NORTH COAST CATHOLIC

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Global Mayors Gather at Vatican Pushing Climate Deal

by NCC Staff

Vatican City (*Associated Press*)—Sixty mayors from around the world gathered with religious leaders at the Pontifical Academy of Science on July 21 ahead of a November global climate change conference in Paris.

At the end, each participant signed a final declaration that emerged from the meeting. It said "human-induced climate change is a scientific reality and its effective control is a moral imperative for humanity."

Amongst Americans in attendance were San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, and California Governor Jerry Brown.

In a blistering speech, Brown denounced climate change naysayers. Meanwhile, de Blasio announced an effort for his city to reduce greenhouse emissions 40 percent by 2030.

(see Climate Deal, p. 8)

Noticias en español, p. 19

Cardinal Newman Breaks Ground on Science Building

by NCC Staff

Santa Rosa—On June 29, the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, Cardinal Newman High School President Laura M. Held announced plans and broke ground for build a new science building on the campus. Construction will begin by the end of October or early November, and it will stand roughly between the lunch tables and the school gymnasium.

According to a news release, the "new, state of the art science complex on campus [will] house three new classrooms and labs. Occupancy is scheduled for January 2016, in time to begin the second school semester. New class offerings are made possible with the opening of this $2.1 million facility, including "Principles of Engineering and Anatomy for Sports Medicine."

Before the ground breaking ceremony, President Held told attendees, "Today we have an extraordinary opportunity for Cardinal Newman to create an even greater

(see Science Building, p. 7)

Assisted Suicide Bill Dead for the Year

The Tidings, NCC staff, and other sources

Sacramento—After being passed by California's state Senate, SB 128, the bill that would legalize physician-assisted suicide, was suddenly pulled by its proponents from a required hearing by the Assembly Health Committee hearing on June 23.

"The postponement of the Assembly Health Committee hearing on SB 128 is only a brief respite," Californians Against Assisted Suicide warned in a statement. "We know that the death promoters are committed to use every avenue they can, the media, the courts, the legislature. We know they will still bring the bill back to Assembly Health. They will be back."

Then on July 7, the measure's sponsors pulled the bill. It will not be considered again this year.

The *Sacramento Bee* reported that, "Proponents were not able to sway a majority of members on the Assembly Health Committee, some of whom pointed to personal experiences that counseled them against backing the bill.

"'You've got to look at what I've done before the Legislature ... working to help save and protect peoples' lives, giving that option—a second chance at life,' Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez, D-Pomona, who worked as an emergency medical technician, said Monday. 'Letting folks have

(see Assisted Suicide, p. 6)

Longtime Newman Groundskeeper Retires

by NCC Staff

Avid Valentin

An era that began on September 16, 1988, has ended, 31 years later.

On June 30, Avid Valentin, longtime groundskeeper at Cardinal Newman High School put on his red "CN" shirt as an employee for the last time. He is now officially retired.

Said Principal Graham Rutherford, "Avid Valentin tended to Cardinal Newman as if we were his garden, each student and staff member a living part of his work. Working with him to increase the Catholic identity and park like appearance of the school has been one best parts of my time at Cardinal Newman."

It has been an impressive journey for the Puerto Rican native with an eighth grade education.

The son of an Italian immigrant father and a Puerto Rican mother, he first moved to America when he was seven, living in New York City. His father—who taught him his most cherished lesson: "The truth is so easy to remember, son"—died not

(see Newman Groundskeeper, p. 7)

Planned Parenthood Charged With Illegally Selling Aborted Baby Body Parts

CNA/EWTN News

Washington, DC (CNA/EWTN News).- Abortion giant Planned Parenthood is facing harsh criticism after the release of footage allegedly showing its top doctor describing how the organization offers body parts from aborted babies for money.

"A lot of people want intact hearts these days, they're looking for specific nodes," Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Planned Parenthood Federation of America's senior medical director, appears to say in a recently released undercover video.

She said "people wanted lungs" and "always as many intact livers as possible."

The video was released July 14 by the Center for Medical Progress (CMP), a non-profit group focused on medical ethics. It is the first in the center's "Human Capital" series, a nearly three-year-long investigative study of Planned

(see Planned Parenthood Charged, p. 8)

The Church's Richest Treasure

In his 2007 post-synodal apostolic exhortation about Holy Communion, *Sacramentum Caritatis* ("The Sacrament of Charity"), Pope emeritus Benedict XVI wrote something to which I want to draw your attention:

> "Emphasizing the importance of the *ars celebrandi* [the art of celebrating] also leads to an appreciation of the value of the liturgical norms. The *ars celebrandi* should foster a sense of the sacred and the use of outward signs which help to cultivate this sense, such as, for example, the harmony of the rite, the liturgical vestments, the furnishings, and the sacred space.
>
> "The eucharistic celebration is enhanced when priests and liturgical leaders are committed to making known the current liturgical texts and norms, making available the great riches found in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, and the Order of Readings for Mass.
>
> "Perhaps we take it for granted that our ecclesial communities already know and appreciate these resources, but this is not always the case. These texts contain riches which have preserved and expressed the faith and experience of the People of God over its 2,000 year history.
>
> "Equally important for a correct *ars celebrandi* is an attentiveness to the various kinds of language that the liturgy employs: words and music, gestures and silence, movement, the liturgical colors of the vestments. By its very nature the liturgy operates on different levels of communication which enable it to engage the whole human person.
>
> "The simplicity of its gestures and the sobriety of its orderly sequence of signs communicate and inspire more than any contrived and inappropriate additions.
>
> "Attentiveness and fidelity to the specific structure of the rite express both a recognition of the nature of Eucharist as a gift and, on the part of the minister, a docile openness to receiving this ineffable gift" (No. 40).

From the Bishop

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

I include paragraph number 40 of the document in its entirety because it has something to say to each of us. To me as bishop celebrant, it is a challenge to renew and amend as necessary my attentiveness and fidelity to the various rites that I have the privilege of celebrating.

For the priests and deacons perhaps the invitation to attentiveness to words and music, gestures and silence, movement and colors is an opportunity for reflection and growth.

For the lay faithful, Pope emeritus Benedict encourages a deeper knowledge of the liturgical texts and norms.

He prudently notes, "Perhaps we take it for granted that our ecclesial communities already know and appreciate these resources, but this is not always the case."

Thus there is a responsibility on the part of the bishop and the priests to help the People of God know and appreciate the "great riches found," for example, "in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal."

The Most Holy Eucharist is the richest treasure of the Church, and the liturgical norms are intended to help assure a proper reverence and devotion while attending to this great mystery. ❖

El Tesoro Mas Valioso De La Iglesia

En su exhortación apostólica post-sinodal sobre la Sagrada Comunión, *Sacramentum Caritatis* (Sacramento de la Caridad), el Papa emérito Benedicto XVI, escribió algo sobre lo cual quisiera llamarles la atención:

> "Por consiguiente, al subrayar la importancia del *ars celebrandi*, se pone de relieve el valor de las normas litúrgicas. El *ars celebrandi* ha de favorecer el sentido de lo sagrado y el uso de las formas exteriores que educan para ello, como, por ejemplo, la armonía del rito, los ornamentos litúrgicos, la decoración y el lugar sagrado.
>
> "Favorece la celebración eucarística que los sacerdotes y los responsables de la pastoral litúrgica se esfuercen en dar a conocer los libros litúrgicos vigentes y las respectivas normas, resaltando las grandes riquezas de la Ordenación General del Misal Romano y de la Ordenación de las Lecturas de la Misa.
>
> "En las comunidades eclesiales se da quizás por descontado que se conocen y aprecian, pero a menudo no es así. En realidad, son textos que contienen riquezas que custodian y expresan la fe, así como el camino del Pueblo de Dios a lo largo de dos milenios de historia.
>
> "Para una adecuada *ars celebrandi* es igualmente importante la atención a todas las formas de lenguaje previstas por la liturgia: palabra y canto, gestos y silencios, movimiento del cuerpo, colores litúrgicos de los ornamentos. En efecto, la liturgia tiene por su naturaleza una variedad de formas de comunicación que abarcan todo el ser humano.
>
> "La sencillez de los gestos y la sobriedad de los signos, realizados en el orden y en los tiempos previstos, comunican y atraen más que la artificiosidad de añadiduras inoportunas.
>
> "La atención y la obediencia de la estructura propia del ritual, a la vez que manifiestan el reconocimiento del carácter de la Eucaristía como don, expresan la disposición del ministro para acoger con dócil gratitud dicho don inefable. (Sacramentum Caritatis No. 40)"

Estoy incluyendo en su totalidad el No. 40 de dicho documento porque tiene algo que decir a cada uno de nosotros. Para mí, como Obispo celebrante, es un desafio para renovar y enmendar según el caso, mi atención y fidelidad a los distintos ritos, que tengo el privilegio de estar celebrando.

Para los sacerdotes y diáconos, quizá sea la invitacion a estar atentos a las palabras y la musica, los gestos y el silencio, movimientos y colores, como una oportunidad para reflexionar y crecer.

Para los fieles laicos, el Papa emérito Benedicto los está alentando a alcanzar un conocimiento más profundo de las normas y textos litúrgicos.

Con prudencia nos indica: -Quizá con demasiada frecuencia damos por descontado que nuestras comunidades eclesiales ya conocen y aprecian estos recursos, pero esto no siempre es el caso.

Así es que existe una responsabilidad departe del Obispo y los sacerdotes para auxiliar al Pueblo de Dios, para que lleguen a conocer y apreciar "las grandes valores", por ejemplo, en la Ordenación General del Misal Romano.

La Santísima Eucaristía es el Tesoro más valioso de la Iglesia y el fin de las normas litúrgicas es ayudar a asegurar la devoción y reverencia apropiadas, mientras estemos participando en este gran misterio. ❖

Pope Says to Educate Girls About Their Vocation

CNA/EWTN News

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—In a special audience, Pope Francis said girls must be educated women for their vocation and responsibilities in a world of ideologies that work against God and treat women as inferior.

"Today it is very important that womanhood be properly appreciated … we are in a world where we see the spread of ideologies contrary to nature and God's design for the family and marriage," Pope Francis said June 26.

"It is therefore necessary to educate girls not only to the beauty and grandeur of their vocation as women, in a fair and differentiated relationship between man and woman, but also to take on important responsibilities in the Church and in society."

He continued, saying that "education is the indispensable means for enabling girls to grow into active and responsible women, proud and happy in the faith in Christ they live in their everyday life. In this way they will participate in the construction of a world imbued with the Gospel."

In his remarks at Vatican City's Clementine Hall, the Pope said Catholic Girl Scout organizations can play a major role in improving the situation of women in countries where they are treated as inferiors, exploited or mistreated.

