

The Catholic Voice

JANUARY 2022
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With Mary's help, we can make a difference

MY FRIENDS, we have certainly had our share of suffering this past year:

- Sickness and death from Covid;
- Loss of jobs;
- Closing of schools;
- Closing of churches;
- Shootings & violence in our city;
- DACA insecurity;
- No comprehensive immigration reform by the government;
- Families separated by closed borders.

So many sorrows. Yet, Our Lady understands.



Photo by Veronica Rosas



**BY BISHOP
MICHAEL C.
BARBER, SJ**
*Bishop Michael
C. Barber, SJ has
been bishop of
the Diocese of
Oakland since
May 2013.*

We are concluding the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany when we commemorate the indispensable role of Our Lady in the birth and early life of her Son. It's true what St. Bernard said, "God wills that all things come to us through Mary" since we say in the Nicene Creed "through Him all things were made" and Christ came to us through birth from His mother.

We commemorate Mary in her own right through the feasts of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8), Our Lady of Loretto (restored by Pope Francis to Dec. 10), Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12), and Mary Mother of God (Jan. 1).

She understood the suffering of her son. She understands our troubles, too.

Remember, when she was a new mother, and presented her baby Jesus to the prophet Simeon in the temple, Simeon looked at her and said, "A sword shall pierce your heart!"

Thirty-three years later, Mother Mary had to watch the suffering and death of her son Jesus on the Cross. Yet she had faith. She stood firm. She did not desert Jesus. She overcame her fear and stayed with Him to the end!

There's a lesson here for us. When we are suffering, imitate Mary. Stand by Jesus "with Mary" at the foot of the Cross. Don't run away and hide like most of the apostles did.

Remember those most touching words of Mary when she appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico: "Listen, my son, to what I tell you now. Do not let anything worry or afflict you; do not fear illness nor any troublesome happening nor pain. Am I not

here? I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your life and health? Are you not in my embrace and in my prayers? What else do you need?"

But the story does not end there. Once we have been strengthened by Our Lady, and fortified by Holy Communion with her Son, we have a mission. We can never retreat. The apostles did recover from their fear, and after Jesus had appeared to them in His resurrected body, they went out and told everyone about Jesus. They were witnesses to His love and mercy.

And their witness made a difference.

With Mary's help and encouragement, we can do something to help solve our problems. We can vote for civic leaders who will restore public safety. We can vote for legislators who will work for comprehensive immigration reform, with protection for our DACA children. We can vote for laws that protect human life – for babies in the womb to our elderly who are at risk of euthanasia.

And we can invite our family members, friends and neighbors to know and love Our Lady and her son Jesus, by our prayer, love, friendship and participation in the Sunday Eucharist.

Mary's Mission in Life was to Give Us Jesus. To be His Mother. And to be our Mother.

If we have wandered, let us return to the source of all love, mercy and compassion: Jesus and Mary. We do that especially by going to Mass.

This year 2022 marks the 250th anniversary of the celebration of the first Mass in what would become the diocese and city of Oakland. Franciscan Father Juan Crespi said that Mass on the shore of Lake Merritt, where the present parish of Our Lady of Lourdes now stands, on March 2, 1772. The gift of Christ in the Eucharist has been with us ever since. Come let us adore Him! †

Con la ayuda de María, podemos hacer la diferencia



Photo by Verónica Rosas

AMIGOS MÍOS, sin duda todos hemos tenido grandes sufrimientos estos dos últimos años:

- Enfermedades y muertes por el COVID;
- Pérdidas de trabajos;
- Cierre de escuelas;
- Cierre de iglesias;
- Tiroteos y violencia en nuestra ciudad;
- Inseguridades por DACA;
- No hay una reforma migratoria just por parte del gobierno;
- Tantas familias separadas por que las fronteras están cerradas.
- Tantos dolores. Tanto sufrimiento.

Sin embargo, Nuestra Señora nos comprende.

Recordemos cuando ella recién fue madre y presentó a su niño Jesús al profeta Simeón en el templo. Simeón la miró y le dijo: “¡Una espada traspasará tu corazón!” Treinta y tres años después, Mama María tuvo que presenciar la muerte dolorosa de su hijo Jesús en la Cruz. Sin embargo, ella tenía fe. Ella se mantuvo firme. Ella no abandonó a Jesús. ¡Ella superó su miedo y se quedó con Él... hasta el final!

Aquí hay una lección importante para nosotros. Cuando estemos sufriendo, imitémos a María. Permanece junto a Jesús “con María” al pie de la Cruz. No huyas, ni te escondas como lo hicieron la mayoría de los Apóstoles.

Recuerda las palabras más conmovedoras de María a San Juan Diego: “Escucha Hijo mío lo que te digo ahora. Que no se perturbe tu rostro, ni tu corazón; No temas esta enfermedad, ni ninguna otra enfermedad. Ni ningún suceso molesto, ni dolor.

¿No estoy aquí, yo, que soy tu madre? ¿No estás bajo mi sombra y resguardo? ¿No soy, yo la fuente de tu alegría? ¿No soy yo tu vida y tu salud? ¿No estás en el hueco de mi manto, en el cruce de mis brazos? ¿Tienes necesidad de alguna otra cosa?

Pero la historia no termina allí. Una vez que hemos sido fortalecidos por Nuestra Señora y fortalecidos por la Sagrada Comunión con su Hijo, tenemos una misión que cumplir.

Nunca podremos retroceder. No nos podemos hacer para atrás. Los Apóstoles se recuperaron de su miedo, y después de que Jesús se les apareció en Su cuerpo resucitado, Ellos salieron y les contaron a todos acerca de Jesús. Fueron testigos de su gran amor y misericordia.

Y su testimonio hizo la diferencia.

Con la ayuda y la motivación de María, podemos hacer algo para ayudar a resolver nuestros problemas. Podemos votar por líderes cívicos que restablezcan la seguridad pública. Podemos votar por legisladores que trabajarán por una reforma migratoria íntegra y justa, con protección para nuestros niños de DACA. Podemos votar por leyes que protegen la vida humana, de los bebés en el vientre de su madre, de nuestros ancianos que están en riesgo de la eutanasia.

Y podemos invitar a nuestros familiares, amigos y vecinos, a conocer y amar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y a su hijo Jesús... mediante nuestra oración, nuestro amor y amistad y asistiendo a la Santa Misa.

La misión de María en la vida, fue darnos a Jesús. Ser Su Madre. Y Ser Nuestra Madre.

Si nos hemos extraviado, volvámos a la fuente de todo amor, toda misericordia y compasión - en Jesús y María. †



SEMINARIANS ADVANCE IN THEIR STUDIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At St. Patrick's Seminary & University, Alvaro Santamaria was instituted to the ministry of the Acolyte, and Aidan Cameron-Smith was instituted to the ministry of Lectors. Aidan, left, is in his first year of theology studies, and Alvaro, right, is in his second year of theology studies at the Menlo Park seminary. Standing between them is Father Matthew Murray, pastor of St. Isidore Parish in Danville.



Ten seminarians are in formation for the diocese. Seminarians, proud to be from Oakland, wear jackets with the diocesan crest. Pictured are Deacon Ramon Urbina, Rodolfo Quinteros, Aidan Cameron-Smith and Antonio Espinoza, who study at St. Patrick's Seminary & University. †



WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2022

**Ministry of The Diocese of Oakland
Supported by The Order of Malta®**
Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, 11 a.m.
The Cathedral of Christ the Light
2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612

World Day of the Sick, initiated by Pope St. John Paul II and held annually worldwide near the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, is a ministry of the Diocese of Oakland and Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ.

Bishop Barber invites all who are sick or ill, as well as family members, caregivers and healthcare providers, to observe this day with him and many priests, religious and laity from throughout the diocese.

Please join us in this special opportunity to pray for healing and hope in this fragile population. This World Day of the Sick in Oakland will include:

- Mass
- Sacrament of anointing the sick
- Blessing of caregivers and healthcare providers
- Distribution of holy water from Lourdes, France

No RSVP is necessary.

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND COMMEMORATES 60 YEARS

ON JANUARY 13, 1962, THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND WAS CREATED, BORN OF THE HISTORIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO, AS JEFFREY M. BURNS AND MARY CARMEN BATIZA BEGAN "WE ARE THE CHURCH: A HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND."

Two other dioceses were born that day – Santa Rosa and Stockton – and all are commemorating 60 years.

But, as we all know, the Catholic faith in California has a much longer history.

The Catholic Voice will be highlighting the faith over the year.

In the February issue, read about Mission San José, as it celebrates 225 years of history and serves vibrant new communities in Fremont.

If you have a Diocese of Oakland story to share, please let *The Catholic Voice* know.

Submissions and story ideas are welcome.

† MORE INFORMATION

Please email Michele Jurich at mjurich@oakdiocese.org or mail to *The Catholic Voice*, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612.



