought to fulfill the degree program’s internship requirements, the Thomas More Society said. He chose an internship at the Springfield Marriage and Family Institute. The university had approved the Christian-based counseling agency as an internship site.

Cash asked his internship supervisor at the institute to speak to his class about Christian counseling, with the approval his instructor. The institute’s chief counselor said that the organization was open with its clients about its Christian values and practices.

During the presentation, the counselor answered questions about the institute’s treatment of homosexual sexual clients. It counsels these clients on an individual basis, but prefers to refer same-sex couples for relationship counseling to counselors whose religious views would better fit that purpose.

A student complained to Cash’s faculty advisor, who later questioned Cash on the subject.

Cash said he agreed that he could not counsel same-sex couples, but he would refer them elsewhere to a counselor who could best serve them.

The faculty advisor ordered him to stop attending the institute and told the institute it was no longer a proper place for an internship. The university later stripped the internship hours from Cash’s record.

When Cash sought another internship, his advisor required him to meet certain suitability standards. The advisor later stripped him of internship hours from Cash’s record.

A similar controversy took place at Eastern Michigan University. In 2009, counseling student Julea Ward was told she had to provide relationship counseling to a client in a same-sex relationship rather than make a referral to another counselor. She said she could not affirm a relationship against her faith, and a review board expelled her from the school.

After a lawsuit, Eastern Michigan University paid a settlement to Ward and removed her expulsion from its clients about its Christian values and practices.

Cash’s lawsuit said he suffered economic injury and “irreparable harm” because of the university’s decision. He is seeking punitive damages.

"The Jesuit community on campus clearly has its views would better fit that purpose.

The Jesuit community on campus clearly has its critics, and those who work to instill at Georgetown some of the values of Pope Francis,” the archdiocese stated.

In 2012, the university also ignited controversy by inviting then-Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to speak at its graduation ceremonies. Many Catholic organizations were being ordered by the HHS, under threat of heavy fines, to violate Church teaching by providing coverage for birth control, to encourage abortion, and bishops were speaking out against the mandate.

Johnson focused her Wednesday speech on her conversion away from being a Planned Parenthood clinic director and ultimately to the Catholic faith. She emphasized the importance of prayer, perseverance, and trust in God in overcoming the evil of abortion.

"No one is beyond the power of conversion because no one is beyond the power of Christ," she stated. "And we can make all the most beautiful arguments in the world for why we should be pro-life, but at the heart of life is Christ."

She exhorted the students to be hopeful for the conversion of more clinic workers and pro-choice leaders.

"And if we are people of faith, we better believe that," she said. "We better believe in that type of goodness, that type of kindness, that type of faithfulness from our God."

She pointed to her organization And Then There Were None, dedicated to helping abortion clinic workers and doctors leave the industry, as an example of success. She initially thought 10 workers a year leaving the industry would be a great total, but there have been 218 workers leaving the industry in three years, including 6 full-time abortionists.

"Being pro-life is not just about saving the baby. (see News Briefs p. 16)
Because if it was, then we would just be pro-baby," she said. "We are pro-life, and we believe in the dignity and the inherent worth of that woman who's walking in to that abortion facility and we know -- and she deserves better than anything she can receive inside those abortion facility walls.

"My goal is not just to make abortion illegal, my goal is to make abortion unthinkable so that a woman never even darkens the door of an abortion facility, that she never even thinks that taking the life of an innocent human being is acceptable," she continued.

"We can grow weary. We can grow tired. We can become angry. We can become frustrated. But in those times, it is then that we have to remember the goodness of God," she said.

International

New State Department actions don't go far enough, religious freedom leader says

by Matt Hadro

Washington D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) Religious freedom leaders applauded the U.S. State Department’s recent re-designation of countries on the country’s list of countries that restrict religious freedom, and urged the agency to do more.

After the State Department on April 14 added Tajikistan to its “Country of Particular Concern” list, keeping the nine countries already on the list, the chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said it “welcomes the designation of these ten countries.”

The countries already on the list were Burma, China, North Korea, Uzbekistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and Sudan.

A “country of particular concern” is a term used by the State Department to denote the countries that present the worst situations for religious freedom in the world. Either these governments “engage in” or “tolerate” “severe violations of religious freedom that are systematic, ongoing and egregious,” USCIRF explained in its 2015 annual report.

Tajikistan, a Muslim-majority country in central Asia, was recommended to be on the list by USCIRF because its government has cracked down on minority religious groups in the country. The commission’s 2015 annual report explained that “numerous laws that severely restrict religious freedom have been implemented in the country since 2009.”

Restrictive actions include religions having to register with the government and ask permission for church meetings, heavy penalties for unregistered religious activity, and lack of due process for those tried under the country’s anti-extremism law.