Pope Francis addressed delegates from the International Catholic Conference of Guiding. The organization supports Catholic girl scouts and girl guides in 49 countries.

The Conference gathered in Rome on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding to reflect on the theme "Living as a guide for the joy of the gospel."

His Holiness especially encouraged Catholic Girl Scout leaders to teach girls in a way so they are open to the consecrated life (i.e., being a religious Sister), saying that the scouting movement has been very fruitful in this area.

The Pope's comments about ideologies contrary to God's design for marriage came hours before the Supreme Court of the United States ruled same-sex marriage is a constitutional right. ❖

IN MEMORIAM
FOR PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE

Fr. Denis Conlon, OCD
August 19, 1977

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

 8/1 St. Alphonsus Ligouri, CSsR, bishop, founder of the Redemptorists ❖ 8/2 St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop

Priests on the Move

Can a priest ever take a leave of absence?

Yes.

What valid reasons would allow a priest to do this?

Obviously the vineyard of Catholic Church is bigger than just the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Therefore, per the *Code of Canon Law* (*CIC*) no. 271, a priest can decide for a time that he wants to minister outside the diocese. Diocesan personnel policy says a priest may request from the bishop a three-year leave of absence to serve in another See. The bishop has the discretion to grant or refuse that request. It does not mean the priest is incardinated into that diocese or excardinated from this one. It simply means that for personal reasons – spiritual, mental, family, health, etc. – he has decided it is in his best interest to serve elsewhere for a season.

He may also take a leave of health (CIC no. 281, §2) for mental, spiritual, or other personal reasons.

What would be an example of a "personal reason"?

It could be that the priest is the only or sole surviving child of an aged parent, and that parent needs care neither the priest nor the parent can afford. So the priest will go to take care of that person for a period, sometimes three months, sometimes longer. At the end of the time allotted by the local bishop, the person returns to their previous ministry.

Is there administrative leave?

Yes. This is granted when there is a chance there could be a scandal. It does not imply guilt. It could simply serve to prevent the cleric from further accusation pending the outcome of an investigation. Of course, it could also protect the public from the possibility of wrong-doing. Most of all, it serves to ensure the integrity of the investigative process.

What else?

There are times when a priest goes AWOL, as they say in the military: Absent without leave. This could mean they leave the diocese without the bishop's permission, they refuse to accept an assignment from the bishop, they leave their current assignment without permission, or they renege on the terms of their personal leave.

Is that all?

No. Finally there is the sabbatical. This is an extended period of time away from the cleric's ordinary duties. They are to give a priest not only rest but a chance to grow in his priestly abilities. Indeed, during it, he is expected to participate in some program, ministry, or activity to foster his theological, spiritual, or personal growth, as well as his skills as a cleric. They normally last three to six months. Each priest is eligible for this every 10 years. The priest typically has to find his own replacement and, upon return, provide a written report about his overall experience. ❖

CORRECTION

North Coast Catholic's July issue's "News Briefs" section featured a story about an Assyrian Christian fighter beheading an ISIS jihadist (see p. 17, bottom of the middle column). Some took its inclusion as a mark of approval of this man's deed, of applauding his eye-for-an-eye behavior. Nothing could be further from the truth. The story was included because it was so shocking and utterly unbelievable that a man claiming faith in Jesus would do this. No approval was intended. Apologies to any who thought there was.

World Meeting of Families— "Love is Our Mission"

by Judy Barrett

In September thousands of lay people, priests, religious, and bishops from around the world will gather in Philadelphia for the triennial World Meeting of Families, initiated 20 years ago by Pope St. John Paul II to highlight the dignity and importance of the family in human culture. The multi-day congress will feature an international line-up of speakers on issues that affect family life.

In addition to these sessions, the World Meeting of Families will draw multitudes—some estimate as many as two million—to the papal Mass and "Festival of Families" featuring entertainment, arts, food, and activities for all ages.

What happens at the World Meeting of Families is important to Catholics throughout the world. Strong families promote good culture. Some studies say the single greatest impact on the health of a nation is the health of the family, with "health of a nation" defined as a nation's overall socio-economic condition.

It is in the family that faith is communicated to children in word and deed. It is in the family that we first learn about love, value, and security. The family is the first teacher of how to treat (or not to treat) one another.

A snapshot of the health of families in the United States and particularly in California does not present a rosy picture:

Regular church attendance is declining in America. Religious liberty is being pushed to the margins and out of the public square. Five of the nine United States Supreme Court justices recently issued a decision redefining marriage that will have far-reaching consequences on how Catholics live their lives in an increasingly secular culture.

The National Center for Family Homelessness ranks California forty-eighth on a population-adjusted scale for the risk of child homelessness (with 50 being the worst). California is a hub for human trafficking. Absent fathers, divorce, pornography, substance abuse, and out of wedlock births put stress on families.

Perhaps the World Meeting of Families in September will start some creative conversations for strengthening family life. Everyone can participate, even those of us who cannot travel to Philadelphia. Visit www.worldmeeting2015.org for resources.

A preparatory catechesis *Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive* is available at low cost in print, as an e-book or to download free in English, Spanish, and several other languages. Educational materials for pre-K through Grade Twelve are available to download. ❖

This article is adapted from a blog by Judy Barrett previously published on the California Catholic Conference website, www.cacatholic.org, and is used with permission. Barrett is a parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Calistoga.

Confirmed Priest Abuse Allegations in Single Digits for 2014

Washington, DC (CNA/EWTN News)—There are tens of thousands of Catholic clergy in the United States, but the United States bishops' latest report says there were fewer than 10 substantiated allegations of clergy sex abuse committed in the 2013-2014 audit period.

In addition, almost all clergy, laity, and other workers and volunteers at Catholic institutions have undergone safe environment training.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the bishops' "first priority" is healing for victims and survivors of abuse.

"We join Pope Francis in his desire that the response of the Church be pastoral and immediate," the archbishop said in the preface to the annual report on the implementation of the bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

"Though our promise to protect and heal made in 2002 remains strong, we must not become complacent with what has been accomplished," Archbishop Kurtz said in an announcement from the US bishops' conference.

The report was prepared by the bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection for the National Review Board that monitors the Catholic Church's efforts to respond to and prevent sex abuse.

The report uses two sets of data: One from the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), and another from reports submitted by the auditors at Stonebridge Business Partners to the secretariat.

The audit said all new allegations were reported to the authorities.

The Catholic bishops' abuse protection efforts include safe environment training programs for children and for adults who come into contact with children.

Almost 4.5 million children have received this training, as have 99 percent of priests, deacons, and educators. Over 1.9 million volunteers at Catholic institutions have received the training, as have over 250,000 other employees and over 6,500 candidates for ordination. The percentages of adult training completion range from 97-99 percent.

CARA surveyed all 195 dioceses and eparchies in the US except one, while one diocese and five eparchies did not participate in the Stonebridge audit.

From July 2013 to June 2014, the Church has spent over $31.6 million on safe environment training programs, background checks, and other protective efforts, as well as $119 million on legal settlements for abuse victims, therapy for victims, attorneys' fees, and other allegation-related costs. ❖

Truth Does Not Change

Did you see the Letters to the Editor in newspapers regarding Bishop Vasa's response to the Supreme Court's legalization of same sex unions?

First, here is his statement:

"Years ago, in the *Dred Scott* decision, the US Supreme Court ruled that blacks were not persons. This was despite the fact that each justice presumably believed all of mankind is created in God's image (cf. Genesis 1:26). Similarly, today's Justices have erred with the *Obergefell* case just like their predecessors did with *Dred Scott*, by making an egregious error in moral judgment.

"While five Justices may have changed marriage's legal definition, they can never change its moral definition. As such the true definition, the moral definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman—that is ordered not only toward the couple but the procreation and education of children—remains unchanged.

"Just as *Roe v. Wade* did not settle the abortion question nearly two generations ago, *Obergefell v. Hodges* does not settle the marriage question today.

"The Court was wrong in 1973 with Roe. It is wrong again in 2015 with *Obergefell*."

The letter writers essentially responded by saying, "How can he be so uncaring? So disaffirming? Doesn't he realize how bad he makes people feel?"

Closely reread what the bishop said. Notice how he did not personally attack anyone or even say, "All homosexuals are bad and damned to hell." Neither does the Church, although some letter writers seemed to believe this.

Bishop Vasa's statement simply reflects that he is a Catholic bishop who takes his vocation seriously. Proclaiming Church teaching is his duty. There is no liberal Church teaching. There is no conservative Church teaching. There is simply Church teaching, and that is what he affirms.

He is not to change Church doctrine, nor to reject Church doctrine, nor to soft pedal Church doctrine, nor to passive-aggressively ignore Church doctrine. Rather he is to proclaim and teach Church doctrine as handed down to us from Christ and the apostles.

Indeed Vatican II said bishops "'are authentic teachers' of the apostolic faith 'endowed with the *authority of Christ*'" *(Lumen Gentium*, no. 25, emphasis added).

Thus as Catholics we believe this about Bishop Vasa. We also believe the Faith today is the same one handed down to us through the ages from Christ to the apostles to their successors the bishops, by the safeguarding of the Holy Spirit. What it teaches therefore is true because objective truth a) is not relative, b) does not change, and c) Christ promised to affirm bishops in all truth (cf. John 16:13; Matt 18:17-18). We believe Scripture, which says: The "Church of the living God" is "the pillar and foundation of truth" (1 Tim 3:14). Not *a* truth. Not *my* truth vs. *your* truth. Truth.

In his statement Bishop Vasa was not hateful or even unloving. He was not mean or unmerciful.

He was simply doing his job.

And if he hadn't done so … well, here is how one pope would have described him:

> To recoil before an enemy, or to keep silence when from all sides such clamors are raised against truth, is the part of a man either devoid of character or who entertains doubt as to the truth of what he professes to believe. In both cases such mode of behaving is base and is insulting to God, and both are incompatible with the salvation of mankind. This kind of conduct is profitable only to the enemies of the faith, for nothing emboldens the wicked so greatly as the lack of courage on the part of the good. (Leo XIII, encyclical, *Sapientiae Christianae* ("On Christian Citizenship"), no. 14, January 10, 1890)

Now that five Justices have changed marriage's legal definition, have "raised clamor against truth," what does that mean for Catholics?

Quoting St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote "'a law that is not just, seems to be no law at all.' Wherefore such laws do not bind in conscience …

"Secondly, laws may be unjust through being opposed to the divine good and … contrary to the divine law: and laws of this kind must nowise be observed, because, as stated in Acts 5:29, 'We ought to obey God rather than man.'"