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ has appointed Father Jimmy Macalinao as the Diocese of Oakland point of contact for the synodal process and as a liaison between the diocese and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He is also a resource for local parishes and groups and trains and facilitates the synodal consultations. He works with co-contact Cristina Hernández, diocesan coordinator of the Office for Life and Justice.



Front row: Father Jimmy Macalinao, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ and Cristina Hernández

Back row: Jennifer Lozada, Elsa Zavala, Joseph Nufable and Father Lawrence D'Anjou

Not pictured: Amanda Wehrman

Photo: Larry Kamer

Bishop Barber also announced the members of the diocesan synod core team:

Father Lawrence D'Anjou, vicar general; Jennifer Lozada, member of Most Holy Rosary Parish, Antioch; Joseph Nufable, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry and RCIA; Amanda Wehrman, member of Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish, Berkeley; and Elsa Zavala, member of St. Joseph Parish, Pinole.

We asked the synod co-contacts to share their thoughts . . .

Father Jimmy Macalinao

director, Department of Faith Formation and Evangelization

Why are we being asked to participate in the synodal process?

Pope Francis is inviting us to participate in the synodal process to enable us to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as we journey together. This process is rooted in meditation on Scripture, the liturgy and prayer, and in this way, the journey of listening to one another can be an authentic experience of discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit. Through our active involvement in this synodal path, it hopes to foster a lived experience of discernment, participation and co-responsibility, where the diversity of gifts is brought together for the Church's mission in the world.

How does the synodal process work with the diocesan Mission Alignment process?

The MAP and synod are complementary. MAP is geared toward renewal of the evangelization and mission of the diocese and revitalization of our parishes, communities and resources to effectively carry out her missionary task. While the synod is a listening and dialogue of the people of God on how they are journeying together in view of the challenges and opportunities before us. It seeks to strengthen communion, participation and mission in the local and universal Church through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Our diocese is experiencing synodality already. MAP seeks to listen and consult lay leaders, clergy, parishioners and others in view of the mission and the future of the Church in the diocese. The practice of synodality within the context of MAP allows us to move forward with an understanding of today's parish communities and a look to a vibrant, meaningful future with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

What is the time frame for the process? How will the process work? Will it include consulting bodies of our diocese?

The time frame for synodal process is from October 2021 to June 30, 2022. At the moment, the core team is reflecting on the process that will be implemented for listening and consultation in our diocese. Initially, the thoughts and recommendations

are geared towards creating a guideline to follow. This includes prayer, song, scriptural reading, adoration, silence and reflection, sharing and synthesis of the reflection. We are hoping to reach out and to listen to the people of God in the diocese through the various representatives from parishes, institutions, groups, organizations, councils, consulting bodies and other communities. These representatives will include women, men, youth, young adults, students, clergy, religious, lay leaders and the poor and marginalized. The gathering or meeting of each group for consultation will be based upon their existing structure within their parish or community.

The synthesis of the group's reflection will be given to the core team. The team will then summarize these reflections in a 10-page report that will be presented to the bishop for his review before submission to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops General Secretariat.

In addition to the opening liturgies on Oct. 24, 2021, there will be a closing liturgy to be celebrated by Bishop Michael Barber, SJ

Cristina Hernández

co-contact, Diocese of Oakland, synod process coordinator, Office for Life and Justice

How would you describe the theme of the synod?

The synod is an invitation to open our hearts and listen to what the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us. It is imperative that we calm our minds through prayer and discernment in order to allow the heart to open up. The participation in the synod is not to be rushed, but to be embraced as deeply relational, with God first and with one another second.

What do you hope to come out of the synod, for the universal Church and the Church locally?

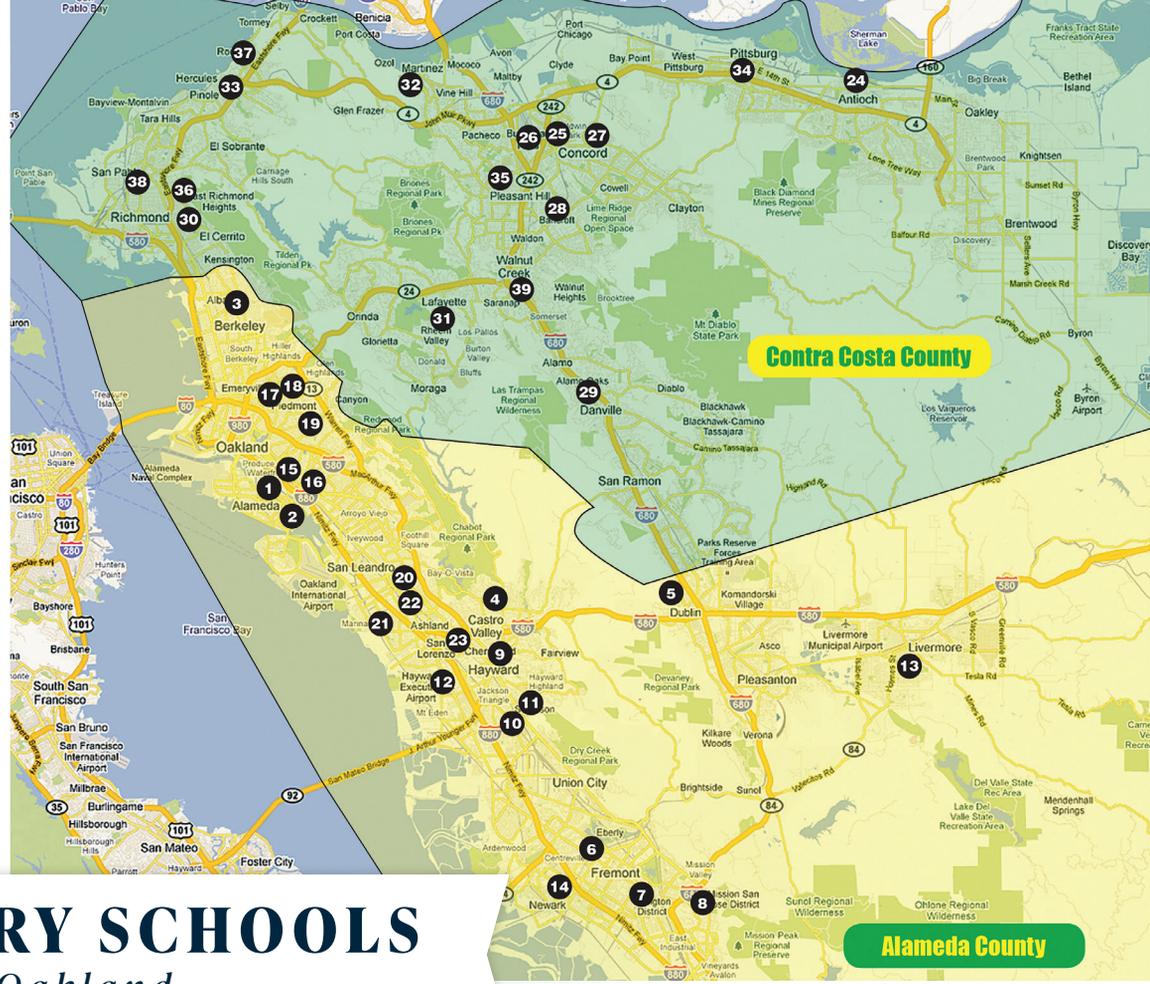
My hope and prayer for the local and universal Church is that we are able to pause and take advantage of this opportunity of deep listening. As Pope Francis said in his homily on the opening of the synod, I hope that we can listen actively to as many people who are able to participate, with an open heart and without judgment or preconceptions. I hope that every person in the Church and in the margins or even who has left the Church is embraced in this process and that this encounter brings us closer to discovering the path for our Church in the new millennium. †

MORE INFORMATION:
oakdiocese.org/synod-2021-2023





Catholic Schools Week –
Jan. 30-Feb. 5, 2022 –
is a great time to visit the
elementary schools of
the Diocese of Oakland.
Check with the schools
for their special events.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

of the Diocese of Oakland

ALAMEDA COUNTY

ALAMEDA

1 ST. JOSEPH
1910 San Antonio Ave.
510-522-4456
www.stjosphehalameda.org
Principal: Danielle Colvert

2 ST. PHILIP NERI
1335 High St.
510-521-0787
www.spnalameda.org
Principal: Julie Thomas

BERKELEY

3 SCHOOL OF THE MADELEINE
1225 Milvia St.
510-526-4744
www.themadeleine.com
Principal: Joseph Nagel

CASTRO VALLEY

4 OUR LADY OF GRACE
19920 Anita Ave.
510-581-3155
www.olgschool.org
Principal: Kathy Gannon-Briggs

DUBLIN

5 ST. RAYMOND
11557 Shannon Ave.
925-828-4064
www.straymondschool.org
Principal: Greg Peterson

FREMONT

6 HOLY SPIRIT
3930 Parish Ave.
510-793-3553
www.holyspiritschoolfremont.com
Principal: Holly Marsh

7 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
40374 Fremont Blvd.
510-657-1674
www.olgweb.org
Principal: Sister Janice Therese Wellington, OP