Additionally, the USCIRF recommended in addition that Vietnam, Iraq, Central African Republic, Pakistan, Nigeria, Egypt, and Syria be designated as CPCs, though the State Department declined to include them on the list.

According to the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the administration can legally pursue a number of actions, such as economic sanctions, against CPCs to hold them accountable and pressure them to honor freedom of religion.

The State Department also announced it would no longer be sanctioning four of the nations currently on the CPC list: Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The decision was made “following determinations that the important national interest of the United States required exercising this waiver authority,” State Department spokesman John Kirby said in an April 15 press briefing.

USCIRF responded by pressing the agency to take the actions against these offending countries as it is authorized to do.

“The CPC designation brings with it a unique tool-box of policy options to effectively promote religious freedom, and USCIRF encourages the Administration to use these tools,” Dr. Robert George, the commission’s chairman, responded April 20.

Pope Francis says Christ’s love is open to all – that’s why we go to Confession

Vatican City, Apr 6, 2016 / 11:08 am (CNA/EWTN News) - God's mercy is for everyone, and Jesus Christ is proof, Pope Francis said on Wednesday.

“In every moment of his earthly life, Jesus made mercy visible: meeting the crowds, announcing the Gospel, healing the sick, drawing close to the forgotten, pardoning sinners. He showed a love open to all, a love which was fulfilled on the cross,” the Pope said April 6.

The Pope spoke in St. Peter’s Square to a crowd gathered for his General Audience. His ongoing catechetical reflections on mercy have begun to focus on how Christ fulfills the promise of God’s mercy.

“From the cross, Jesus shows us that no one is excluded from God’s merciful love: ‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’ We should, therefore, never fear to acknowledge and confess our sins, for the mercy of Reconciliation offers us the forgiveness which flows from the cross and which renews us in his grace.”

The Catholic Church is observing the Year of Mercy, giving special attention to the topic.

“Jesus did not bring hatred, nor did he bring enmity. He brought love, a great love, a heart open to all — to all of us — a love that saves,” Pope Francis continued. “In this Jubilee Year, let us embrace the Gospel with greater vigor and be heralds of the Father’s mercy and forgiveness.”

“The Pope stressed the importance of forgiveness as a counter to fear.

“We are all sinners, but we are all forgiven: we all have the possibility of receiving this pardon, which is the mercy of God,” he said. “We need not fear, therefore, to recognize ourselves sinners, confess ourselves sinners, because every sin was carried by the Son to the Cross.”

Pope Francis reflected on the fact that before beginning his earthly ministry, Christ went to the Jordan to be baptized by St. John the Baptist, saying that “This event gives a decisive orientation to the entire mission of Christ.”

“In fact, he did not present himself to the world in the splendor of the temple: he could have done this. He was not announced with a trumpet blast: he could have done this. And he did not even come in the guise of a judge: he could have done this. Instead, after spending thirty years of his life in Nazareth, Jesus went to the Jordan river, together with so many of his people, and got in line with sinners.”

“Christ ‘had no shame’ in this, the Pope said. “He was there with everyone, with sinners, to be baptized. Therefore, from the beginning of his ministry, he was manifested as the Messiah who took on the human condition, moved by solidarity and by compassion.”
in the dormitory, behind three lock-down doors. Not a guard in sight. I returned every Saturday night for a couple of years. When I'd gained experience in the unsanctioned men's dorm and the maximum-security unit, I was allowed to visit death row.

After some time, I was able to convince a Catholic priest to come out every once in a while to hear confessions and say Mass. Those allowed out of lockup to attend chapel were there, Catholic or not. Of course I couldn't be sure, but I was pretty convinced that even some of the non-Catholic men were going to confession.

Prison ministry has come a long way since I was involved in it many years ago. I think it would be safe to say that my experience was not typical of other prison-ministry programs. In fact, I would say that what I experienced was not a program at all. It was a stopgap measure to meet a situation of grave need.

Every prison has needs, and not every need is met. The ministry work demands courage and fortitude, virtues honed to meet the challenges of bringing the favor of the Lord into a setting of concentrated human misery. In every prison are souls longing for the message of restoration, hoping for and looking for God's mercy. These souls need to hear that God forgives every sin and loves every sinner.

God relies on messengers to bring his favor to those most in need. Entering this place is at best intimidating and fearful. Such an environment makes the proclamation of the Gospel a daunting affair. Nevertheless, God's invitation was my motivation: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8).

At the end of ministry evenings, the volunteers would gather together to go back through the lock-downed passageways through which we entered. If there was an "incident" during this time of passage, we could be stuck in one of the segments until the guards could give us their attention. In the meantime, we were prisoners. Often we would stand in silence, listening. All around us reverberated the sounds of the men.