Catechism no. 2242 affirms the *Obergefell* decision allows us to obey God rather than man, for the Supreme Court has ruled contrary to divine law.

This is where the Church—yes, even our current Pope—stands. Many do not like this. Such discontent is not new. Jesus' teaching challenged people in His time, as well.

"Many of His disciples, when they heard it, said, 'This is a hard saying; who can accept it?' But Jesus … said to them, 'Do you take offense at this?' … After this many of His disciples drew back and no longer went about with Him. Jesus then said to the twelve, 'Will you also go away?' Simon Peter [on whom Christ founded His Church] answered Him, 'Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life'" (John 6:60-61, 66-68).

How will you choose? Where will you go? ❖

Brian O'Neel is Communications director for the diocese

Dear Aunt Bea

I'm 15. My best friend has been "hooking up" at parties. We were both raised Catholic, but now she's telling me the Church is stupid and wrong about sex. She tells me God wants us to do what makes us happy and have fun as long as we use protection so we don't get pregnant or get STDs. I don't know. I like boys (a lot!), and I am curious. My mom would be horrified, and it would probably kill my dad, LOL. Still, a lot of what my friend says makes sense. Why should I listen to a bunch of celibate old men like our bishop and not my best friend?

15 and Curious

Dear 15:

If you saw me, you might not believe it, but I was 15 once, too! And I felt the same, exact way about boys.

Looking back, I see how the decisions I made then affect my life now. You don't have that option yet, so let me tell you: "Hooking up" has consequences.

God created us with hearts, often tender hearts, and to protect our hearts, He has shown us how to live. Those "celibate old men" who help us with this were 15 once, too. They know how one often needs guidance from those who have experienced in life in ways you haven't to navigate the ways of the heart and to understand the effects and even penalties of sin. (Yes, "hooking up" is a mortal sin, for it goes against the laws God has given us.)

The drive to be physical with someone can be so strong! It seems impossible to resist. That's because God made physical intimacy something good and beautiful, and we can be forgiven for questioning why we should have to deprive ourselves of it.

But sex is not only good and beautiful, it is holy. It is what binds a husband and wife together. It brings forth children for that couple to raise in an atmosphere of love and security. Even though following God's plan for a joy-filled marriage seems harsh or impossible now, it will, I promise, make your life much easier in the long run.

Also God does, indeed, want your happiness. Hooking up can't give us that. Ever. It can give you a momentary thrill but not happiness. Do you want a cheap thrill or to be happy? Going God's way leads to happiness. Going against His way leads to unhappiness. Which do you want? Certainly happiness can never come from anything that would "horrify" your mom or "kill" your dad.

God knows what is best for you. Save your heart and your chastity for the right person: The man you marry. Be patient. (Easier said than done, I know!)

Also, no offense, but are you putting the cart before the horse? That is, how much time have put into prayerfully discerning God's plan for your vocation?

If you haven't put any time into this, start. If you have, and you have discerned His plan for you is marriage, imagine how glad you will be you saved yourself for your husband. He is out there somewhere right now, probably having the same thoughts and struggles you are. Pray for him that he is asking for advice about what to do with his emotions and feelings. Pray that he prays for you.

Just remember: You will never regret keeping your chastity, but there are many chances you'll regret following your friend's example. ❖

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Letters Policy

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

Name, address, parish attended, 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.

8/5 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major (aka, St. Mary of the Snows) ❖ 8/6 Bl. Gezelinus, hermit

CALENDAR

August 7-9
Christ the King Church in McKinleyville Annual Rummage Sale
Friday & Saturday, 8am-3pm, Sunday, 11am-3pm
Location: Christ the King Church
1951 McKinleyville Ave., McKinleyville, CA 95519
For more information, call 707-839-2911

August 12
Blessing Service with Fr. Gordon Kalil of the new Holy Trinity burial niches
12:30pm
Location: St. Helena Cemetery
2121 Spring St., St. Helena
For more information, call Fatima and Monica at 707-963-1703

August 13
St. Joseph Men's Holy Hour
7:30-8:30pm
Men meet every second Thursday to pray together with exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and confession.
Location: St. Thomas Aquinas Church
2725 Elm St., Napa, CA
For more information, Tony at 707-257-7027

August 20
Freedom and Fertility
7pm
Cost: Freewill donation
Award winning English author Fiorella Nash gives a challenging look at female fertility and explores new developments such as expansions in in vitro, commercial surrogacy, and fertility tourism.
Location: Kolbe Academy & Trinity Prep
2055 Redwood Rd., Napa, CA
For more information, call 707-258-9030

August 20-23
Men's Catholic Cursillo Weekend
A Cursillo weekend is a time to grow closer to the Lord, learn more about your Catholic faith, and build friendships with Catholic men.
For more information, contact Dcn. Joe Olsen at 707-536-7332

August 21-22
Male and Female He Created Them
Location: St. Mary Cathedral Events Center
1111 Gough St, San Francisco, CA 94109
Empowering sexual integrity for individuals and couples, while building healthy, happy, and holy marriages.
WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Anyone who wants to fulfill God's design in their lives and relationships, as well as those who minister to them.
For more information, see www.canfp.org, e-mail info@canfp.org, or call 877-33-CANFP

August 22
The Great American BBQ for Alpha Pregnancy Clinic
4-8pm
Cost: $35/person
A fabulous benefit dinner for Alpha Pregnancy Clinic in Napa featuring tri-tip, baked beans, potato salad, special desserts, and the ever ubiquitous fine Napa wines.
Location: Private Napa Vineyard Estate
For more information or tickets, call Alpha 707-449-8996 or go online to www.Alphaclinics.org

August 30
Cathedral Knights of Columbus Barbecue
10am-2pm
Cost: $16/plate.
Barbecued chicken, beans, coleslaw, rolls, and beverages
Location: St. Eugene Cathedral
2323 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95403
For more information, contact the parish office at 707-542-6984

September 13
Thirty-Seventh Annual Discalced Carmelite Benefit Dinner
2-8pm
Cost: Adult ticket: $50. Children under 12: $15
The afternoon includes access to the beautiful grounds and guided tours of the Monastery. It will feature a silent auction and buffet-style dinner, along with fine Napa Valley wines. Location:
Discalced Carmelite Fathers House of Prayer
20 Mount Carmel Dr., Oakville, CA
For more information, call 707-944-2454 or e-mail: ocdoakville@gmail.com

November 20-22
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Location: Vallombrosa Center
250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025
Scripture says that married men and women "shall live as one." How often, though, do you and your spouse find yourselves living as two? The Marriage Encounter weekend can help you and your spouse get back to basics in this complicated day and age. Space is limited so apply early.
For more information, log onto www.sanfranciscowwme.org or call Paul or Yvonne at 650-366-7093

Ask IPS

by William McKenna, MS

Q: *How can a family heal from a divorce? My brother's marriage just broke up and I'm both worried about him, and my nieces and nephews. What can they practically do to remain stable?*

A: First, let me express my sympathies and prayers for your brother and family. As I've mentioned previously, separation and divorce affects everyone in the immediate family. In a recent General Audience, Pope Francis said, "We talk a lot of behavioral problems, mental health, well-being of the child, anxiety of parents and children. But do we know what a wound in the soul is? Do we feel the weight of the mountain that crushes the soul of a child, in families where members treat each other badly and hurt one another?"

Spouses may see divorce as a betrayal of what marriage means, and even begin to display symptoms of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Children can perceive it as emotional abandonment, and once they internalize the situation, there is a good chance that they will begin to act out to express their pain. Family therapy can be helpful in these situations, with a focused goal of building resilience or a way to cope with the situation and move forward.

What can families concretely do to build resilience and heal?

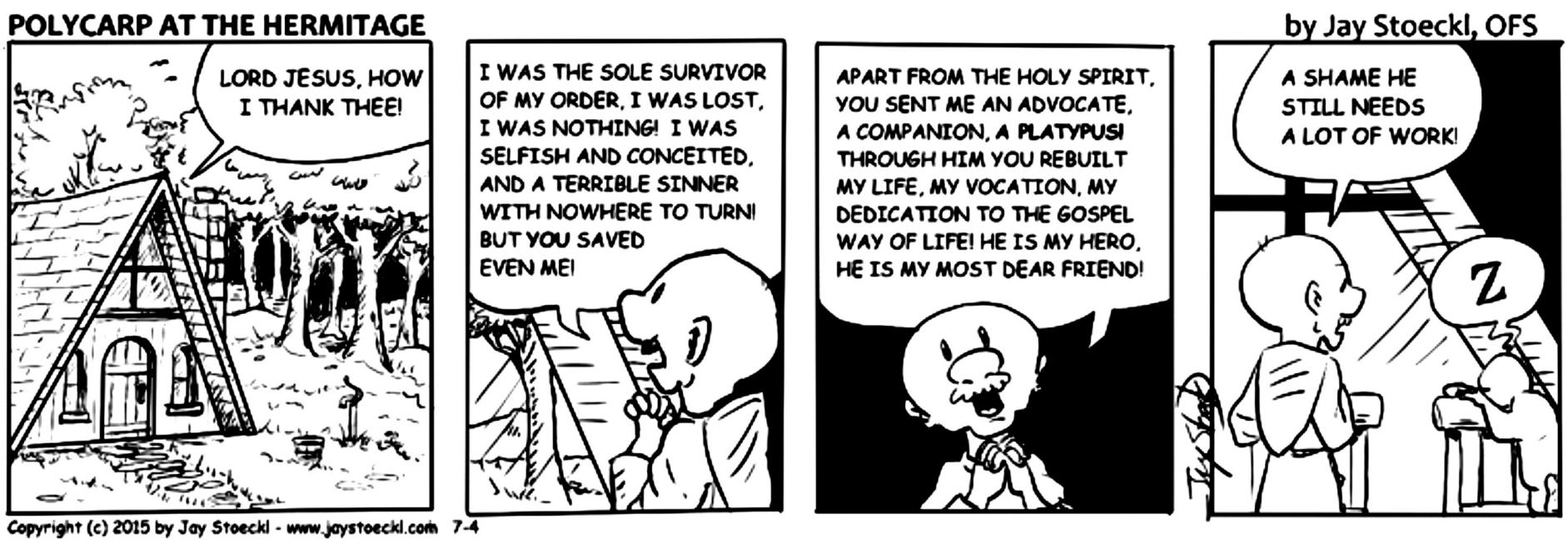
Facilitating Resilience and Recovery Following Trauma, edited by Lori A. Zoellner and Norah C. Feeny (2014), says that on the individual level, flexible problem-solving skills, ability to self-regulate emotions, a healthy attitude about yourself, and a belief that life has meaning all go a long way in building factors of resilience after a trauma.