8 ST. JOSEPH
43222 Mission Blvd.
510-656-6525
www.stjosephschoolfremont.org
Principal: Patti Calton

HAYWARD

9 ALL SAINTS
22870 Second St.
510-582-1910
www.ascshayward.org
Principal: Jennifer Diaz

10 ST. BEDE
26910 Patrick Ave.
510-782-3444
www.mystbedecatholicsschool.org
Principal: Janine Durana

11 ST. CLEMENT

790 Calhoun St.
510-538-5885
www.sclementschool.org
Principal: Veronica Hernandez

12 ST. JOACHIM

21250 Hesperian Blvd.
510-783-3177
www.stjoachimschool.org
Principal: Armond Seishas
LIVERMORE

13 ST. MICHAEL

345 Church St.
925-447-1888
www.smliv.org
Principal: Alison Wilkie

NEWARK**14 ST. EDWARD**

5788 Thornton Ave.
510-793-7242
www.stedwardnewark.org
Principal: Tina Cruz

OAKLAND**15 ST. ANTHONY**

A Lumen Christi Academy
1500 E. 15th St.
510-534-3334
stanthony-oakland.org
Principal: Marisol Preciado

16 ST. ELIZABETH

A Lumen Christi Academy
1516 33rd Ave.
510-532-7392
www.saintelizabeth.us
Principal: Lynne Mullen

17 ST. LEO

4238 Howe St.
510-654-7828
www.stleohegreat.org
Principal: Sonya Simril

18 ST. THERESA

4850 Clarewood Drive
510-547-3146
www.sttheresaschool.org
Principal: Alicia Ortegon

PIEDMONT**19 CORPUS CHRISTI**

1 Estates Drive
510-530-4056
www.corpuschristischool.com
Principal: Michael Sahlman

SAN LEANDRO**20 ASSUMPTION**

1851 136th Ave.
510-357-8772
www.assumptionschool-sl.org
Principal: Lana Rocheford

21 ST. FELICITAS

1650 Manor Blvd.
510-357-2530
www.stfelicitas-school.org
Principal: Sister Felicia Pham

22 ST. LEANDER

451 Davis St.
510-351-4144
www.stleandercatholicsschool.org
Principal: Amy Cross

SAN LORENZO**23 ST. JOHN**

270 E. Lewelling Blvd.
510-276-6632
www.stjohnslz.org
Principal: Paige Child

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**ANTIOCH****24 HOLY ROSARY**

25 East 15th St.
925-757-1270
www.holyrosarycatholicsschool.org
Principal: Fely Fajardo

25 ST. AGNES

3886 Chestnut St.
925-689-3990
www.stagnesconcord.com
Principal: Jill Lucia

26 DE LA SALLE ACADEMY

1380 Galaxy Way
925-288-8200
www.dlshs-academy.org
Principal: Chris Giangregorio

27 ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

866 Oak Grove Road
925-682-5414
www.sfaconcord.org
Principal: Cathy VanderKlugt

28 QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS

A Lumen Christi Academy
2391 Grant St.
925-685-8700
www.qasconcord.org
Principal: Lucia Prince

DANVILLE**29 ST. ISIDORE**

435 La Gonda Way
925-837-2977
www.stisidore.org
Principal: Carol Bender

EL CERRITO**30 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

11156 San Pablo Ave.
510-234-2244
www.stjohnec.org
Principal: Dina Trombettas

LAFAYETTE**31 ST. PERPETUA**

3445 Hamlin Road
925-284-1640
www.stperpetua-school.org
Principal: Karen Goodshaw

MARTINEZ**32 ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

A Lumen Christi Academy
604 Mellus St.
925-228-4140
www.stcatherinemartinez.com
Principal: Jessica Griswold

PINOLE**33 ST. JOSEPH**

1961 Plum St
510-724-0242
www.stjosephpinole.com
Principal: Natalie Lenz-Acuña

PITTSBURG**34 ST. PETER MARTYR**

A Lumen Christi Academy
425 W. Fourth St.
925-439-1014
www.stpetermartyrschool.org
Principal: Katie Wilson

PLEASANT HILL**35 CHRIST THE KING**

195B Brandon Road
925-685-1109
www.ctkschool.org
Principal: Joe Silveira

RICHMOND**36 ST. DAVID**

871 Sonoma St.
510-232-2283
www.stdavidsschool.org
Principal: Kenneth Farr

RODEO**37 ST. PATRICK**

907 Seventh St.
510-799-2506
www.stpatrickschoolrodeo.org
Principal: Kelly Stevens

SAN PABLO**38 ST. PAUL**

A Lumen Christi Academy
1825 Church Lane
510-233-3080
www.st-paulsschool.org
Principal: Emma Flores

WALNUT CREEK**39 ST. MARY**

1158 Bont Lane
925-935-5054
www.st-mary.net
Principal: Garrett Padia †



"I really fell in love with the faith."

AN ACE OF A SUPERINTENDENT LEADS DIOCESE OF OAKLAND SCHOOLS

BY MICHELE JURICH

Michele Jurich is editor of *The Catholic Voice*.

PHOTOS BY BOWERBIRD PHOTOGRAPHY®

Dr. Andrew Currier became superintendent of the schools of the Diocese of Oakland Schools on July 1.

He wasted no time getting to work.

"I'm appreciative of Kathleen Radecke for onboarding me" he said, as the former superintendent introduced him to Catholic school leadership from the diocesan elementary and high schools.

It was a promising time for schools.

"Things were looking loosened up," he said, regarding COVID-19 precautions. "It looked hopeful."

Then the nation COVID-19 picture changed.

"Pretty quickly we realized it's going to be a tough year," he said.

"We worked collaboratively with the Department of Catholic Schools, the Lumen Christi Academies, legal counsel, principals and the two counties' departments of public health.

“Through a lot of collaboration and communication, we were able to open school with a revised set of guidelines that have worked pretty well.”

Leaders are carefully tracking the health of the school communities. “We are seeing more COVID cases among the students than last year,” he said. “And it’s not spreading in the schools.”

There is very good news: “They’re in school and they’re in Mass,” the superintendent said.

“This year is about ensuring the safety of our children, working collaboratively with our local health organizations to ensure information is shared appropriately and in a timely fashion. Because our teachers and principals are working so hard, they are able to deliver a regular school day in masks,” he said.

Students’ academic work and social-emotional health are also being addressed.

“What we’re seeing is the losses were not as drastic as we anticipated but the social emotional needs are far greater than we anticipated. What we’ve learned is that our students are in need of attention. The pandemic certainly has consequences on their social emotional well-being but it’s good we are in school rather than isolated.

“That’s the gift we can give them: We’re open.”

Our Catholic schools are thriving, he said.

“Our parents have stuck with us and continue to support the parish schools,” he said. “Our student population is up 6 percent in the Diocese of Oakland; nationally it’s 6 percent down.”

Additional good news came in the form of government-based resources being made available to private schools, Andrew noted.

One large portion was the Payroll Protection Program. Catholic schools controller Margo Tammen helped parishes and schools with their applications.

Credit for the schools’ overall success is shared. First and foremost, our parents sticking with their schools and our teachers and principals adapting so quickly,” he said.

As of Nov. 1, Andrew had visited 15 schools. He said he hopes to visit all the schools of the diocese this year.

Born and raised Catholic, Andrew Currier has been a traveler from his earliest days. He attended both public schools and Catholic schools in his childhood.

“My father was a Coast Guard rescue pilot,” he said. “There were areas where there weren’t Catholic schools. I was born in Alaska; we moved to northern Michigan.”

He began high school at Montgomery Catholic in Montgomery, Alabama. After a year, he transferred to Notre Dame High School, an all-boys school in Detroit.

Scripture class in his sophomore year was taught by Sister Alice Kotwick, a Servant of Mary sister.

“That changed everything for me,” he said. “My eyes were opened. I really fell in love with the faith.

“She created the space to encounter Jesus through the Word,” he said. “It works on its own. He works despite us.”

Scripture class in his sophomore year was taught by Sister Alice Kotwick, a Servant of Mary sister. “That changed everything for me. My eyes were opened. She created the space to encounter Jesus through the Word. It works on its own. He works despite us.”

In the year of his First Communion, his family lived in Lake Ridge, Virginia, where they attended St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

“I witnessed the Seton Miracles,” he said. “People were flocking from all over the world.”

“It was a tiny parish, like a Cracker Jack box of a parish. The side aisles were folding chairs. We didn’t even have pews all the way across,” he recalled.

It was around the time of the Persian Gulf War. “My father was stationed at the Pentagon,” he said.

“The Seton Miracles were really powerful; to see the Divine interacting in parish life, really visibly and palpably.”

Father James Bruse experienced stig-

mata; statues wept. Believers came in droves.