We heard shouted obscenities, loud weeping, and crying out—screams of agony. One night, a lone voice rose above the others, the sound of unimaginable terror and pain. Other prisoners shouted obscenities, taunts, and curses at their fellow inmate. A line from the Creed came to mind: "And he descended into hell." "That is the sound of a man losing his mind," Pastor Miller said. "Let us pray." 

Dr. Andrew Minto has a doctorate in Biblical Studies from Catholic University of America. He is a Professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He also taught at their Austrian Campus, in Gaming. Dr. Minto has written a series on the Spiritual Works of Mercy for Liguorian, and is writing second series on the Corporal Works of Mercy in 2016. He has a wide range of experience in parish ministry and higher education.

Who were those caped crusaders? NET Ministries. N.E.T. stands for “National Evangelization Team” and a team of 11 faithful began their tour of the Santa Rosa diocese with a visit to the Chancery and brief meeting with Bishop Vasa, they shared their passion for the faith and personal testimonies.

From there they zig-zagged across our rich terrain from Eureka to Ukiah to Petaluma and Napa, ministering to over 400 teens.

Our NET visitors were known as Team #6 and only 1 of the 11 of them were from West of the Rockies. They quietly fell in love with our diocese and our Catholic communities, “everyone has been so welcoming and seem to have a great passion for youth ministry” said Karina (22).

Josh (20) from Ohio couldn’t believe the deep sense of fellowship and care for friends and family that he saw among the 7th and 8th graders at one of our parish schools. Team member Chandler (20) from Arkansas was also impressed with his small group of 7th graders on one retreat, he reflected “it was like the first time they opened up to each other about faith and family.”

NET at St. Francis Solano parish in Sonoma. Veteran youth leader Louise Martin from St. Vincent’s cheers along

Here is a blurb from the Bulletin of St. Helena parish that does a great job describing what it’s like to have a NET team show up:

Dear Faith Family,

Last weekend we had the honor of having Net Ministries, Team six, host an awesome retreat for our second year confirmation students along with students from St. Johns and St. Joan of Arc. NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. Every August, 150 young Catholics aged 18-28 leave behind their jobs, school, family, and friends to devote nine months to serving with the National Evangelization Teams (NET).

Divided into 14 teams, they travel across the U.S. for nine months to share the Gospel with young people and their families. Since 1981, NET teams have led over 29,000 retreats and ministered to more than 1.7 million young Catholics.

And this year we were blessed by having them with us. Please keep our confirmation students in your prayers as they get closer to the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation. Please also keep in your prayers all those involved with Net Ministries, especially for Team Six.

NET at St. Francis Solano Parish, Sonoma. Veteran youth leader Louise Martin from St. Vincent’s cheers along.

If you wish to learn more about NET Ministries in the diocese please contact Stephen Morris, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries for the diocese. More information about NET can be found online at www.netusa.org.

NET retreats will continue next school year and have already been booked for mid-November.
El Gozo de Amar

La reciente publicación largamente esperada de la Apostólica Exhortación del Papa Francisco, titulada El Gozo de Amar es un documento muy importante y necesario ser leído.

Lo dije necesita ser leído, no por la relativamente variedad de cosas controversiales que algunos podrían tener la esperanza de encontrar en el documento, pero en vez de eso porque es una bella declaración sobre el matrimonio.

La sección de la Exhortación que creo que puede tener el mayor impacto sobre el matrimonio comienza con el parágrafo 99. Allí el Papa Francisco comienza una reflexión sobre la bella definición del amor basada en San Pablo.

El Santo Padre escribe: "En el pasaje lircico de San Pablo, podemos ver algunas características del verdadero amor: "El amor es paciente, el amor no es celoso o jactancioso; el amor no es arrogante o rudo. El amor no insiste en su propio camino, el amor no se irrita o guarda rancor; no se regocija con lo malo, pero se goza en lo bueno. El amor no es arisco o rudo. El amor aguanta todo, cree en todas las cosas, espera en todas las cosas, soporta todas las cosas (1 Cor 13:4-7). Es de mucha ayuda pensar más profundamente en la hermosa definición del amor basada en el Gozo de Amar. El Santo Padre dibuja el significado y aplicación del pasaje que apunta a que el amor "No es arrogante o rudo". Hago esto para despertar tu apetito, para que te sientas atraído de tomar el documento y leerlo en su totalidad. En el parágrafo 99 leemos: Amar es también ser amable y tener consideración; esto es comunicado por la próxima palabra, aschemonei. Indica que el amor no es rudo o descortés; el amor no es cruel. Sus acciones, palabras y gestos son agradables y no abrasivo o rígido. El Amor aborrece el hacer sufrir a otros. Cortesía Es una escuela de sensibilidad y desinterés que requiere de la persona "desarrollar su mente y sentimientos, aprender como escuchar, como hablar y en ciertos tiempos mantenerse callado".