On the family level, connections to other adults and friendship networks are important. Spirituality, faith, and religious affiliations have also been recognized as helpful. Additionally, connections to organizations that promote community and integration locally within your community can provide opportunities for growth.

As you can see, there are a variety of factors that influence whether or not a person can be resilient, but a person does not need to posses every listed factor in order to begin healing.

For example, even if a person lacks positive beliefs about themselves, they can make up for this by having a supportive kinship network. For a family suffering from divorce, one of the most important things is to surround each spouse and the children with a loving and emotionally warm community oriented to the overall well-being of the family. Doing so will buttress the family against feelings of loneliness, anger, and actions that could eventually leave family members in difficult situations.

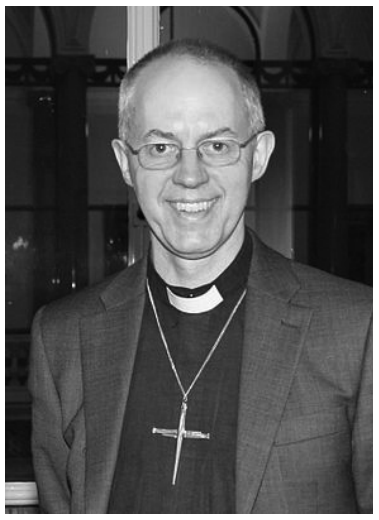
(see Ask IPS, p. 7)



Archbishop of Canterbury Not Amused by Episcopalians

From wire reports and NCC staff

Salt Lake City—Just days after the Supreme Court of the United States legalized same sex unions, the Episcopal General Convention—the Episcopalian Communion's governing body of bishops—voted overwhelmingly to allow same sex couples religious weddings. The vote was 129-25, with five abstaining.



Archbishop Justin Welby

According to The Associated Press, "The new rule eliminates gender-specific language from church laws on marriage so that same-sex couples could have religious weddings. Instead of 'husband' and 'wife,' for example, the new church law will refer to 'the couple.' Under the new rules, clergy can decline to perform the ceremonies." This makes the Episcopalians the third mainline Protestant body to condone same sex unions after the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Both of the latter allow each congregation to choose whether to bless such nuptials.

"The United Methodist Church, by far the largest mainline Protestant church with 12.8 million members, bars gay marriage, although many of its clergy have been officiating at same-sex weddings recently in protest."

Although same sex unions are legal in the United Kingdom, the Church of England—the parent body of the Episcopalian Communion (TEC)—is not required to and does not perform such nuptials. And not every TEC diocese must comply with the Convention's decision. Furthermore, if a TEC diocese's bishop forbids same sex unions, none of his priests may decide to go against his or her wishes.

"The … Anglican Communion [is] an 80 million-member global fellowship of churches. Ties among Anglicans have been strained since Episcopalians in 2003 elected Bishop Gene Robinson, who lived openly with his male partner, to lead the Diocese of New Hampshire." Robinson is now retired.

The July 1 vote did nothing to ease the situation. According to *Christianity Today*, "The Archbishop of Canterbury has intervened with a rare and strong public criticism of The Episcopal Church of the US after its bishops voted to change the definition of marriage so clergy can conduct same-sex marriages.

"The Most Rev. Justin Welby expressed 'deep concern' about the 'stress' for the Anglican Communion after TEC's House of Bishops" took its action.

Part of the problem is that the archbishop is trying to maintain the unity of an already fractious Communion, where North American congregations have openly revolted against Anglicanism's tilt toward ideals championed by liberal secularism versus what orthodox Christianity has espoused for two millennia. Local churches have rejected their local bishop's authority if he or she is seen as heterodox and placed themselves under more orthodox African bishops, instead. Some have even gone into schism against Canterbury, forming their own Anglican denominations.

Indeed, Episcopalian blogger George Conger wrote, "It is within the legislative power of those supporting same-sex marriage to pass an immediate and mandatory rule requiring same-sex marriage. While the conservatives are not able to block gay marriage, the threat of their defection to another Anglican entity exists."

Speaking from his headquarters at Lambeth Palace in England, Welby "conceded that TEC is entitled to address issues appropriate to its own context, but Archbishop Welby said this latest decision 'will cause distress for some and have ramifications for the Anglican Communion as a whole, as well as for its ecumenical and interfaith relationships.'"

This may be a reference to the Anglican-Catholic dialogue, which is made difficult when the Anglicans make changes that make reunion ever more unlikely.

Welby is also said to be concerned "that the Church will once more seen to be looking inwards to its own struggles while the wider world is in turmoil from terrorism, climate extremes, economic crises, and other trauma."

As much as Lambeth and TEC have tried to be in and of the world in order to remain relevant and appealing to its members and unchurched individuals it hopes to attract, its numbers have fallen.

TEC sold its New York City headquarters because it could no longer afford it.

Furthermore according to beliefnet.com, "Among the old mainstream denominations reporting to the National Council of Churches, the Episcopal Church suffered the worst loss of membership from 1992-2002—plunging from 3.4 million members to 2.3 million for a 32 percent loss. In the NCC's 2012 yearbook, the Episcopal Church admitted another 2.71 percent annual membership loss."

Conversely, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) a Georgetown University-based think tank, wrote in 2014, "Ordinations to the [Catholic] priesthood and seminarians preparing for this vocation are up. Ordinations have increased by 12 percent since 2000 and the number of seminarians enrolled has increased by 5 percent.

"The parish-affiliated Catholic population has grown by 11 percent and the self-identified Catholic population has grown by 7 percent since 2000. Overall, the self-identified Catholic population has added 5 million. A significant portion of this growth has come from foreign-born Catholic adults which have increased by 4.4 million. CARA's survey-based estimates of Mass attendance show a slight uptick from 22 percent attending weekly to 24 percent. With a growing Catholic population that means nationally the Church has seen the number of Catholics who go to church every week increase by more than 2.6 million since 2000 (+17 percent)."

This isn't to say the Church hasn't lost members. It has. But it is not the bleeding experienced by either the TEC or the Anglican Communion, which is also hemorrhaging members. ❖

Feast of the Assumption: August 15

(Assisted Suicide, cont.)

that option to end their life, it's just something I can't come to grips with.'"

Some members denied that religious objections were a decisive factor.

"'There are times when I can be in clear policy opposition to the Church. Clearly with a pro-choice stand as a Democrat, I can say 'no' to the Church," Assemblyman Miguel Santiago, D-Los Angeles, a practicing Catholic who once weighed entering the seminary, said on Monday. "It's more of an internal struggle of how to look at the end of life more than any impact of religious or political" pressure.

State Assemblyman Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) who serves on the Health Committee, said his office received calls from Catholic constituents opposed to the bill, but it was inaccurate to say lawmakers were reluctant to support the proposal because of pressure from the church.

"It's not a religious thing for me. It's how this is going to be implemented in the real world," Gomez said Monday

The Diocese of Santa Rosa in California has two state senators who represent its six counties. One, state Sen. Lois Wolk (D-Napa), was a principal sponsor of the legislation. The other, state Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg), signed on as co-author.

Ned Dolejsi, executive director of the California Catholic Conference said, "We are very pleased at the outcome and grateful for the hard work done by the assembled coalition at Californians Against Assisted Suicide. The physicians, health care workers, disabled advocates, religious groups, and others who came together to oppose the bill were key to the success of the campaign and we are proud to have played a role in that long-standing coalition."

Said Marilyn Golden, No On SB 128 co-chair and Senior Policy Analyst for the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, "What was seemingly inevitable just a month ago has seen increasing opposition due to a broad, bipartisan coalition that has worked tirelessly to inform California legislators about our policy concerns with assisted suicide.

"Those of us advocating on behalf of disability rights organizations understand that choice is a myth in the context of our health care reality. End-of-life treatment options are already limited for millions of people—constrained by poverty, disability discrimination, and other obstacles. Adding this so-called 'choice' into our dysfunctional healthcare system will push people into cheaper lethal options. There is no assurance everyone will be able to choose treatment over suicide; no material assistance for families of limited means who are struggling to care for loved ones; no meaningful protection from abusive family members or caregivers."

Despite the fact that a broad coalition of non-Catholics, people of no professed faith, doctors, nurses, and concerned citizens opposed SB 128, Death With Dignity (formerly the Hemlock Society) and Brittany Maynard's husband blamed the assisted suicide bill's death on the Catholic Church.

Historically assisted suicide proposals begin with very high approval ratings only to go down to defeat, says Californians Against Assisted Suicide. In 2012, the Massachusetts Ballot Question 2 voter initiative began with nearly 70 percent approval in many public opinion polls only to go down to defeat 51-49 percent. This year, assisted suicide legislation has failed in traditionally liberal or swing states such as Connecticut, Maryland, Colorado, New Hampshire, Maine, Delaware, and Nevada. Eleven states still have such a measure up for consideration.

This is at least the third time in the last 20 years that such a measure has failed in California's Legislature. ❖

Queen St. Radegund: August 13

 8/8 St. Margaret Mary of the Cross MacKillop, RSJ, foundress ❖ 8/9 St. Edith Stein, Jewish convert and martyr

(Newman Groundskeeper, cont.)

long before his eleventh birthday. Thereafter the family moved back to his birthplace. Then, three years later, he returned to the United States and within a short while he started working full time—"with no working papers," he adds—pushing a cart and delivering newly made clothes to different buildings in New Jersey across from the City.

At age 17, he moved to Chicago, where he met his wife Luci, who hails from Mexico City. Luci decided she wanted to move where her family was, the San Francisco Bay Area, so they married and moved here together. That was in 1983, and the couple has two girls and two boys ("I love 'em to death"), and five grandchildren. He moved to Santa Rosa a year later, which is when he started his janitorial business.

Then in 1988, he began serving Cardinal Newman when it was just one of the clients (another was St. Rose School).

Not long thereafter, Valentin says that then-Principal Tom Beecher approached him and said, "Avid, we have problems with the school, as you see. What do you think?"

Valentin replied, "I can do miracles."

And miracles he did. Where mud, mangled wire fences, bent pipes, and a score of other eyesores once stood, Valentin and his crew placed sidewalks, fresh coats of paints, bushes, and flowers, especially roses. Lots and lots of roses, which Valentin loves.

Walk on campus today, and it is impossible to imagine what the place must have looked like before. It is so impeccably manicured one finds it hard to believe that what is now the covered courtyard with its lunch tables was once nothing but dirt and bushes. Before Valentin got there, boys from Newman would have to walk over to Ursuline High School's covered eating area to eat their lunch or sit under a big tree on the grass. There were no tables and no benches, and very few lockers. The paint scheme—if one could call it that—contained, amongst other shades, pink, not necessarily a hue one would imagine for a boys school whose official colors are yellow and red.