“My brother had a statue of Mary blessed by Father Jim,” Andrew recalled. “When his statue is in the presence of Father Jim or the statue that was weeping in our parish, it weeps too.”

He had another encounter.

“I was holding my grandmother’s hand. She touched her rosary to the statue that was weeping. It turned hot.”

Another remembrance: “Prior to that you put your money in the basket when it goes around; people were throwing money at the statue.”

He recalled his mother’s take on the occurrence: “Our Blessed Mother is weeping for what’s going on.”

After graduating from high school, Andrew accepted a baseball scholarship to Grand Valley State in Michigan. He was a pitcher who worked as the sacristan at the Basilica of St. Adalbert in Grand Rapids.

“But then I graduated from college a semester early; I had injured my shoulder,” he said. “I played briefly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ▶

“

This year is about ensuring the safety of our children, and working collaboratively with our local health organizations.”



then coached baseball in Fort Lauderdale at St. Thomas Aquinas and was teaching at Monsignor Pace in Miami.

“I heard about ACE and applied,” he said. “I began teaching the very next year.”

The Alliance for Catholic Education program at the University of Notre Dame prepared him for a teaching position at St. Gertrude School in Bell Gardens, east of Los Angeles.

There, in a classroom with 40 children and under he guidance of the Salesian Sisters, he began teaching. Meetings with parents were conducted in Spanish.

“I joined the Order of Malta last weekend. It was in Orange County. I stopped at St. Gertrude,” he said showing a photo on his phone of a cinder-block building.

A quinceanera was in progress in the vibrant community.

After completing the two years with ACE, he made a pilgrimage to France, where he taught, visited Lourdes and Lisieux and paid his respects to La Salette and St. Vincent de Paul. He described it as a “spiritual reset” after his time in Los Angeles.

After returning to the United States, he taught high school for two years in Fairfax, Virginia.

He became a principal at the age of 26, in Beltsville, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C.

“I met my wife in Virginia, she was a Catholic school teacher. We got married and lived in the principal’s house at St. Joseph in Beltsville, Maryland.”

Andrew and Sarah Currier are the parents of their own miracles, Pauline and Xavier.

Along the way, he earned his doctorate at The Catholic University of America.

After serving as principal at St. Adalbert School in South Bend, Indiana – where a school voucher program helped make school affordable for families – he accepted the presidency of Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco.

What encouraged his move across the bay?

“I trained and studied to be a superintendent and the opportunity to serve this diocese came open. I thought I might be able to serve our schools and help our schools grow and strengthen the faith and academics.” †

LEARNING IN A NEW

Light

Lumen Christi Academies
embrace *Laudato Sí*

BY RODNEY
PIERRE-ANTOINE
*Rodney Pierre-
Antoine is
executive director
of the Lumen
Christi Academies.*



The garden at St. Elizabeth Elementary School, in Oakland's Fruitvale District, provides an outdoor learning experience.

WE RESOLVE TO CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Our schools journey forward into 2022 and the season for “New Year’s Resolutions” with hopeful spirits. Collectively, we embrace this time for new beginnings, to be goal-orientated or more intentional in our lives. Naturally, many of us will resolve to lose a few pounds, strive to continue healthy practices initiated last year, change undesired behaviors and establish new personal goals to work toward. This is also a time of reflection where we contemplate how these practices impact us and their importance to our overall well-being.

Pope Francis invites us to look beyond “self” when establishing impactful resolutions for the year ahead. Through *Laudato Si*, he invites us to walk in solidarity with our global community as we build a better future

together by profoundly caring for each other, our Creator and all creation.

Pope Francis is challenging us to “Listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer most because of the unbalanced ecology.”

The rippling effects of climate change can be seen in all facets of our global society: environmental, social, economic, political and the distribution of goods. It is hard to argue against climate change being one of the principal challenges facing humanity.

As Northern California residents, our students are well aware of harsh realities of climate change and the “cry of the Earth.” This September, countless Lumen Christi Academies students reminded their teachers of the anniversary of “Orange Day.” It was on Sept. 9, 2020, when a convergence of wildfire smoke and fog cast an eerie orange haze over the Bay Area. “Orange Day” is symbolic of the global cry of creation,

a cry that is so real for us here in California. Our students have heard this cry and are beginning to respond to Pope Francis’ challenge for us to Care for our Common Home.

The Care for Creation Team at St. Elizabeth Elementary School is actively carrying the call of *Laudato Si*. The foundational approach stresses:

- Relationship with Creation,
- Education about Creation and
- Compassionate Action for Creation.

The team first focused on creating a waste management system. Thanks to the team’s efforts, all classrooms and school areas now feature a three-bin system: compost, recycling and landfill bins.

The first student-led campaign focused on composting all the paper towels used on campus. Now they are homing in on all other aspects of waste management.

The Creation Team has also led school-wide activities, created a landfill-recycling-compost collage/mural and posted

signs throughout the school so that people know which items go into which bins.

Once the waste-management efforts have taken root, the team plans to lead educational and activity efforts focused on cultivating a relationship with our land here in Oakland, as well as educate and take action on the climate crisis. They hope to collaborate with other Lumen Christi Academies communities and have already been in contact with the eighth-grade class at St. Peter Martyr School.

WE STAND TOGETHER AND INCLUDE EVERYONE

We are grateful to be able to partner with Michael Downs, director of Justice and Kinship at Bishop O’Dowd High School, in this transformational endeavor. With Michael’s guidance, our schools have registered in the *Laudato Si* Action Platform as we journey toward sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology. Michael has facilitated a series of formation sessions for our



A curious learner uses a magnifier at St. Peter Martyr School in Pittsburg.

THE LUMEN CHRISTI ACADEMIES

- Queen of All Saints School, Concord
- St. Anthony School, Oakland
- St. Catherine of Siena School, Martinez
- St. Elizabeth School, Oakland
- St. Paul School, San Pablo
- St. Peter Martyr School, Pittsburg

www.lumenchristiacademies.org

Photos courtesy of the Lumen Christi Academies

teachers, offering practical ways for us to bring the principles of *Ladato Sì* to life in our campuses, curriculum, community and culture.

We are also collaborating with the National Catholic Educational Association this year. Teachers across the network have had opportunities to reflect on setting monthly goals for themselves. Through Classroom Learning Labs, teachers have been able to observe how their peers in our Lumen Christi Academies network teach using similar instructional methods. In October, they observed Joe Lozano, junior high teacher at St. Peter Martyr. In November, they observed Stephanie Pacheco, first grade teacher at Queen of All Saints. This collaborative practice allows teachers to become self-reflective and, in their Professional Learning Communities, discuss ways to strengthen their instruction.

WE DEVELOP THE WHOLE PERSON

THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE EXPERIENCE THAT IS DYNAMIC, INNOVATIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Tomorrow's Greta Thunbergs are in our classrooms and in your homes today. The solutions to the climate crisis rest within each of us as individuals. This is why we are forming and empowering our students to be co-creators of a brighter, more sustainable future for Our Common Home. Creatively integrating environmental sustainability into our curriculum is a small, yet important step in this process.



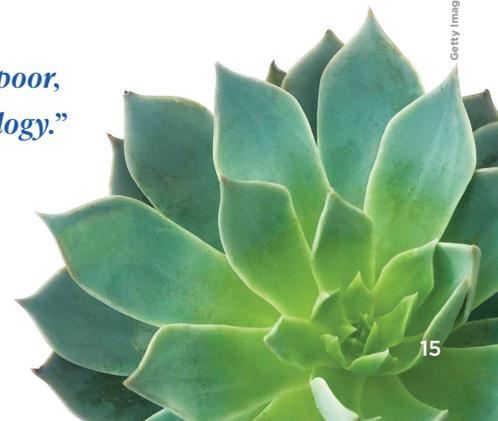
Listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer most because of the unbalanced ecology."

— POPE FRANCIS

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE SAFE OPERATIONS OF OUR SCHOOLS

With God's grace, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Oakland successfully navigated the complexities of in-person instruction in the age of the COVID-19. The low number of COVID-19 cases in our school communities is a testament to the shared leadership of principals, teachers, staff and pastors, as well as their strong partnership with our students and families. We are incredibly grateful for the countless pivots everyone has made to ensure a safe learning experience for the students entrusted to our collective care.