 Esto no es algo que un Cristiano puede aceptar o rechazar. Como un requerimiento esencial del amor, "todo ser humano esta confinado a vivir agradablemente con aquellos a su alrededor. Todos los días, ‘entrar en la vida de otro, aun cuando esa persona ya tiene un papel que desempeñar en nuestra vida, exige la sensibilidad y la moderación que puede renovar la confianza y el respeto. De hecho, cuanto más profundo es el amor, más se pide que se respete la libertad del otro y la capacidad de esperar hasta que el otro abra la puerta de su corazón”.

En el párrafo 100, el Santo Padre continúa en su propio estilo hermoso: Para estar abierto a un verdadero encuentro con los otros, “una mirada amable” es esencial. Esto es incompatible con una actitud negativa que apunta fácilmente las deficiencias de otras personas, mientras que no miramos las de nosotros mismos. Una mirada amable nos ayuda a ver más allá de nuestras propias limitaciones, ser paciente y cooperar con los demás, a pesar de nuestras diferencias. El amor bondadoso construye, cultiva relaciones, crea nuevas redes de integración y teje un tejido social firme. De esta manera, se hace cada vez más fuerte, ya que sin un sentido de pertenencia, no podemos sostener un compromiso con los demás; terminamos buscando nuestra propia conveniencia y la vida en común se hace imposible. Personas antisociales piensan que los otros existen sólo para satisfacción de sus propias necesidades. En consecuencia, no hay lugar para la ternura del amor y su expresión. Aquellos que aman son capaces de hablar palabras de consuelo, fuerza, consuelo y aliento.

Estas fueron las palabras que el mismo Jesús dijo:) “¡Ánimo, hijo mío!” (Mt 15:28); “Levántate!” (Mc 5:41); “No tengas miedo” (Mt 14:27).

Estas no son palabras que degradan, entristecen, enojan o muestran desprecio. En nuestras familias, tenemos que aprender a imitar a la dulzura propia de Jesús en nuestra forma de hablar el uno al otro.

¿Quién podría estar en desacuerdo: “En nuestras familias, tenemos que aprender a imitar a la dulzura propia de Jesús en nuestra forma de hablar el uno al otro”. Sinceramente su Hermano en Cristo Jesús, Reverendísimo Roberto F. Vasa Obispo de Santa Rosa

Un Mensaje Para La Semana

Padre P. Gordon Kalil Pastor de la Parroquia de Santa Elena en Santa Helena

Pastor/Señor Cura de St. Helena

“Os doy un mandamiento nuevo: amaos unos a otros. Como yo os he amado, así también amaos unos a otros. Es de mucha ayuda pensar más profundamente acerca del significado de este texto Paulino y la relevancia por la concreta situación de cada familia”. El Santo Padre después ofrece dos parágrafos en cada una de las características presentadas de lo que es el verdadero Amor. El primer parágrafo es largamente exegético e instructivo, la segunda pastoral.

Ofrezco aquí una porción de los dos parágrafos en el cual el Santo Padre dibuja el significado y aplicación práctica del pasaje que apunta a que el amor “No es arrogante o rudo”. Hago esto para despertar tu apetito, para que te sientas atraído de tomar el documento y leerlo en su totalidad.

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Nuestra Iglesia está aumentando este año, algunos lo llaman el “Frances afectar” a otros señalan que el aumento de Estados Unidos en los católicos romanos es proporcional al aumento de los inmigrantes hispanos documentados e indocumentados. Sin embargo, a pesar de los pecados y crímenes de algunos en la historia de la Iglesia, y la historia reciente del escándalo, que creció en el 2015 y se proyecta que hacerlo de nuevo en 2016. Estamos haciendo muchas cosas bien. Estamos llamados a continuar realizando esfuerzos para lograr la obra de Jesús en nuestra Iglesia y en el mundo. Si su experiencia de esta Iglesia y esta casa de Dios ha ayudado a crecer en santidad rezo anunciáis que puede renovar la confianza y el respeto. De hecho, cuanto más profundo es el amor, más se pide que se respete la libertad del otro y la capacidad de esperar hasta que el otro abra la puerta de su corazón”.

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El papa dice que niños nunca son error, hace llamado a adultos a la responsabilidad

El papa Francisco más de 1 millón de veces

Destrehan, Luisiana (CNS) -- La protección de los niños es un "error" y ningún sacrificio es demasiado pequeño para hacerlo, dijo el papa Francisco durante un discurso en la escuela primaria de Destrehan, Luisiana (CNS) -- La protección de los niños es un "error" y ningún sacrificio es demasiado pequeño para hacerlo, dijo el papa Francisco durante un discurso en la escuela primaria de Destrehan, Luisiana. Durante su visita a la escuela, el papa Francisco habló con alumnos y profesores sobre la importancia de proteger a los niños y de hacer todo lo posible para cambiar la situación de mucha pobreza en muchos países del mundo.