There were not even any sidewalks, and the classroom carpets were the original from 1964. Before he set to work on it, one of the parking areas was a dirt lot. He got it paved. Avid also created a water fountain, replaced all the carpets, and installed lighting.

He took out the old water fountains and replaced them with filtered ones, because he wants the kids to have drinking good water. Additionally, he had hand sanitizers installed around the campus.

Perhaps the most egregious thing to his mind for a high school where religion was supposed to be a key focal point? There was absolutely no evidence that this was a Catholic institution (unless one wanted to count the shabby wooden cross out in front).

Valentin spoke with some board members, who helped him create a better sign for the school. Then he set about creating places for statues of Our Lady under her different titles, including Lourdes and Guadalupe. He decided to create the first shrine whether the school would pay for it or not. Thankfully, Mike Truesdell, then president of the school stepped up and donated $30,000 for the effort. The result is the beautiful grotto one sees when stepping onto campus.

Last year, North Coast Catholic (October, p. 9) published a story on the bishop's blessing of a prayer space whose focal point is a statue of Our Lord, which is modeled after one in Puerto Rico. That was also Valentin's doing, with $10,000 help from some recent graduates, not to mention that of a local contractor named Shawn LeBrun, and Avid's own team of Umberto, Jaime, Ezekiel, Rafael, and Santiago.

Sadly he won't be there to see the creation of a new hoped-for chapel. The current chapel sits in the former retreat and holds just 40 people, hardly adequate for the size of the student body. But if it is built, it will be in part because of his prayers.

Asked why he has done this all, he says simply, "The kids. It's all been for the kids. For me, the kids are very precious." He says even when the teachers and students play against one another in some sport challenge, "I'm always for the kids." Indeed without a moment's hesitation, when asked what was the best, day-to-day part about his job, he answers, "The kids. One hundred percent. One hundred percent"

When asked if today's students are any different now than back when he started, he replies, "You know, I don't think so. There were good kids back then. There are still good kids now."

He recalls that while the transitioning of Ursuline's student body into Cardinal Newman's brought many blessings, it also brought some logistical difficulties.

"Becoming co-ed wasn't an easy thing," he acknowledges, "but you know, it's like I always said, 'It's in the eight hour day.' You gotta deal with it. There wasn't that much drama, but we had to accommodate the young ladies the same as the young men. So we had to make special showers and special this and special that for them because they deserve it just as much as the boys do."

So if working with the kids was the best part about the job, what was the worst? At first he says there has been no "worst part." He replies he has always loved coming to work, that it was even "relaxing" for him.

But then, with what might have been a catch in his voice, he says, "My worst day at Cardinal Newman is today, leaving this place."

He adds, "I'm going to miss this place quite a bit. Leaving here is real hard."

What has also proven hard is training his replacement. Like many who have to do this before leaving a position, knowing that those who come after them won't do everything precisely as they would have is a difficult pill to swallow.

"Teaching somebody else what I know about this place, it has not been easy," he admits. "I am leaving my job with tears in my eyes."

When asked what besides the students is most important to him, he replies, "I would say the Catholic faith. I would like to see it a little bit bigger than what it is. Stronger. A little more uniform, I will say, the religion. There are a lot of guys here, a lot of ladies are Catholic. A lot of them are not. I mean, it would be nice if everybody was of the same thing, you know? That we were all practicing the same thing. Not 10 of them getting Communion, while 48 of them not having Communion.

"And the teachers to push more for the Catholic religion, practice it more, too. Now we're OK 'cause we got a couple of nuns. We got two priests such as we never had them before. Well, we had them before my time, but not until now. That's a big influence on Cardinal Newman, and I think they're going very forward with that. The Catechism is being practiced more than it was years ago. [I hope that continues.]"

For now Valentin's retirement plans are simple. He will occasionally help his son with his business. He has bought a property near Chico and may spend more time up there. There might be a vacation and then there will be the challenges of finding ways to keep busy, a fairly common problem for new retirees.

Regardless of where Valentin's future takes him, his legacy at Cardinal Newman will be there to see for a very long time. ❖

What the Popes Have Said

Since popes began writing about social issues back in the 1800s, each one has said many things about socialism, all of them negative. The one who put it most succinctly, however, was Pope Pius XI (1922-39).

"We make this pronouncement: Whether considered as a doctrine or an historical fact or a movement, socialism—if it remains truly socialism—even after it has yielded to truth and justice on the points which we have mentioned, cannot be reconciled with the teachings of the Catholic Church because its concept of society itself is utterly foreign to Christian truth.

"[Socialism] is based nevertheless on a theory of human society peculiar to itself and irreconcilable with true Christianity. Religious socialism, Christian socialism, are contradictory terms. No one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist" (Encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*, May 15, 1931, nos. 117, 120).

(Science Building, cont.)

educational environment [so our students are equipped to be the sort of people] who will change our world."

In an interview with *North Coast Catholic*, Held said the building is needed because, "The original buildings are 50 years old, and we have not had an opportunity to modernize. Second, there is a real desire to offer more science, technology, math opportunities, and we knew we could only do that with new courses if we had additional space. So this new building allows us to increase number of educational opportunities and classes for our students."

She said the addition will have all new state of the art equipment, including flat screen monitors and very fast broadband width.

"A lot of experimentation opportunities are now done online," Held noted, "so students can discover and correct and fix things by using programs that are offered through apps, in addition to still having a lot of hands on science. We'll have a much more robust arena of offerings, allowing kids to do things we would never have thought of."

She also said, "We are incorporating more robotics, so we'll have a space in our large physics room and actually a back patio area where we can build robots. And now you have microscopes that hook up with probes to a program that then we can read heart rates and blood pressure. We can do things we could never have done before without the new technology and the new space."

Besides the estimated $2.1 million cost provided by the Ernest L. and Ruth W. Finley Foundation for construction, Held said the school needs another $150,000-200,000 to furnish the interior of the building.

This will therefore require additional fundraising, and while the school has acquired some gifts for this purpose, Held says, "Anyone from the community who wants to donate can make a gift in any amount."

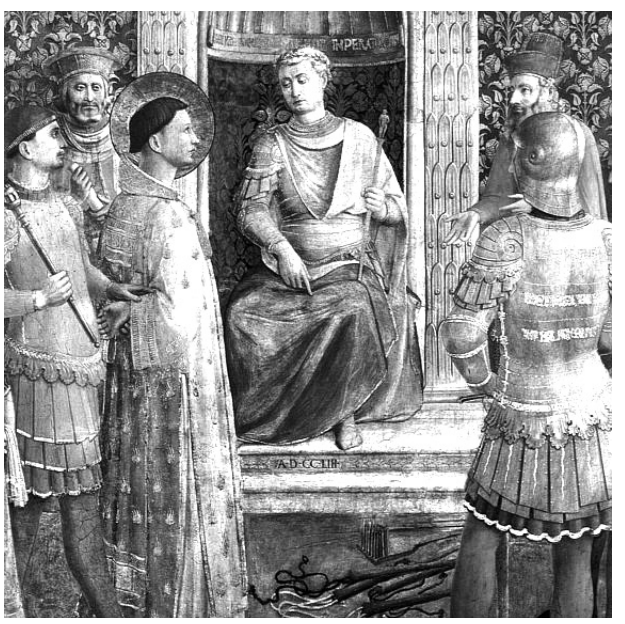
Information on how to help can be found on the Newman website (www.cardinalnewman.org). Those who want to donate by mail can send their checks to the AMJHN Foundation or Cardinal Newman High School, 50 Ursuline Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403, and write "Science bldg. furnishing" on the memo line.

A formal building blessing and dedication with the entire school community will take place in 2016 when the building is completed. ❖

(Ask IPS, cont.)

Psychological research has time and again shown that people (especially children) possess a great deal of natural resilience that they can fall back on when their social situations makes the above factors difficult to achieve. We are all called to help the broken family by being a witness to the loving God who ultimately brings healing and forgiveness to those suffering. ❖

Mr. McKenna is clinical extern at the IPS Center for Psychological Services. Have a practical question related to psychology and faith? Write to askips@ipsciences.edu



St. Lawrence the Deacon: August 10

(Planned Parenthood Charged, cont.)

Parenthood's practice.

In the video, two members of the investigation team are seen presenting themselves as part of a "fetal tissue procurement company" and asking about how they could work with Planned Parenthood clinics to procure fetal tissue for research.

The video purports to show Nucatola explaining to the undercover investigators how Planned Parenthood provides organs from aborted babies for a "reasonable" fee.

The undercover video appears to show Nucatola discussing what constitutes a "reasonable" payment for the donation of an aborted baby's organs: "They just want to do it in a way that is not perceived as, 'This clinic is selling tissue, this clinic is making money off of this. I know in the Planned Parenthood world they're very, very sensitive to that."

"(T)hey want to come to a number that doesn't look like they're making money. They want to come to a number that looks like it is a reasonable number for the effort that is allotted on their part."

Dr. Nucatola notes the abortion procedure can be altered if the abortionist knows in advance what body part is desired by the buyer, saying extraction of the baby can be changed to breech to get more of the body intact for researchers.

"What's she's describing is a partial birth abortion," said Katie Short, Life Defense Foundation's vice president for legal affairs. "She's basically confessing to something illegal."

The Planned Parenthood medical director then appears to suggest a price of $30-100 per "specimen," noting that liver is in high demand, before describing a grisly procedure for removing the organs from aborted babies "under ultrasound guidance."

Reports the Washington Post, "Buying and selling human fetal tissue is illegal in the United States. Federal regulations also prohibit anyone from altering the timing or method of an abortion for the sole purpose of later using the tissue in research. Donating the tissue for research, however, is legal with a woman's consent."

CNN reported, "She doesn't specifically say that price is for the purchase of the tissue, but the comment troubled bioethicist Art Caplan of New York University, who said after watching the edited version of the video that it sounds like Planned Parenthood might be trying to make a profit.

"But in the [unedited] version of the video, Nucatola says, It just has to do with space issues, are you sending someone there who is going to be doing everything or is their staff going to be doing it, what exactly are they going to be doing, is there shipping involved or is someone coming to pick it up?'"

She continues, "We've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not going to crush that part. I'm going to basically crush below, I'm going to crush above, and I'm going to see if I can get it all intact."

"Caplan told CNN's Elizabeth Cohen that altering procedures in order to get tissue in the best condition would be a 'big no-no.'

"'In abortion the primary goal is to give the safest abortion possible,' he said. 'Your sole concern has to be the mother and her health.'"

Democrats for Life has called for a congressional investigation into the matter.

The group's executive director, Kristen Day, noted Nucatola's comment that the organs requested for shipment can impact the way that the abortion is performed, to ensure that the body parts in question are not damaged.