The health and safety policies in place, including face coverings and ventilation, as well as our quarantining protocols, have proved to be critical layers of protection for our school communities. As we begin a new calendar year, unanswered questions remain regarding vaccine mandates on the horizon. Regardless of where things land in this fluid situation, our schools remain steadfast to the principles that have informed our decisions throughout this pandemic: centering ourselves in Christ; protecting the health of our students, staff and families; and adhering to the law and directives from local/state health officials. †

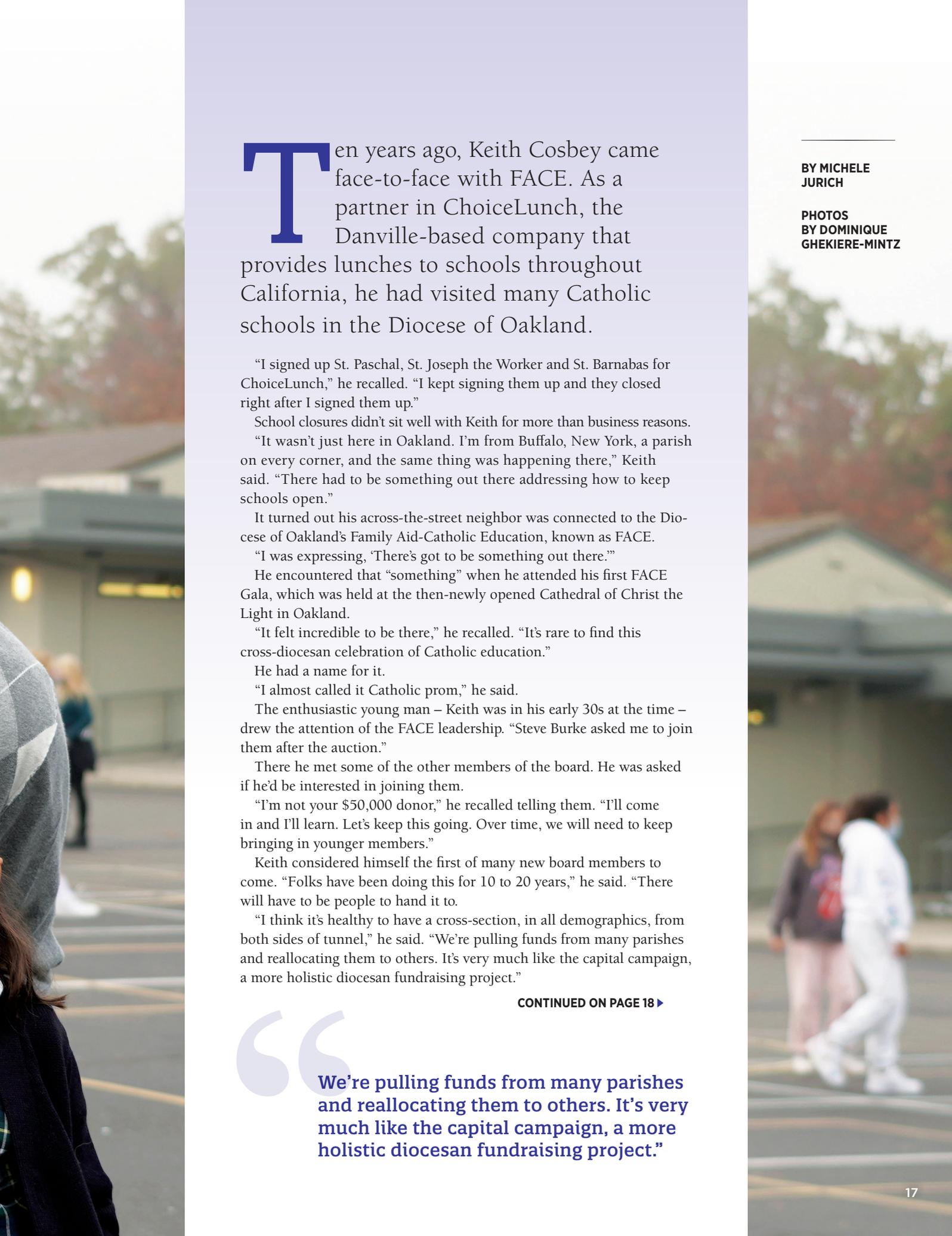


Getty Images: iStockimages

The Cosbeys choose Catholic education...

and help other families make the same choice





Ten years ago, Keith Cosbey came face-to-face with FACE. As a partner in ChoiceLunch, the Danville-based company that provides lunches to schools throughout California, he had visited many Catholic schools in the Diocese of Oakland.

“I signed up St. Paschal, St. Joseph the Worker and St. Barnabas for ChoiceLunch,” he recalled. “I kept signing them up and they closed right after I signed them up.”

School closures didn't sit well with Keith for more than business reasons.

“It wasn't just here in Oakland. I'm from Buffalo, New York, a parish on every corner, and the same thing was happening there,” Keith said. “There had to be something out there addressing how to keep schools open.”

It turned out his across-the-street neighbor was connected to the Diocese of Oakland's Family Aid-Catholic Education, known as FACE.

“I was expressing, ‘There's got to be something out there.’”

He encountered that “something” when he attended his first FACE Gala, which was held at the then-newly opened Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.

“It felt incredible to be there,” he recalled. “It's rare to find this cross-diocesan celebration of Catholic education.”

He had a name for it.

“I almost called it Catholic prom,” he said.

The enthusiastic young man – Keith was in his early 30s at the time – drew the attention of the FACE leadership. “Steve Burke asked me to join them after the auction.”

There he met some of the other members of the board. He was asked if he'd be interested in joining them.

“I'm not your \$50,000 donor,” he recalled telling them. “I'll come in and I'll learn. Let's keep this going. Over time, we will need to keep bringing in younger members.”

Keith considered himself the first of many new board members to come. “Folks have been doing this for 10 to 20 years,” he said. “There will have to be people to hand it to.”

“I think it's healthy to have a cross-section, in all demographics, from both sides of tunnel,” he said. “We're pulling funds from many parishes and reallocating them to others. It's very much like the capital campaign, a more holistic diocesan fundraising project.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 ►



We're pulling funds from many parishes and reallocating them to others. It's very much like the capital campaign, a more holistic diocesan fundraising project.”

BY MICHELE
JURICH

PHOTOS
BY DOMINIQUE
GHEKIERE-MINTZ



My father worked for General Motors. I'm the son of a factory worker. Catholic school for four was a tall order for my family."

This year, Keith Cosby is serving as chairman of the board of FACE.

He describes himself as a "Catholic school kid."

It's all in the family.

"My mother went to Catholic school in a suburb of Buffalo, at St. Christopher," he said. "My father worked for General Motors. I'm the son of a factory worker."

After the family mortgage, Catholic education was the family's next-largest monthly expense.

"Catholic school for four was a tall order for my family," Keith said.

"In the automotive world, there are layoffs," he said. "Good years and bad years. Somehow, my parents always found a way to make it work."

For Keith, that education-included elementary school at The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and high school at St. Joseph Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, followed by the University of Notre Dame.

It was at Notre Dame that Keith met Justin and Ryan.

After working at Accenture in Chicago for three years, after graduation, Keith joined Justin Gagnon and Ryan Mariotti at ChoiceLunch in California.

"Catholic school," Keith said, "is very much a part of who I am."

"I felt like I was coming home, working with the school that's down the street. I know people who send their kids here."

Keith and Christine Cosby met in 2008, when they were members of the choir created for the dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

"Christine was considering going into opera, then when we started dating, she decided to get her teaching credential," Keith said.

A graduate of Saint Mary's College of California, Christine grew up as a parishioner at St. Monica Parish in Moraga.

"I did attend public school throughout my childhood then I

went to a Catholic college," Christine said. "I didn't realize what a big difference Catholic school vs. public school is until I was a student in education at Saint Mary's College.

"The first time I set foot in a Catholic school, that was it. I just felt so much at home. I didn't know this was missing in my life."

To earn her teaching credential, she was a student teacher in both public and Catholic schools.

"The day after we got married, she actually had an interview with at St. Jerome with Alison Wilkie," Keith recalled. "She got the job on the spot and we went on our honeymoon the next day."

In addition to teaching third and fourth grades – and music -- at St. Jerome School in El Cerrito, Christine has been a kindergarten assistant at St. Theresa School in Oakland.

The Cosby Family, parishioners at St. Isidore Parish in Danville, has grown to include Christopher, a third-grader at St. Isidore School and Olivia, a kindergartner at St. Isidore; and Nicholas, a preschooler at St. Raymond School in Danville.

He will join his siblings at St. Isidore this fall.

"I love Catholic school, it's been part of my life and will be part of my children's life as long as I can afford it," he said. "I have many things I love about Catholic school.

"The whole child is educated in basic things like kindness, compassion, empathy, saying you're sorry.

"When you teach through those moments with Catholic doctrine, it's a different teaching moment. When you can reference what would Jesus have done in this situation. What's the right thing to do. Is what you just did is that a sin and why. When you can't do that, I don't think you can educate the whole child the same way."

Christine agrees. "Not only does a Catholic education nurture the mind and body but also the spirit. Bring able to be steeped in a faith-filled environment on a daily basis, children learn to be disciples of Christ every day through interactions with their teachers, their peers and also the priests."

Catholic education is aligned with the family values.



“Catholic faith is priority in our family,” she said. “That’s why I wanted to send our kids to Catholic school: to be aligned with what’s important to us. Catholic education fosters a deep sense of community through the faith families. I love seeing the eighth-graders take care of the younger children and participate in faith-filled activities. That’s a very special bond.”