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**Nuevo milagro eucarístico en Polonia**

Roma, Abr 18, 2016 / 5:47PM (EWTN Noticias/ACI Prena)

El Obispo de Legnica (Polonia), Mons. Zbigniew Krzemiński, aprobó el 17 de abril la veneración de una hostia sangrante que “tiene las características distintivas de un milagro eucarístico”.

En la Navidad de 2013, una hostia consagrada cayó al piso en la parroquia polaca de Saint Jack, recordó al piso en la parroquia polaca de Saint Jack, recordó el Obispo en un comunicado, y tras ser recogida fue bendecida por el viaje apostólico “fructifique”.

En abril, de acuerdo a las recomendaciones de la IMDOSOC “puede ayudar a que la semilla” sembrada por el viaje apostólico “fructifique”.

En su discurso, el Cardenal Rivera recordó que “el Papa Francisco nos dijo que es necesario velar por la integridad de las personas y las estructuras sociales”.

El Arzobispo de México reunió el 12 de abril con los integrantes de IMDOSOC en el marco de su 32ª asamblea general ordinaria.

El Obispo de Legnica recordó la visita del Papa Francisco a ese país en febrero de este año, y señaló “la Iglesia no tiene otro cuerpo sino la tuya, sino la tuya. Los tuyos son los ojos a través del cual se ve con compasión en este mundo; suyos son los pies con que camina para hacer el bien; el suyo son las manos con el que bendice al mundo entero. Cristo no tiene otro cuerpo en la tierra, sino la tuya”—atribuido de Santa Teresa de Ávila.

Cristo no tiene boca pero la nuestra para defender, renovar, decir la verdad, y el amor como él.
Devastating Ecuador Earthquake

Guayaquil, Ecuador (CNA/EWTN News) - Everything collapsed around it, but the glass case with the statue of our Lady of Light remained intact after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Ecuador on April 16.

The statue was housed at the Leonie Aviat school in the Tarqui administrative district in Manta Canton, Ecuador, one of the areas most strongly affected by the earthquake.

Sister Patricia Esperanza, a member of the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales community in Guayaquil, told CNA that the school run by her congregation of Saint Francis de Sales community in Guayaquil, Ecuador, one of the areas most strongly affected by the Tarqui administrative district in Manta Canton, Ecuador, has been working in this school since 1960 and had more than 900 students enrolled for this school year.

The Oblates have been working in this school since 1960 and had more than 900 students enrolled for this school year.

The April 16 earthquake, which was declared the worst in Ecuador in some 70 years left 600 people dead and thousands more injured.

❖

This Statue of Mary was Untouched by the

❖

Software to Identify Victims of Internet Exploitation.

I keep telling her camp counselor that I owe her a lunch, for if she had not joked about her “phone”, I wouldn’t have checked her Galaxy for another week. If she had gotten those messages (the 5 demands, sent 12 hours after we discovered the incident) she likely would have done it out of desperation. She truly felt like she had no options because this guy said so.

I am so thankful this story had what cannot be described as a happy ending, but at least a safe one. The fact that this young girl was so scared of getting caught that she engaged in even more desperate and unsafe behavior is so troubling, but yet so understanding. Who among us hasn’t tried to avoid getting caught by our parents when we knowingly go against the rules? But have the stakes ever been as high?

I did some research of my own, and found some extremely disturbing trends in the way kids are using this app, as well as a few others, and why Internet predators find these such an easy way to get in touch with potential victims.

It literally scared the crap out of me.

I am still searching for the appropriate way for tweens and teens to use the Internet and engage in social media, but I become increasingly convinced that the development of technology far outpaces the maturity of our children.

I encourage you to share this story with your friends and if appropriate, with your children. I encourage you to have meaningful discussions about Web-based behavior and treat it like drinking and driving — there is no instance about social media where they should be scared to tell you what they have done or contact you to help get them out of trouble. And I encourage you to hug your kids tight tonight.

I know I will.

Whitney Fleming is a mom of three daughters and a marketing professional who writes about finding joy in life’s struggles at her blog, Playdates On Fridays.
CALENDAR

May 1
Living Rosary
St. James Petaluma, 2:00pm in the Church. Call Pat Carr for more information (707) 762-1797.

May 4
Mary Crowning
St. Eugene’s School at 1pm.

May 7
Catholic Women Spring Event
Please join the Santa Rosa Diocese National Council of Catholic Women for their Spring Event on Saturday, May 7th at St. Francis Solano Catholic Church in Sonoma 469 Third Street West, Sonoma. Mass at 8:30am followed by a reception in Father Roberts’ Hall with guest speaker Carlin Gould.