"Why would you risk the health of a woman to…try to harvest these organs and put the woman's life or health in further danger if you weren't profiting?" she asked

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Republican presidential candidate and Catholic convert, launched an investigation in his state, where the abortion provider is getting ready to open a $4 million clinic in New Orleans. "Today's video of a Planned Parenthood official discussing the systematic harvesting and trafficking of human body parts is shocking and gruesome," Jindal said.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will "conduct an immediate investigation of this alleged practice in addition to a separate investigation ordered by the Texas Office of the Attorney General," said Texas Governor Greg Abbott in a July 14 statement. Kansas and Missouri have also launched investigations.

According to the Washington Post, "In a statement, a spokesman for Planned Parenthood said the video misrepresents the organization's work. Planned Parenthood clinics, with a patient's permission, may sometimes donate fetal tissue for use in stem cell research, said the spokesman, who added that the group's affiliates, which operate independently, do not profit from these donations.

"'At several of our health centers, we help patients who want to donate tissue for scientific research, and we do this just like every other high-quality health-care provider does — with full, appropriate consent from patients and under the highest ethical and legal standards,' spokesman Eric Ferrero said. 'In some instances, actual costs, such as the cost to transport tissue to leading research centers, are reimbursed, which is standard across the medical field.'"

David Daleiden, who ran the project for the Center of Medical Progress, says "the 'sting' unfolded over three years, because it takes time to build up a front as a biotech company and gain access to Planned Parenthood executives. The lunch, he said, is just the beginning: The Center for Medical Progress plans to release a new video every week for the next few months.

"Daleiden rejects Nucatola's claim that costs associated with fetal tissue donation involve shipping and staff hours. 'Literally the only thing the clinic is doing is carrying the fetus from the operation to the tech,' he said."

The next day the president of Planned Parenthood apologized for the "tone" of its chief medical officer, whose candid comments about fetal organ removal have generated heavy attacks against the organization.

"Our top priority is the passionate care that we provide. In our video, one of our staff members speaks in a way that does not reflect that compassion," president Cecile Richards said.

Richards also doubles down on her defense of fetal tissue donation — which she said contributes to "life-saving research." She said the donations are only done with the woman's consent and never for profit.

"I want to be really clear. The allegation that Planned Parenthood profits in any way from tissue donation is not true," Richards adds.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent a letter on July 16 to Richards noting federal law prohibits the "alteration of abortion methods and procedures solely in order to obtain fetal tissue."

Title IV of the Public Health Service Act says abortion providers cannot alter the "timing, method, or procedures" used to terminate a pregnancy solely for the purpose of obtaining tissue." Grassley is launching a Committee investigation into the revelations.

The chairman of the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee announced an investigation into Planned Parenthood over the report.

"That which is legal is not necessarily moral and ethical," Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Pa.) said at a Capitol Hill press conference on July 15. "This is not what we do in health care practice," he said. "This is not what we do as families. This is not what we do as a nation."

Richards, however, was noncommittal as to whether she would provide Nucatola to testify before Congress.

Then on July 21, CMP released another video.

In it, Dr. Mary Gatter appears to tell actors posing as representatives of a fetal tissue procurement company, "It's been years since I talked about compensation, so let me just figure out what others [Planned Parenthood affiliates] are getting. If this [price] is in the ballpark, it's fine, if it's still low then we can bump it up," before joking, "I want a Lamborghini."

Dr. Gatter is president of the Planned Parenthood medical directors' council and oversees a Planned Parenthood facility in Pasadena.

The new video purports to show Gatter saying that "we're not in it for the money, and we don't want to be in a position of being accused of selling tissue, and stuff like that. On the other hand, there are costs associated with the use of our space, and that kind of stuff…it has to be big enough that it is worthwhile."

Gatter appears to suggest "$75 a specimen" as a price that would "work" for fetal tissue of aborted babies.

Federal law generally prohibits the selling of human tissue but allows for the donation of tissue with "reasonable payments" for the "transportation, implantation, processing, preservation, quality control, or storage of human fetal tissue." It explicitly prohibits the sale of tissue for "valuable consideration."

The video also includes a discussion of possibly adjusting the abortion procedure of certain babies to better deliver an "intact specimen" to the organ harvesters.

"(I)f our usual technique is suction, at 10-12 weeks, and we switch to using an IPAS or something with less suction, and increase the odds that it will come out as an intact specimen, then we're kind of violating the protocol that says to the patient, 'We're not doing anything different in our care of you,'" Gatter appears to say.

"Now to me, that's kind of a specious little argument," she appears to continue, saying that she "wouldn't object" to asking the abortion doctor "to use an IPAS at that gestational age, in order to increase the odds that he's going to get an intact specimen, but I do need to throw it out there as a concern. Because the patient is signing something and we're signing something saying that we're not changing anything with the way we're managing you, just because we agree to give tissue."

"I think they're both totally appropriate techniques. There's no difference in pain involved. I don't think the patients would care one iota. So yeah, I'm not making a fuss about that." ❖

(Climate Deal, cont.)

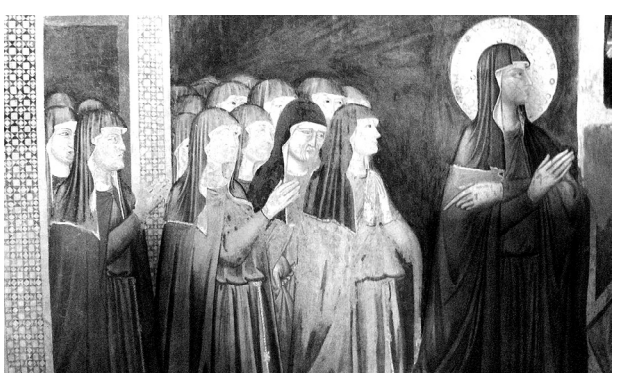
In his speech to the attendees, Pope Francis did address environmental ecology, expressing "high hopes" for the Paris talks. But he also strongly advocated for what he has termed "human ecology" to factor into the talks, as well.

The Holy See wants the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals to make a solid reference to human trafficking and slavery.

Indeed, much of His Holiness' remarks spoke of how interwoven human ecology is with environmental degradation. He talked about how people are leaving farms because their lands are no longer arable due to sustained droughts. Hence these persons crowd cities looking for work. He discussed the use of poisonous chemicals in extracting minerals without any regulations governing their use. And he decried the increase of slavery and the sex trafficking trade.

Globally, the average slave costs just $90. According to the United States Department of State, 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which 80 percent are female and half are children. Furthermore, there are approximately 20-30 million slaves in the world today, 80 percent of them sex slaves, 19 percent labor slaves. To learn more, visit http://tinyurl.com/7neq87v.

The Holy Father concluded by noting, "And so why did the Pontifical Academy of Sciences convoke mayors and city governors? Because they are aware of how to carry out this important and profound work, from the center to the periphery, and from the periphery to the center. They are aware of the reality of humanity. The Holy See may make a good speech before the United Nations, but if the work does not come from the periphery to the center, it will have no effect; hence the responsibility of mayors and city governors." ❖



St. Clare of Assisi: August 11

Millionaire Gay Couple Will Sue to Force Church Wedding

Danbury, UK (*The Libertarian Republic*)—Having threatened to do so since 2013, a wealthy gay couple has decided to sue in order to force their church to solemnize their wedding.

The Drewitt-Barlows, a millionaire couple from the United Kingdom, stated, "We've launched a challenge to the government's decision to allow some religious groups to opt out of marrying same-sex couples."

Both attend St. John the Baptist Church, an Anglican parish, and have been in a civil partnership since 2006. They were civilly married in 2013 when same sex marriage became legal.

Barrie Drewitt-Barlow said he and his partner Tony "feel we have the right as parishioners in our village to utilize the church we attend to get married.

"It is no reflection on our local church, who have been nothing but supportive towards us. We understand their hands are tied by a higher group of people within the" Communion.

This reaffirms statements that Drewitt-Barlow made earlier in June, stating going to court was "the only way forward."

"It is a shame that we are forced to take Christians into a court to get them to recognize us. It upsets me because I want it so much—a big lavish ceremony, the whole works. I just don't think it is going to happen straight away. While same-sex marriage is now legal in the UK after a bill cleared Parliament earlier this year, the legislation still protects the right of churches to opt out of performing gay weddings, specifically the Church of England [CofE]."

Drewitt-Barlow is not pleased with the law, and said, "As much as people are saying this is a good thing, I am still not getting what I want."

In 2012, when the change in marriage's legal definition was first proposed by Prime Minister David Cameron, the *Daily Mail* reported, "An analysis of equality law by Church of England lawyers suggests assurances from David Cameron and his ministers that no church will be compelled to provide such ceremonies are worthless.

"[Government] Ministers have repeatedly said since the plan for same-sex marriage was announced five months ago that it would apply in civil law only and that gay wedding ceremonies would not be imposed on churches….

"But equality laws introduced by Labour in 2007 have already disrupted 11 Roman Catholic adoption agencies because they are no longer allowed to decline to place children with gay couples.

"And the same laws, now enshrined in the 2010 Equality Act which was voted into law by the [ruling] Coalition, will, CofE lawyers believe, make churches offer weddings to same-sex couples if the law permits them to marry."

According to the BBC in 2013, when the legislation passed Parliament, "Ministers … stated legislation allowing same-sex marriages in England and Wales would not compel any religious organization to conduct such marriages…."

Similarly in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court of the United States decision that legalized same sex unions, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote on behalf of the majority, "Finally, it must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered. The same is true of those who oppose same-sex marriage for other reasons."

Nonetheless, many religious leaders have a growing concern that with no formal protection under the law, the US will eventually see cases such as the Drewitt-Barlows. After all, despite its "utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex [unions] should not be condoned," and that all children deserve a mother and a father, the Archdiocese of Boston was forced out of the adoption business because it declined to place children with homosexual couples.

Of course, just because the Drewitt-Barlows have decided to bring a lawsuit, does not mean a court will side with them. And even if a British court does side with the couple, that by no means requires our judges to follow English jurisprudence.

Nonetheless, it was just two years ago that government ministers in the UK were assuring religions that their teachings would be kept safe from government or judicial interference. If it happens there, there is no reason to stop it from happening here.

Again, despite presumed First Amendment protections, consider what happened with the Boston archdiocese. ❖

We Have Been Here Before

by Bishop-elect Robert Barron

In the earliest centuries of the Church's life, thousands—including Peter, Paul, Agnes, Cecelia, Clement, Felicity, Perpetua, Sebastian, Lawrence, and Cyprian—were brutally put to death by officials of the Roman Empire.