The school and parish functions foster a sense of community for the Cosbeys, she said, including developing good stewards of creation and tending to the poor or to the needy.

Keith is living out his gratitude for the Catholic education that has enabled him to provide for his family and extend that generosity to others, such as through FACE.

“I know what I’m putting my kids through because I went through it.



To be the son of a factory worker, and to be able to have the life I have today, my education is the way I got there. No question: this is how I got there. From kindergarten through college, it was Catholic education that moved my life forward and put me in the position where I can put my kids in Catholic school and survive in California.” †

FACE FACTS

Number of elementary school students receiving FACE grants: **288 FACE direct and with our partnership The BASIC Fund total is 619 They funded 331 of our students.**

Number of high school students receiving FACE grants: **265**

Amount of a FACE grant for elementary school student: **\$2,500**

Amount of a FACE grant for a high school student: **\$3,500**

Number of qualified FACE recipients who are on the waiting list: **379 elementary school students and 963 high school students, Total: 1342**

Source: FACE, Family Aid Catholic Education, Diocese of Oakland www.oakdiocese.org/face



Save the Date



FAMILY AID - CATHOLIC EDUCATION

FACE GALA | APRIL 23, 2022
For more information visit: oakdiocese.org/face

LEADERSHIP PERCEPTIONS

OF EXPERIENCED CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ABOUT THE FACTORS THAT SUSTAIN THEM

Today, educational leaders are expected to be adaptable, flexible, and willing to accept change as a central force in remaining competitive, viable, and successful in a complex and dynamic world. Rowland and Higgs (2008) observed, “Successful and sustainable change implementation needs to assume that organizations are complex systems that cannot simply be controlled or directed from any one source” (p. 278). Within the complexity of leading for change lies the roots of innovation and sustainability for leaders and their organizations.

BY JOE SILVEIRA
Joe Silveira, Ed.D. Gwynedd Mercy University, is principal of Christ the King School in Pleasant Hill.

Furthermore, the role of the principal is complex and challenging (Dosen, 2016; Dimmock & Walker, 2005; Elmore, 2000; English, 2008; Fullan, 2001 and 2014; Kelley & Peterson, 2007; Marshall, 1995; Marzano et al., 2005). The problem is compounded even more when viewed through a Catholic lens. The research suggested that the ever-changing demands placed on the Catholic elementary principal, and the purpose, energy, and support required, are exceedingly complex and extend well beyond skill, knowledge, and experience commonly associated with school administration in general (De Thomasis, 2013; Grace & O’Keefe, 2007; Hayes & Gearon, 2002; Hunt et al., 2000; McLaughlin et al., 1996).

Similarly, the ability to develop and sustain as an educational leader amidst an ever-changing culture and climate that may challenge one’s belief system is often extremely difficult to manage and control (Deal & Peterson, 1999; Fullan, 2001; 2014; Sarason, 1996). Mulligan (2005) argued that as life and our professional worlds become more multifaceted, the reliance on Catholic school leadership to offer more solutions to the difficult questions such as global capitalism and its values, the changing nature of the political context of Catholic schooling, issues surrounding faith formation and mission advancement, recruitment and retention of teachers and leaders, along with the moral and social changes that affect Catholic schooling, and the decision making power and proficiency in organizational management become imperative.

Ciriello (1998) maintained that the stress placed upon Catholic elementary principals in recruiting, interviewing, and hiring faculty and staff each school year, not to mention their induction and orientation stages, takes tremendous



Joe Silveira is principal of Christ the King School in Pleasant Hill. **Merrilee Silveira** is director of academic and learning support at Carondelet High School in Concord, her alma mater.

planning and energy. Bryk et al., (1993) explained that the Catholic elementary principalship is quite intimidating:

The Catholic school principal bears responsibility for financial management, development and fund-raising, public and alumni relations, faculty selection and supervision, student recruitment, and in many cases, discipline and instructional leadership. The principal must also maintain amicable relationships with the Diocese, the neighboring parishes, the religious order, the local community, and the parent body. Serving as teacher, advisor, coach mentor counselor, disciplinarian, reconciler, strategist, leader, manager, conservator, recruiter, and spokesperson, many Catholic school principals operate like owners of small businesses. (p. 150)

From their initiation, Catholic schools in the United States have assimilated students into the Catholic faith, provided solid academic ideals, and prepared students for positive adult citizenship. Youniss and Convey (2000) reported the importance of Catholic education

in society: “By teaching students to bring their ethical values and religious beliefs to their involvement in a secular society, Catholic education makes a significant contribution to the preparation of students for citizenship in a democracy” (p. 216).

PURPOSE

The purpose of my study was to discover and examine perceptions about leadership in experienced Catholic Elementary School Principals. Specifically, I sought to explore and uncover the strategies and techniques of experienced educational leaders in sustaining their vocations as Catholic leaders.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study:

What leadership strategies are employed by experienced Catholic school elementary principals to sustain themselves as effective leaders?

What practices do experienced Catholic school elementary principals use to prevent their burnout?



BY TEACHING STUDENTS TO BRING THEIR ETHICAL VALUES AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN A SECULAR SOCIETY, CATHOLIC EDUCATION MAKES A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PREPARATION OF STUDENTS FOR CITIZENSHIP IN A DEMOCRACY” (P. 216).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 ▶



Getty Images: Timnakorn Jorruang

The research method chosen for this project was qualitative as a phenomenological design, and relied on a prepared interview guide that listed the questions to be explored. Catholic elementary principals from an urban Catholic Diocese, with 10 or more years of experience, were included in the research method because their longevity, technical skill, and varied experience fit well with the study's purpose. In addition, principals from a neighboring urban Archdiocese, with 10 or more years of experience, were utilized as part of this research study's design and method.

The study's findings may be of particular value to Catholic educational leaders, both at the school and at the diocesan levels. The findings of this study suggested

and supported adaptive change to increase the principal's success and to prolong their vocations as Catholic leaders. The objective was to share the factors that sustained experienced Catholic elementary principals and the information obtained from the study with other educators via educational journals, professional development opportunities, and face-to-face dialogue with diocesan leaders in order to maintain and improve Catholic school leadership.

Burn's (1978) transformational theory, Goleman's theory of emotional intelligence, and servant leadership were the theoretical framework for this study. Burn's work surrounding transformational leadership theory emphasizes the leader's attitude toward seeking, retaining, and maintaining power.

Within transformational theory the leader has the capacity to influence others in developing core values, purpose, and in setting goals. Goleman (1998) highlighted that emotional intelligence can matter as much as, or more than, the intelligence quotient. Goleman reasoned that emotional intelligence is fundamental to leadership and with success in the work environment and could be learned, and consisted of five components: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skill. Servant leadership refers to the process of guiding followers through a devotion towards Jesus Christ and God (Sousa & van Dierendonck, 2017). The guiding ideology within servant leadership is the devotion of one's self fully to God as well as a fundamen-

DISPLAY OF THEMES ADDRESSING THE TWO RESEARCH QUESTIONS (TABLE 4.3)

Research Question	Themes	Number of References	Percentage of References
Research Question 1: What leadership strategies are employed by experienced Catholic school elementary principals to sustain themselves as effective leaders?	Motivation	16	89%
	Unity in Catholic Faith * Empathy * Sharing God's love * Social justice * Servant and inspirational leadership * Conflict management	16	89%
	Adaptability * Coaching and mentorship * Active learner	15	83%
	Building Relationships	9	50%
	Optimism	7	39%
Research Question 2: What practices do experienced Catholic school elementary principals use to prevent their burnout?	Work-life balance * Taking care of health and welfare through various relaxing activities * Strong religious connection * Spending time with family and friends	17	94%
	Networking and connecting	7	39%
	Disconnecting self	2	22%
	Learning and improving	1	11%
	Refocusing	1	11%

Note: *Subtheme/s



WHEN ASKED ABOUT THEIR PRACTICES IN PREVENTING THEIR BURNOUT, THE MAJORITY OR 94% OF THE INTERVIEWED PARTICIPANTS, BELIEVED IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HAVING THE ABILITY TO BALANCE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENTS.”

tal devotion to God through the personal teachings of the Bible (McGinn, 2015).

From the content analysis of the interview data, I uncovered 20 themes from the interviews with the participants. According to the data gathered and analyzed, the majority of the interviewed Catholic school elementary principals reported that they get motivation from the changes, developments, and successes of past and present students (89%); and having unity in one Catholic Faith (89%). These participants shared the two themes as their leadership strategies to sustain and even develop their leadership abilities as they moved forward. Under the first research question, participants also shared techniques for adaptability, relationship-building, and optimism.

When asked about their practices in preventing their burnout, the majority or 94% of the interviewed participants, believed in the effectiveness of having the ability to balance personal and professional commitments. Meanwhile, other experiences and recommendations to reduce burnout were: networking and connecting. The other minor themes being: disconnecting self; using past experiences to learn and improve; and rethinking and focusing on the school's vision. With further analysis, I found that there is a need to consider performing an in-depth research on the themes with very few references assigned;

such as those with less than 25% of the sample. Table 4.3 contains the display of all the study themes.