Morning of Recollection Oakville Monastery
Speaker Fr. David Costello, OCD “The Practice of Pilgrimage” (Letter for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, 14) “Misericordia Vultus” 9-10am Confessions 10am -11am; Mass 11:00 am 20 Mount Carmel Drive, 0.9 miles west of Highway 29.

May 10
Fire Emergency Preparedness Seminar
9am - 11am. Monsignor Fahey Parish Center 495 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa Cost: FREE! Hosts: SOV Men’s Club in partnership with Villages at Wild Oak H.O.A. Oakmont residents, Vincent “Doc” and Ellie Savarese, will share their experience of surviving the tragic 2015 Hidden Valley, Lake County fire. The Santa Rosa Fire Department and representatives from Cal Fire will present “Steps to Emergency Preparedness,” Emergency Response, and Guidance for Life and Property Saving. All are invited. Refreshments at 9:00 a.m., presentation begins at 9:30am. For additional information: Call Stephanie Batanides, Chair, Villages at Wild Oak Emergency Preparedness Committee at: 538-0772.

May 14-15
Seton Parish, Rohnert Park
Filipino-American Society Rummage Sale. Clean out your closets because, remember, your rummage can be someone else’s treasure!

Lakeport Passion Play
The 36th Annual Passion Play which is held up in Lake County, not far from Lakeport, is a very fine reenactment of the passion. Fr. Phillip Ryan and his team have put a lot of energy and talent into the celebration. It will be held on Saturday, May 14 & Sunday, May 15th. On both days it begins at 4pm., and they have a website: www.lakecountypassionplay.org The phone number is: (707) 279-0349.

May 20
Gospel Music Spring Celebration – Resurrection Parish 303 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa
7:30pm - 9pm
Lighthouse Singers Gospel Choir and Fourth Day Gospel Singers join forces to greet the spring with an evening of joyous gospel music. No one will leave without a jolt of joy and a smile. All are invited to celebrate, to sing and to enjoy! The Lighthouse Singers rehearsals are open. We welcome singers (of all experiences) interested in joining our group to come to an open rehearsal. For more information go to www.lighthousesingers.org

May 21, June 25, July 23
The Human Person – A Dignity Beyond Compare
An Introduction to St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body Presented by Mr. John Galten. Next Class Saturday May 21st, 2016, 9:30am-3:30pm. The course is designed for teaching adults, but all are welcome. The cost is $75. The two required texts will be provided. This course can be used to satisfy some of the renewal requirements for Diocesan certificates. Contact the Diocesan Department of Religious Education for an application.

May 28
Diocesan Priestly Ordination
11am Deacon Andrew Pacheco will be ordained by Bishop Vasa at St. Eugene Cathedral.

June 10
Maryans Sisters of Santa Rosa Annual BBQ
Fundraising Event Smith Ranch, Napa

June 11
Wild Game Feed/Surf and Turf Dinner
Knights Of Columbus Council 9090 Saturday, June 11, 2016 St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Rohnert Park. Appetizers @ 5:30pm; Dinner at 6:15pm. Appetizers: Stuffed Mushrooms, Smoked Salmon, Rocky Mountain Oysters Assorted Sausages & Cheese and more Dinner: Shrimp, Steamed Clams, BBQ - Elk, Deer, Duck, Wild Pig, Wild Turkey, Salad, Assorted Dishes and Dessert Beverages Available Tickets: Adults $40 presale, $45 at the door Children: $10, 5 and under Free Tickets and information, contact Rich Krona @ 707.585.9756. Your continued support of functions like these, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 9090, help them support the following causes: Wounded Warrior Project, Wheelchairs for Veterans, 2 Scholarships for Redwood Adventure Camp, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, Youth Groups, Women’s Guild, Newman Center, Improvements to Parish Hall and Kitchen, (and other Brothers and Councils that are in need).

October 5-16
Holy Year Tour to Italy
St. Apollinaris Parish of Napa is sponsoring a Holy Year Tour to Italy for 12 days October 5-16. All are welcome to join. The trip includes many famous, as well as holy, sites beginning with Sacri Monti di Ossuccio, one of the seven Sacred Mountains of northern Italy in the Italian Lake District. This is a UNESCO World Heritage site overlooking Lake Como, the first stop. For more information contact Susan Powers Kennelly, (707) 257-1804 or susanpk123@gmail.com Museum and Sistine Chapel. A tour of Christian Rome includes the Catacombs, while the Classical tour brings participants to the Appian Way and the Baths of Caracella. Contact: Susan Powers Kennelly, (707) 257-1804 or susanpk123@gmail.com

Ongoing Offerings
Oakville House of Prayer (Carmelite Monastery)
Morning Of Recollection every first Saturday of the month Spiritual Talk 9-10am; Confessions 10-11am; Mass 11am.

Bible Study
Tuesdays with Father Michael Buckley, O.C. D. 8:30 - 9:30am following the 8am Mass.