In the fourth century, St. Ambrose (ca. 340-97) was opposed by Emperor Theodosius. In the eleventh century, Pope St. Gregory VII (ca. 1020-85) locked horns with the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV. In the nineteenth century, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck (1815-98) waged a *Kulturkampf* [literally, "culture struggle"] against the Catholic Church in Germany. And in the twentieth century, more martyrs gave their lives for the faith than in all the previous centuries combined.

Now why am I rehearsing this rather sad history? In the wake of the Supreme Court of the United States decision regarding same sex unions, a not inconsiderable number of Catholics feel beleaguered and more than a little afraid.

Their fear comes from the manner in which the decision was framed and justified. Since same-sex marriage is now recognized as a fundamental human right guaranteed by the Constitution, those who oppose it can only be characterized as bigots animated by an irrational prejudice.

To be sure, Justice Anthony Kennedy and his colleagues in the majority assure us that those who have religious objections to same-sex marriage will be respected, but one wonders how such respect is congruent with the logic of the decision.

Would one respect the owners of a business who refuse to hire black people as a matter of principle? Would not the government, in point of fact, be compelled to act against those owners? The proponents of gay marriage have rather brilliantly adopted the rhetoric of the civil rights movement, precisely so as to force this conclusion.

And this is why my mentor, the late Francis Cardinal George, so often warned against the incursions of an increasingly aggressive secular state, which, he argued, will first force us off the public stage into privacy and then seek to criminalize those practices of ours that it deems unacceptable.

One reason this has been rather shocking to American Catholics is that we have had, at least for the last century or so, a fairly benign relationship with the environing culture.

Until around 1970, there was, throughout the society and across religious boundaries, a broad moral consensus in our country, especially in regard to sexual and family matters. This is one reason why, in the 1950s, Archbishop Fulton Sheen could find such a wide and appreciative audience among Protestants and Jews, even as he laid out fundamentally Catholic perspectives on morality.

That consensus has largely been shattered. The Church finds itself opposed not so much by other religious denominations, as it was in the nineteenth century, but by the ideology of secularism and the self-defining individual—admirably expressed, by the way, in Justice Kennedy's articulation of the majority position in the case under consideration.

So what do we do? We continue to put forth our point of view winsomely, invitingly, and non-violently, loving our opponents and reaching out to those with whom we disagree. As St. John Paul II said, the Church always proposes, never imposes. And we take a deep breath, preparing for what could be some aggression from the secular society, but we take courage from a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us.

The Church has faced this sort of thing before—and we're still standing. ❖

For more from Fr. Barron, go to www.wordonfire.org. His Holiness Pope Francis recently named him auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles. His consecration to the episcopate will take place in the near future.

Supreme Court Upholds Use of Controversial Execution Drug

Washington, DC (CNA/EWTN News)—The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled in favor of the continued use of a drug that has been accused of causing excruciating pain in several controversial state executions.

The 5-4 ruling in *Glossip v. Gross* was announced June 29. The majority opinion said that "because some risk of pain is inherent in any method of execution, we have held that the Constitution does not require the avoidance of all risk of pain."

The Court ruled opponents of the drug had "failed to establish that any risk of harm was substantial when compared to a known and available alternative method of execution."

Lawyers for three Oklahoma death-row inmates had argued the state's three-drug protocol for executions violated constitutional bans on cruel and unusual punishment.

The execution protocol includes the sedative midazolam. The drug's effectiveness was recently called into question when it was used in several unusually prolonged executions in Ohio, Arizona, and Oklahoma in which inmates appeared to suffer significantly during their deaths. ❖

Keeping the Love Flames Burning ... by God's Design

by Annette Righetti

The marshmallow is on fire!

For me, few things beat the thrill of a marshmallow lighting up before my eyes and waiting until it's heated just right.

Similarly during engagement, everything seems to be great, and you and your fiancé are "on fire" for one another.

From the outside looking in, though, the Catholic Church seems to want to put out the fire with these restrictions on what we can and can't do.

It doesn't help that the media hits us with messages of *unlimited* possibilities such as contraception, cohabitation, and premarital sex to name a few.

That is what you get when you live in a secular society. Granted, nearly all societies are secular by their very nature. But some are more religious and others more godless.

I would suggest ours is mostly godless. Thus if you practice the Church's teachings, there will be tremendous tension between the way you live and the way society says we should live, especially regarding marital sexuality.

So let's ask this question: In a society where the polls say, "The Bible/Church is wrong in this regard," why should we listen to the Bible/Church?

Well, first, as most would agree—and the Bible/Church teaches—God is the Creator. Because of how He created nature (including our bodies), by definition anything put between God and man will interrupt and frustrate His design and His purpose for that design.

For a couple, contraception does exactly that. It puts something in between a husband and wife and between a couple and God that He never intended to be there (cf. Gen 1:28).

Worse yet, it not only interrupts and frustrates our relationship with God, it does this with husband and wife. Their covenant is supposed to mirror the free, faithful, fruitful, and total self-giving love of the Trinity.

God made us in His image, and God is perfect. What He originally made—before original sin—was perfect. The way He made it was perfect. Why do we need to alter or try to change a perfect design?

Could it be because we do not love like God loves, that is, unconditionally and selflessly?

So what is God's "perfect design" for husband and wife?

God's perfect design for fertility is that a woman ovulates one day a month, not thirty days. That's scientific fact. When you understand which day of the month that is, then you understand your fertility. When you understand this, the fear of getting pregnant is replaced with an openness to life and to God's plan for the married couple. The question changes from, "What is our will for our lives?" to "What is God's will?"

During our marriage preparation, my husband and I began to chart our fertility for the first time. In charting, we saw how NFP tells a couple when they will most likely conceive.

Charting also shows when it is not possible to become pregnant. The method we learned for doing this is 99 percent effective because it cross checks the signs of fertility. That percent matches any artificial methods on the market.

Best of all, it is all "organic." Nothing artificial. No chemicals in our bodies. Just working with God's design.

There are "growing pains," especially during the fertile time when our relationship is on fire and we are attracted toward each other. God did that on purpose! How do you keep that "fire" burning? We've stumbled but found other activities to do as a couple: being with our children, praying daily, exercising, and doing projects that use up that extra energy. Abstinence and chastity, oh yes, they are right there in the middle of it all.

Don't worry or be anxious. Waiting for something good makes it so much better when that something good arrives. ❖

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Which Statue of Christ Frees a Prisoner Every Year?

Málaga, Spain—A statue of our Savior carrying a Cross, venerated with the invocation of Nuestro Padre Jesús El Rico, is carried in procession on the night of Holy Wednesday through the streets of Málaga, Spain. At the Bishop's plaza, the cortege pauses and the porters place the heavy bier on the ground. There, a prisoner from the Penitentiary Center of Alhaurín de la Torre is anxiously waiting. Slowly, the arm of El Rico is raised by means of an ingenious mechanism and traces a cross in the air, by which He grants pardon for the remainder of the convict's sentence. The fortunate reprieved man then joins the procession.

What is the origin of this privilege?

It dates back to the year 1759, when an epidemic ravaged the city of Málaga. Hospitals and asylums overflowed with patients, leaving an insufficient number of people fit enough to carry out the traditional Holy Week celebrations. In the city's prison, where the illness had not spread, the inmates requested authorization to carry the statue of the Nazarene venerated in the neighboring Monastery of San Luis El Real [St. Louis the King] in procession.

Fearing that the prisoners would flee, permission was denied. This provoked rebellion among the inmates; they seized the statue of Jesús El Rico and bore it triumphantly through the city streets. Afterwards, they returned the statue to the monastery and went back to prison. Not one of them used the occasion as a ruse to escape.

Touched by the generous action of these prisoners, King Charles III granted to the Sweet Jesus the privilege of liberating one prisoner every Holy Wednesday, in a custom that endures to this day. ❖

This article appears courtesy of Heralds of the Gospel *magazine (June 2015).*

PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Fr. Thomas Kyallo	8/3/85 Napa, CA
Fr. Ramon Pons	8/6/88 Petaluma, CA
Fr. Gary Sumpter	8/25/79 Retired - Napa, CA

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Obituary

by NCC staff

Ashley Donohoe

Ashley Donohoe, 22, of Rohnert Park, a graduate of St. Eugene School, died in the early morning hours of June 16 when the Berkeley apartment balcony on which she and several others—including Olivia Burke, 21, her cousin from Ireland—collapsed and plummeted to the ground 50 feet below. Four others also died for a total of six killed—three women, three men—while seven others were seriously injured.

Ashley Donohoe

According to the *Press Democrat*, the "balcony is believed to have been compromised by rotted wooden beams." Subsequent news reports revealed the balcony had passed inspection a short time before.

Donohoe was well-liked, and she and her cousin, who was here on a special summer work visa, were best friends, "like twins," it was said. Ashley had travelled to Ireland at least 20 times to visit Burke.

"They died together," said Ashley's father George. "At the end, they were side by side."

Donohoe attended Sonoma State University studying biology and was visiting Burke's apartment, where the cousin was celebrating one of her roommate's twenty-first birthday. All the residents were from Ireland. Indeed all of the dead but Donohoe were Irish-born.

Well-known for her soccer playing abilities, Donohoe's friend Ashley Smith also remembered, "She was super outgoing. Every time she met somebody, she wanted to be friends and bring them into the group."

Wanting to pursue a career in forensics, she held an internship with the Sonoma County Coroner's Office. Said Abigail Zoger, a former professor who knew about her intern work, "Ashley, in her picture, looks so sweet, so all-American, and she was. But she also loved dissection. She loved working on cadavers, working on anatomy."

Perhaps the most profound way people remember Donohoe, however, is as a friend. She kept a boy company by baking chocolate chip cookies with him after he had his wisdom teeth pulled. There was also cancer patient Michael Jensen, who she regularly visited, including the Sunday prior to her death.

One unidentified woman observed, "She was my friend when I didn't have many friends, and that meant a lot."

Msgr. Daniel Whelton celebrated a joint memorial Mass for the two cousins before a packed congregation at St. Joseph Church in Cotati on June 20. The Irish Consulate hired four buses to transport any students from Berkeley who wanted to attend the obsequies.

In his homily Monsignor discussed the mystery of these beautiful young women's tragic deaths.

"Naturally we ask, 'Why did it happen?' … With some there is a tendency to say, 'It is the will of God.' But you know God did not want this tragedy to happen. So what can we do as Catholics, as Christians? We can only look to the scriptures…."

Olivia Burke

He then recounted how Isaiah tells us that God can no more forget us than a mother can her child. He told the girls' relatives they will never forget them, "But never forget that even though you will suffer through the pain in their loss and you question and doubt, never forget as Isaiah told us, God has Olivia and Ashley inscribed on the palm of His hands."