Findings from the current research study could inform Catholic educational leaders, both at the school and at the diocesan levels about the leadership experiences of current Catholic elementary principals. In particular, given that the principals interviewed of the current study are all experienced, the strategies and practices they shared could be considered real and operative. Strategies may include creating personal and career boundaries, practicing daily prayer and exercising spirituality. Additionally, effective strategies may include exploring Catholic values, virtues, and traditions and their impact on a school's cultural identity. Future research is suggested to consider Diocesan leadership capacity and creation of shared dialogue opportunities, such as leadership summits, external professional development, and management programming for principals. Other approaches to improve practice may include diocesan collaborative experiences and leadership conferences held jointly for principals and pastors.

Further, strategies that can be employed are as follows: increasing diocesan leadership capacity i.e. mentor programs, peer shadowing, professional

learning communities, external professional post-graduate connections/offering/liaison-ship; home and work life balance including healthy mindfulness; building knowledge and practice in emotional intelligence and resilience; personal discovery, inventories, and surveys; hiring practices, interview guides, and personnel policies inclusive of a mission-centered educational career; cultivating personal and positive outlets i.e. travel, meditation, physical fitness, spiritual retreats, defined work schedules, entertainment, and articulation of feelings (via metacognition and open communication with supervisors, colleagues, and peers); and diocesan benefit and incentive programing.

In the long run and when applied, the strategies may not only sustain leadership but also the Catholic schools and institutions served by the leaders in general. At the same time, other stakeholders (educators and future leaders) may learn from the perceptions and experiences shared by the current study participants which could prepare them incrementally as they assume Catholic principalships in the years to come. By preparing themselves early and learning from the examples and experiences of the current principals, a more stable, sustainable, and successful leadership could emerge.

The findings of this study may also serve to better inform our understanding of servant leadership through practice. The participants of this study demonstrate the traits and values of a servant leader. The understanding of how these values are implemented through

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their devotion to God and faith, as well as commitment to their communities are central to the growing conceptualization of how Catholic leaders serve.

The study highlighted the significance of EI in leaders which was corroborated across all of the 20 themes discussed in the study. By uncovering this, present and

future leaders must focus on their self-awareness, interpersonal, and social skills; by examining themselves first and then their ability to relate with others. This is because in the current study, it was established that leaders cannot correctly and completely manage others without first knowing and understanding their full abilities and capacities to do so.

Along with the frameworks of leadership, the current study also emphasized the strong religious connection of Catholic leaders to their faith where they constantly related their thoughts, actions, and practices to their relationship with God. These meaningful findings indicate that Catholic elementary school principals continue to

have the capacity to build healthy relationships rooted in Gospel values. At the same time, they are called to minister to community members in order to ensure that the new generation is able to grow in the teachings of the Catholic church. In the future, the efforts and vision of Catholic educational leaders will not be put to waste as they are able to build and sustain Catholic identity and vision both inside and outside of their school communities. †



... PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS MUST FOCUS ON THEIR SELF-AWARENESS, INTERPERSONAL, AND SOCIAL SKILLS; BY EXAMINING THEMSELVES FIRST AND THEN THEIR ABILITY TO RELATE WITH OTHERS."

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ASSUMPTION STUDENTS SPREAD SOME JOY OVERSEAS

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, the Assumption School community shared their bounty, donating more than 200 Christmas gift boxes to needy children around the globe. Families dropped off boxes filled with donated toys, art supplies, hygiene kits and other items. At the school, students and parents were on hand to receive donations, assemble additional boxes and craft cards and messages that went into each box.



The gift drive was part of the Box of Joy program, an annual Christmas gift ministry organized by local schools, parishes and groups across the United States and facilitated by Cross Catholic Outreach. Thirty-three countries receive the gift boxes through the program, including refugees and populations affected by recent natural disasters.

By relying on existing church volunteer groups and asking donors to fund shipping and handling costs along with their gifts, the program maintains low overhead costs. This is the third time that Assumption School has participated in the program.

The gift drive has been a true community-building effort meant to impact not only kids in need abroad, but also the children at the San Leandro school.

Campus Ministry student leaders set out to instruct and remind classmates to fill their boxes. Parents made sure all shipping costs were covered and received and assembled boxes.

“It’s important that we teach our kids the value of giving and creating the Boxes of Joy in order to help them be grateful for what they have,” said Phuong Hathaway, an Assumption parent and a lead organizer for Box of Joy. “The children who receive the boxes are over the moon when they get their own toothbrush, for example, because they often do not have one or have to share with their family.”

“The parents who stopped by during the drive told us that they truly enjoyed shopping and putting the boxes together with their children and loved that they were part of something bigger than themselves.”

Principal Lana Rocheford commended the work and leadership of project organizers Phuong Hathaway, School Board members Sandra Gonzalez and Allison Wood and the campus ministry student group.

“Once again, the Assumption community never fails to deliver on meeting challenges to serve those in need. It’s really wonderful to see the outpouring of contributions that we received for this drive, but I know that all of this would not have happened without the careful planning and hours of dedicated work by our organizers,” she said.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL CELEBRATES PATRON SAINT

Families, furry friends and other animal buddies joined Father Ismael Gutierrez, Principal Cathy VanderKlugt and the St. Francis of Assisi student body to honor their patron saint and his passion for nature. Students at the Concord school enjoyed their patron saint’s feast day with a weeklong celebration, beginning with an all-school Mass and the traditional Blessing of the Pets in the school courtyard.

Throughout the week, classes participated in activities designed to learn more about the school’s favorite Franciscan, kindness and care for nature.

Second-graders created bird feeders out of recycled materials after studying the school’s two hummingbird feeders, which hang in the courtyard garden outside their classroom. They drew diagrams, assessed materials and their properties to find the best fit for their design and experienced testing and redesign extensions. Students added St. Francis Morning Prayer to their Faith Journals and created posters to share St. Francis’ words of wisdom with others playing in the schoolyard or visiting the campus.

Junior high students put their problem-solving skills to the test in a St. Francis Escape Room experience. Students solved cryptic cyphers to uncover secret messages and quotes.

Sixth-graders put on their gloves and helped weed the courtyard garden, named for former principal Sister James Marien, CSJ, who died unexpectedly in 2017, to keep their outdoor “classroom” looking loved.

Through stories, songs, slideshows and books, students had a chance to learn how St. Francis changed his life to be one of God’s faithful servants, becoming the champion of God’s creation.

Third-graders learned to draw St. Francis, while first-graders created a “bean” mosaic of San Damiano.

But the true joy of the week came from being together again, celebrating our love of St. Francis, as we continued to grow in faith, love and friendship.

“Ask the beasts and they will teach you the beauty of this earth.”

– St. Francis of Assisi



VOLUNTEER TUTORS INVITED

Have you heard about Next Step Learning Center? A small nonprofit founded by the Sisters of the Holy Names in 1994, Next Step is a place where education transforms lives. We're located at 2222 Curtis Ave., Oakland. We are a great group of staff and volunteers who help low-income youth and adults re-engage in education. You will be inspired by our wonderful students, who demonstrate such courage, grit and determination.

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CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS SUPPORT DIOCESE OF OAKLAND SEMINARIANS

The Catholic Daughters of the Oakland Diocese presented a check to Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ on Oct. 29. The biennial effort of the seven Courts of the Diocese is specifically to help with the education of the seminarians. Five of the seven courts of the diocese were represented, and the group included two California state officers. Instead of the traditional combined fundraising event, this year's strategy was different because of the pandemic. Each court held its own fundraiser, and the total reflected great success. Fundraisers included a jewelry sale, online raffles and an online See's Candies sale. The Catholic Daughter Courts of the Oakland Diocese were pleased to meet with Bishop Barber to support our seminarians! In the photo: Pat Fegan, Past Regent, Court John Baptist de LaSalle, Concord; Erin Matheny, Financial Secretary, Court St. Raymond, Dublin; Marie Jose Murray, Regent, Court John Baptist de La Salle, Concord; Sylvia Soliz, CA State Treasurer, Court St. Mary Margaret, Pittsburg; Bishop Barber; Lorine Bakowsky, 2nd Vice State Regent, Court Mary Queen of the World, San Leandro; Nita Volker, District Deputy, Court St. Raymond, Dublin; Deacon Tim Meyers, St. Felicitas, San Leandro; and Marina Khayat, Regent Court, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Brentwood.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL SERVES PINOLE COMMUNITY—AND BEYOND

The students at St. Joseph School in Pinole are proud to serve their community. They were honored to participate in the 13th Annual Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony on Nov. 11 in downtown Pinole.

Dignitaries, including Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia; Pinole Mayor Roy Swearingen; the fire chief and police chief; veterans from each war and branch of the military; and Eagle and Girl Scouts, came together to honor the men and women who served our country. All of the school children proudly sang "God Bless America" as part of the program.