Confessions-English
Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10-12pm, 3-5pm, and 8-9pm

Confessions-Spanish
Wednesday 10-12pm, 3-5pm, and 8-9pm
20 Mount Carmel Drive, 0.9 miles west of Highway 29. (707) 944-2454, www.oakvillecarmelites.org

Every Sunday
Short Scripture Lessons
St. Eugene Cathedral
The Knights of Columbus are showing a new free video of “Opening the Word,” a program offering prayer and insights for the Sunday Scripture lessons in Year C. Featuring a variety of experienced presenters including Dr. Tim Gray, Mary Healy, Scott Powell, Dr. Edward Sri and Ben Akers, the 52 videos are designed to facilitate thought and discussion for personal faith formation. The short videos only last for 10 minutes but give you a background in the Sunday Scripture Readings. The short video is presented each Sunday in the PLC Hope Room at 10am, running through December 2016. For more information please contact Greg De Gennaro (707) 494-5969 or gregoryd@sonic.net

Weekly on Sundays at St. Eugene’s Cathedral:
Coffee & Donut Social (all ages)
Place: Parish Life Center - Charity Room
Time: following 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30am Masses
NOTE: This is cancelled when other breakfast events supersede it.

Weekly on Sundays at St. Eugene’s Cathedral:
Coffee & Donut Social (all ages)
Place: Parish Life Center - Charity Room
Time: following 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30am Masses
NOTE: This is cancelled when other breakfast events supersede it.

Deepening our Faith (Spanish Speaking Adults)
Place: Parish Life Center - Charity Room
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm

St. Ambrose Young Adult Group (18-30 years)
Place: Parish Life Center - Hope Room
Time: 7:00 - 8:30pm

St. Jerome’s Bible Study Group (for Confirmed Teens)
Place: Msgr. Becker Center
Time: 7:00 - 8:30pm

Weekly on Sundays at Sonoma State Newman Center:
Mass is offered Sunday 6pm
Followed by a social gathering and meal. All are invited!
sstnewmancenter@gmail.com
www.srdioceseespirituality.org

CALENDAR
Lake County Passion Play in its 36th Year

The Lake County Outdoor Passion Play is now readying for its 36th consecutive presentation on Saturday, May 14th, and Sunday, May 15th, 2016. The performances over the past 35 years have not only been an awesome religious experience for the cast and crew, but also for the thousands of people from far and near, who have witnessed this unique drama portraying and reliving the last days of Jesus’ life on this earth.

Inspired and deeply moved by the power of this annual presentation to touch the hearts and souls of so many people, the Passion Play Board of Directors is determined to continue its efforts in promoting and developing the Lake County Passion Play.

The Passion Play grounds consist of 85 acres on the shores of Clear Lake—the largest natural lake in California. Approximately 20 acres of the grounds are used for the actual presentation and for the audience. The remaining 65 acres are used for parking and for the Passion Play animals—sheep, llamas, and horses. On the 20 acres, there is a large ‘Garden of Gethsemane,’ plus the ‘House of Caiphas,’ the ‘Last Supper’ stage, ‘Pilate’s Judgment Hall’ and ‘Herod’s Palace.’ The ‘Via Dolorosa’ is a 615 foot climb to the crucifixion scene.

Two of the stages—the ‘Last Supper’ and ‘House of Caiphas’—had to be completely rebuilt in 2007 at a cost of $6,000. The labor involved in the construction was donated by a local contractor and some volunteers. These stages are magnificent and should be there for many years to come.

Another pressing issue was the installation of new entrance gates to the Passion Play grounds. The gates were installed prior to the 2007 performances. They have been powder coated in an off-white color. The construction included the addition of large blue metal letters which read “Lake County Passion Play.” The gates cost $10,000 to build and install. They are dedicated to the memory of a woman deeply committed to the Passion Play from its inception—Helen Burzynski.

The next major undertaking will be the construction of a new rehearsal center, which will stand behind the hill.

The organizers of the Passion Play in Lake County invite everyone to the annual outdoor presentation of the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Passion Play Grounds, (see Passion Play, p. 24)
Adult Faith Formación & Certificación 2015-2017

SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation, Introduction, &amp; Spirituality of Catechesis</th>
<th>Oct. 31</th>
<th>Oct. 2</th>
<th>Sept. 23</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Creed &amp; Christology</td>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Spirit, Ecclesiology, Mary &amp; Saints</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy &amp; Sacraments of Initiation</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
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<td>Sacraments of Healing &amp; Service</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principals/Methods/History of Catechesis; Intro to Ecclesial Method</td>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral Life in Christ: Foundations</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Feb. 3, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ten Commandments &amp; Conscience Formation</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
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<td>Catholic Social Teaching</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>March 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Prayer &amp; Observation (in Spanish): March 17</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Adult Formation $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (not interested in certification)
- Basic Catechist (BC) $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books.
- Master Catechist (MC) $175.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (Advanced Teaching/Prerequisite BC)
- MC Program Requirements: 100 hours minimum plus other requisites.
- BC Program Requirements: 40 hours
- MC Program Requirements: 100 hours minimum plus other requisites.
- Those who wish to attend and are not interested in receiving a California Certificate are welcome, but must register.
- Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.
- Complete an Application to begin the Adult Formation or California Catechist Process or to register for class.
- Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.
- Class fee does not include all books.
- Catechist Maestro (MC) $175.00/person for entire program. Some books are included. (Adv. Teaching/Prerequisite BC)
- Adult Formation $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (not interested in certification)
- Basic Catechist (BC) $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books.
- Master Catechist (MC) $175.00/person for entire program, includes some books. (Advanced Teaching/Prerequisite BC)
- MC Program Requirements: 100 hours minimum plus other requisites.
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- Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.
- Class fee does not include all books.
- Catechist Maestro (MC) $175.00/person for entire program. Some books are included. (Adv. Teaching/Prerequisite BC)
- Locked ATR

PROGRAMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation, Introducción y Espiritualidad de la catequesis</th>
<th>oct 31</th>
<th>enero 21</th>
<th>sept 23</th>
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<td>El Credo y Cristología</td>
<td>nov 21</td>
<td>feb 18</td>
<td>sept 24</td>
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<td>Espíritu Santo, Eclesiología, Virgen María y los Santos</td>
<td>dic 5</td>
<td>marzo 17</td>
<td>nov 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgia y Sacramentos de iniciación</td>
<td>enero 30</td>
<td>abril 7 y 21</td>
<td>nov 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramentos de Sanación y Servicio</td>
<td>feb 27</td>
<td>mayo 12 y 19</td>
<td>dec 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principales, Metodología, Historia de la catequesis y Introducción a la Eclesiología</td>
<td>marzo 19</td>
<td>junio 2</td>
<td>dec 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La vida moral en Cristo: formación</td>
<td>abril 23</td>
<td>junio 16</td>
<td>feb 3, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Ojeos Mandamientos y Formación de la Consciencia</td>
<td>mayo 21</td>
<td>julio 7</td>
<td>feb 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La doctrina social católica</td>
<td>junio 25</td>
<td>julio 21</td>
<td>marzo 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La oración cristiana y observaciones</td>
<td>julio 23</td>
<td>aug 18</td>
<td>abril 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Formación para adultos $150.00/person para toda la serie. Algunos libros están incluidos. No estoy interesado en la certificación.
- Cataquista básico (BC) $55.00/person para toda la serie. Algunos libros están incluidos.
- Cataquista Maestro (MC) $175.00/person para toda la serie. Algunos libros están incluidos. (Estudio en profundidad, seminario avanzado y practica docente. Requiere: Certificado básico)
- Para aquellos interesados en ir a solamente una clase el costo es $20 por clase, no incluye los libros.
- Habrá varios libros disponibles para comprar. La tarifa de la clase no incluye el costo de estos libros.
- Aquellos que deseen asistir y no están interesados en recibir un certificado de catequista son bienvenidos, pero se debe registrar.
- Clase se puede utilizar para la recertificación del catequista.
- Llene una solicitud para iniciar el proceso de certificación de catequista o registre para clase.
- Los requisitos para el programa del BC catequista son 40 horas.
- Los requisitos para el programa del MC catequista son mínimo de 100 horas mas otros requisitos.

Sponsored by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education

To apply & for registrations, contact: Carmen Aanenson
dre@srdiocese.org | (707) 566-3366 | www.santarosacatholic.org

May 22: St. Rita of Cascia

More than 150 players re-enact this most touching of dramas. Mounted Roman soldiers sweep across the 1,000 foot stage; sheep wander across the hillsides; a powerful sound system carries the dialogue faithfully drawn from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. A talented team of directors, producers, and costume designers work throughout the year to create this experience.

The Passion Play is not a spectacle. Rather, it is a prayerful expression of the faith of the people involved. Men, women, and children from many denominations have come together to make this a truly Ecumenical experience. The unity among the players is a visible sign of the Holy Spirit.

Details
Date: May 14th and 15th, 2016. The play is presented in its entirety on both days.
Time: 4:00pm
Place: The Passion Play Grounds are located at 7010 Westlake Road, Upper Lake, CA 95485 (off Highway 29, about 7 miles north of Lakeport in Lake County). The play lasts about 2 hours.
Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Your tax-deductible donation should be made payable to: Lake County Passion Play P. O. Box 386 Lakeport, CA 95453.
Please bring your own chair. No smoking, food, drinks, or pets are allowed on the grounds. Fresh spring water is available.