As part of St. Joseph School's pledge to serve, students participated in Operation Gratitude. They collected excess Halloween candy to share with the military and first responders. Together with two veterans on Veterans' Day, they mailed 275 pounds of candy with more than 100 thoughtful notecards and coloring pages for our deployed troops.

St. Joseph School dedicates itself to serving the "whole child" from preschool, TK to eighth grades. Visit www.stjosephpinole.com for information about the school's commitment to students and community. †



*Sister Marion
O'Loughlin, OP*

Sister Marion O'Loughlin, OP died Sept. 11, 2021, at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan. She was 90 and in the 69th year of her religious profession: 50 years in the Dominican Sisters of Edmonds, Washington, and in her 19th year in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Sister Marion was born in San Francisco to James and Marion (Reardon) O'Loughlin. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in Belmont and received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Dominican College in San Rafael and a master of arts degree in pastoral ministry from Seattle University in Seattle, Washington.

She ministered for 16 years in elementary education. In the Diocese of Oakland, she served as an elementary school teacher at St. Peter Martyr School in Pittsburg from 1962 to 1966 and at Assumption School in San Leandro from 1968 to 1971.

Sister Marion was a pastoral minister at St. Clement Parish in Hayward from 1971 to 1973. She served in parish ministry in Petaluma, San Mateo and Palo Alto.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Catherine Chapel on Sept. 17, followed by Prayers of Committal in the Congregation Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be made to Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221.



*Sister Frances
Wetzel, OP*

Sister Frances Wetzel, formerly known as Sister M. Elizabeth Joseph, died on Oct. 1, 2021, at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan. She was 87 and in the 67th year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Sister Frances was born in Winslow, Arizona, to Joseph and Lillian (Bueter) Wetzel. She graduated from St. Vincent Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico and received a bachelor of philosophy degree in English from Siena Heights College (University) in Adrian and a master of education degree in business education from DePaul University in Chicago.

Sister Frances spent 22 years ministering in education in Michigan, California and Arizona.

She served as provincial secretary from 1970 to 1973 before being elected co-provincial/administrator of Holy Cross Province in Oakland. She served until 1976.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Catherine Chapel at on Oct. 5, followed by Prayers of Committal in the Congregation Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be made to Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221. †

DEAR FATHER JOE:

How do I become who God has called me to be?



I want to be a good Catholic. I want to make sure that I am right with God. What do I do or how do I live so I know I am doing what God wants?

All right! Now this is a great question for me to launch off on ... brace yourself!

As a note, I obviously can't pull off a perfect answer in the space required. Heck, I don't think I could pull off a perfect answer, period. What I can do is give you some guiding principles to help you be holy.

The first thing we need to recognize is that, at its core, our faith is entirely about knowing, loving and following Jesus. Everything we do is in service to that goal. For the help we need to do this, we always have the grace of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us. It is never about how strong our own willpower is, it is always about recognizing and living how dependent on God we are.

So ... with that, here we go!

The first thing we must commit to is prayer. We simply cannot be a Christian if we are not praying. We pray personally; we pray communally. We pray. We even strive to "pray constantly," in the words of St. Paul. (1 Thes 5:17) We pray for people when we walk by

them. We pray when we hear sirens. We pray when we see someone who looks sad. We pray when we pass graveyards. We pray.

We pray for the situations in our life that cause us pain, confusion or worry. We pray for our family and our Church. We pray for our country and for those who are making decisions about it. When we are tempted to complain, we pray.

We pray because prayer is oxygen for our souls. We pray because doing so takes our eyes off of ourselves and focuses them on Jesus and on others. We pray because the more we spend time with God, the more we can become like him.

Prayer can be tough. For me, it's hard to focus most days. Some days, I'm distracted by my circumstances in life, sometimes it's just because my head can be like a bag of cats. I'm learning over time to simply present myself to the Lord every morning, no matter what. I read my Scriptures and breviary, and I sit and think about who God is and what he's done. I ask his forgiveness for my sins, accept his mercy and go on for the day.

Because the origin of the human race is a community of love (the Trinity) and because our personal origin is a community of love (our parents), we will always have built into us a need for community. It's right at the



FATHER JOE KRUPP

Fr. Joe Krupp is a former comedy writer who is now a Catholic priest.

🐦 @Joeinblack

core of us to crave community. As a result, our personal prayer needs to feed into our communal prayer.

We need to pray in community and faithfully receive the sacraments. This will give us the grace we need to continue a healthy, robust prayer life.

We need to be sure that Mass on Sunday is a non-negotiable element of our schedule. It is important to get to confession at least every other month. We need the community, and the community needs us.

Communal prayer can be tough. People are distracting, and our schedules are murderous at times. These seeming challenges are often the means by which God helps us grow: We can learn with God's strength to pray anywhere and through any distraction. We show God and others our priorities when we put Sunday worship above all things.

As we establish a prayer life, we need to be sure that this prayer translates into action. As we read the Gospels, we will see that the call to serve the poor and most vulnerable is not an optional element of our faith, but the healthiest expression of it. It is too easy to pretend our voting or our taxes are somehow answering that call; this is a mistake many make. For us, so much more is needed.

As Christians, we serve the poor; we give to those in need. We help those who help others. We start with a radical commitment to the unborn, and we carry that through the whole life of the person. We strive not just to say "No!" to abortion, but to ensure that expectant mothers know we are there to help in any way we can. We are committed to a deep, abiding care for the migrant, the poor and the most vulnerable. We give our time, our finances and our work to helping others.

Finally, we commit to grow. We ask for the grace to allow that active prayer life and that service to the least among us to help us become more like Jesus every day.

We read books, listen to lectures or podcasts about our faith and we take the time to think about what we've read and heard. We recognize there is no plateau, no place where we are allowed to be content with who we are. Every day, we search our hearts for anything we have allowed in there that will harm our souls. We trust the leadership of Jesus through his Bride, the Church, to guide us in our moral decisions and in what we call right or wrong.

So, there we have it. I think this is a good, basic framework for anyone who wants to be who God has called them to be. May he bless our efforts to love him and our neighbor with all our heart, soul, mind and strength! †

“
**We ask for
the grace to
allow that
active prayer
life and that
service to the
least among
us to help us
become more
like Jesus
every day.”**

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DIOCESE OF OAKLAND LITURGICAL OBSERVATIONS IN 2022

Saturday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Solemnity observed (Proper Mass/Gloria/Creed) Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

Sunday, January 2

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Cathedral Titular Feast

Thursday, January 13

60th Anniversary of the Diocese of Oakland

Monday, January 24

Memorial of St. Francis De Sales
Secondary Patron of the Diocese

Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday
Not a Holy Day; ashes given during Mass or service

Sunday, April 3

Anniversary of Bishop Barber's Ordination
Not observed this year

Holy Saturday, April 16

Easter Vigil
"During the night" typically means at least 30 minutes after sunset (7:46 p.m. this year)

Sunday, May 30

Solemnity of the Ascension
Sunday observance

Sunday, June 5

Solemnity of Pentecost
End of the Easter Season

Sunday, June 12

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Sunday observance

Sunday, June 19

Solemnity of Corpus Christi
Sunday observance

Thursday, June 23

Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John Baptist
Transferred from June 24 this year; Proper Mass/Gloria/Creed

Friday, June 24

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Proper Mass/Gloria/Creed

Monday, August 15

Solemnity of the Assumption
Solemnity observed (Proper Mass/Gloria/Creed) Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

Monday, August 22

Our Lady Queen of the World
Principal Patroness of the Diocese

Friday, September 9

St. Peter Claver
Obligatory Memorial

Sunday, September 25

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the Light
Observed this year in the Cathedral only

Tuesday, November 1

Solemnity of All Saints
Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, November 2

All Souls
Observed

STATEMENT ON POLICE FUNDING IN OAKLAND

Statement of Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland, regarding police funding in Oakland:

"As Catholics, we are compelled by our faith to serve the common good. As we see a tragic and historic rise in the number of homicides in Oakland and other communities in our diocese, as well as an increase in crime, it is necessary for our city and county governments to hear our cries and make our streets and communities safe places again.

"I am grateful to the Oakland City Council members who have voted to restore funding and staffing to the Oakland police department and to the reopening of the police academy. I join with religious and civic leaders, including Bishop Bob Jackson of Acts Full Gospel in calling for the Oakland City Council to make public safety a priority.

"Sorrowfully, I must ask: How many more citizens must be shot and killed before funding is restored to our police department?"

OFFICIAL SCHEDULE

Jan. 22

9:30 a.m. Mass at the Walk for Life West Coast, St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco



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Mission Advancement, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland CA 94612 In note: Seminarians

Seminarians gather at Mission San Jose in August 2021 for the ordination to the diaconate of Deacon Ramon Urbina of Holy Rosary Parish in Antioch.

Photo by Dominique Ghekiere-Mintz

"Pray the LORD of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:38)