Monsignor also noted that Our Lord wants us to have faith in Him.

"My prayer today … is that you will nurture and deepen your faith in the Lord because it gives us a hope that death is not an end but is rather the beginning of an everlasting life with God. That is why Jesus said, 'I go to prepare a place for you and will come back and take you to that place.'"

Following the funeral and interment of Ashley, the Donohoes accompanied Olivia's remains and the Burke family back to Ireland for a memorial service and her committal.

Eternal rest grant unto Ashley and Olivia, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. ❖

Marian Sisters Receive Two Novices

by NCC staff

New MSSR novices Sr. Maria Serra (l) and Sr. Margaret Mary

Santa Rosa—On June 12, 2015, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa (MSSR) joyfully received two new novices.

Miss Teresa McGuire will now be known in religious life as Sr. Maria Serra of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sr. Maria Serra is a native of Southern California and was baptized and raised in Bl. Junípero Serra Church in Lancaster, where she later served in youth ministry.

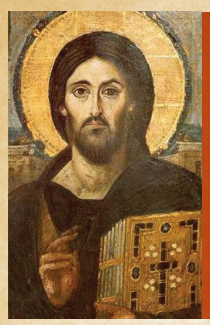
Miss Marissa Zieminski will be known as Sr. Margaret Mary of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. She grew up in Santa Rosa. She and her family consider it a privilege to have served in music and youth ministries in several parishes of this diocese.

Both of the new novices will join senior novices Sr. Mary Vianney and Sr. Caritas Marie in a canonical year of deeper prayer, service, and study as they prepare for profession of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

The MSSRs are a contemplative/active community of religious Sisters devoted to Jesus through Mary with at mission to communicate the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Catholic faith through works of joyful evangelization while living the fullness of the liturgical life.

They currently serve in various capacities including at St. Eugene School and Cathedral, Cardinal Newman High School, and in the Department of Catholic Schools.

To learn more about the Marian Sisters, visit their website, http://www.marian-sisters.com. ❖



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SCHEDULE

Mar 20 & 21	Orientation, Introduction, Spirituality & Methodology
May 1 & 2	Creed I - IV
July 24 & 25	Liturgy & Sacraments I - IV
Sept 18 & 19	Life in Christ, Conscience Form & Catholic Social Teaching
Oct 23 & 24	Christian Prayer, Observation & Make-up

LUNCH 12pm - 1pm

(On your own, or bring a bag lunch)

- Basic Catechist $100.00/person for entire program. Includes all classes/topics.
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- For those interested in dropping in $20 person/class.
- Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.
- Those who wish to attend and are not interested in receiving a California Basic Catechist Certificate are welcome.
- Complete an application to begin the California Basic Catechist Process.

PROGRAMA

20 y 21 de Mar	Orientación, Introducción, Espiritualidad y Metodología
1 y 2 de Mayo	Credo I - IV
24 y 25 de Julio	Liturgia y Sacramentos I - IV
18 y 19 de Sept	La vida en Cristo, Formación de la Consciencia y La Doctrina Social Católica
23 y 24 de Oct	La Oración Cristiana y Observaciones

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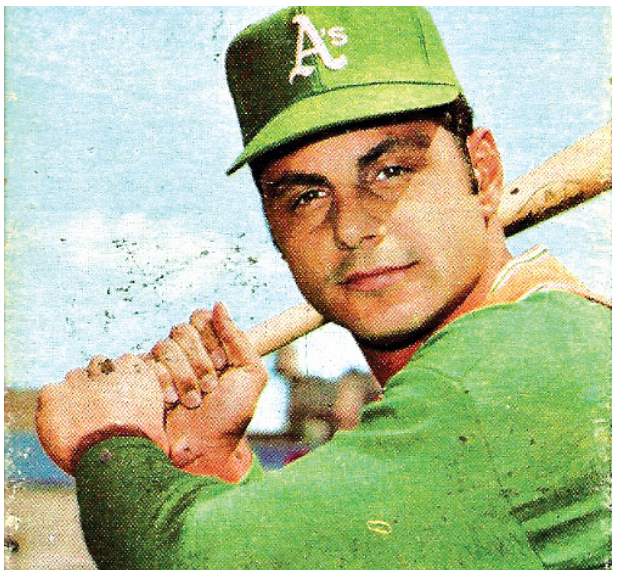

Sal Bando

Former Oakland A's Captain Shares What Matters Most

Cincinnati (*National Catholic Register*)—Playing in the Major League Baseball All-Star Game is a dream of many young baseball players, and third baseman Sal Bando was able to live this dream four times. He made his All-Star Game debut in 1969, which was followed by three consecutive appearances from 1972-74, all with the Oakland Athletics. It was during this three-year stretch that Bando captained three World Series championship teams as well.

While everything was going smoothly on the field, Bando grew distant from the Catholic faith of his youth. It wouldn't be until he started experiencing baseball troubles that he was reminded of how important Christ and His Church are. By this time, the Cleveland native's best playing years were behind him, but he had regained a Catholic perspective on life before retiring in 1981 with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Bando was the general manager of the Brewers 1991-1999, and in 2006, he helped to launch Catholic Athletes for Christ, a group he continues to serves today as an Athlete Advisory Board member.

Bando spoke with *Register* correspondent Trent Beattie in anticipation of this year's "Midsummer Classic," which took place July 14 at Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati.

(see Oakland A's Captain, p. 18)

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8/21 Pope St. Pius X Bl. Victoire Rasoamanarivo of Madagascar, laywoman, the "father and mother of Madagascar's Catholics"

Catholic Comedian Jim Gaffigan Gets Own TV Show

New York City (CNA)—God and comedy clubs are not generally something most families throw together. Then again, most families don't create a cable comedy show either.

Jim and Jeannie Gaffigan

But for Jim and Jeannie Gaffigan, this mix of faith and funny is a vital part of their family life—a life that they have drawn upon in creating their latest project, a TV sitcom.

"Mixing these worlds – the world of standup comedy and one's faith—can provide conflict and humor," said Jim Gaffigan, who co-wrote and stars in *The Jim Gaffigan Show*.

His wife Jeannie, the other comedic mastermind behind the show's script and the new program's executive producer, hoped their family's experience mixing spheres of personal, religious, and public life would appeal to other families navigating a sometimes strange world.

"It's normal families that are in this very abnormal situation and all the things that inform their interactions with other people. And there's a lot of comedy in that," she said. "People relate to it. People laugh at it."

The new show premiered on TV Land July 15, and episodes are available online at www.jimgaffigan.com. Many of the plots in the new series come from the couple's personal experience of living as a Catholic family in lower Manhattan, a neighborhood where spotting hipsters and bohemians is much more likely than spying a family with five kids.

Funny has been a part of this family's dynamic for years. The couple met in 2000 while working together, getting married in 2003. While raising their family, the couple wrote and created comedy shows such as "Beyond the Pale" (2006) and the Grammy-nominated "Mr. Universe" (2012), which Jeannie produced and Jim performed. The duo also worked together to write Jim's 2012 comedic memoir *Dad is Fat*, and a second collection of essays, *Food: a Love Story,* published in 2014.

In the new show, Jim said they wanted to present "this conventional family in this unconventional world, and that's really what it is for every family in America."

"We made a decision not to hide any of the spectrums of our life. There's the Church and there's the comedy club and they're sort of diametrically opposed," Jeannie explained, saying she and her husband sought to show the reality of both parts of their lives without disparaging either as well as the reality of living in New York City, she said, a place of "all sorts of people, all sorts of faiths, all sorts of lifestyles, all sorts of attitudes."

Given that, Jim said, "The good thing is that these topics, or even these angles into comedy, are fresh."

This honest look at faith and doubt, along with its lighthearted approach, Jeannie said, allows the show to deal with its characters' faith in a way that's neither too sweet nor too dour.

Jim pointed to an example of dialogue between the Jim and Jeannie characters where the Faith informs the comedy in this frank way.

"When Jeannie's mad, she might say, 'I don't want to raise five kids by myself,' he explained. "And Jim would say, 'You're going to divorce me?'"

"'No! I'm Catholic,' Jeannie's character jokes. 'I don't believe in divorce. I would murder you.'"

Even if the characters joke about these normal tensions between spouses, ultimately creating the show was a family affair—one that both Jim and Jeannie participate in, open their family life to, and hope fans find fresh and engaging. ❖

Beheading of St. John the Baptist: August 29

St. Apollinaris Hosts Vacation Bible School

Napa—From June 22-26, over 100 children and 80 volunteers invaded the grounds of St. Apollinaris Church in Napa for its Vacation Bible School, with the event by all accounts a huge success.

Participants climbed Mt Everest together, learning the lesson that even though we face obstacles and "mountains" all the time, with God's ever presence we can do anything.

Enthusiastic volunteers, dressed in mountain attire or mountain-lake blue shirts, led each morning of the school. Children sang and danced to songs at the beginning of each morning and then were led to their various programs by their crew leaders.

Each day featured four stations: videos, where they heard real stories about real children who faced challenges in life; Bible depictions, where they were told about biblical stories of people who faced various dilemmas but still overcame them; crafts that were related to God's inspiration and love; and games that taught them how to work together to face life's "mountains."

(see Vacation Bible School, p. 23)

37th Annual Benefit Dinner

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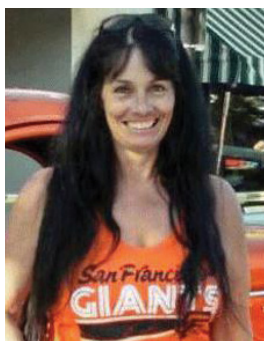
Obituaries

Philip Bruce "Bunk" Higgins
Born on December 26, 1935, Mr. Higgins died June 5 of heart failure. He was 79. It is said that he learned by his grandmother's example of discreetly helping those in need. A faithful Catholic, he attended Immaculate Conception High School near Chicago and then St. Mary College in Winona, Minnesota, graduating in 1957. He moved with his family to Rohnert Park in 1979, and became a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, where he volunteered with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He is described as having been loyal, occasionally mischievous, astute, fair, and "sought each individual's uniqueness and grace." A memorial service is set for August 8 at 1:30pm at his parish.

Thomas Robert "Toot" Corriveau
Mr. Corriveau died unexpectedly on June 19. A faithful husband of 33 years to his beloved wife Nancy, a good father to his cherished children, son Ryan and daughter Denise, and a valued employee at Blentech Corporation for 29 years, Mr. Corriveau's memory may be carried the longest by those he coached in basketball through St. Rose Church's CYO over the years. He was well respected in the coaching community. His memorial Mass took place July 10 at St. Rose. Those wishing to donate in his memory may contribute to the scholarship fund set up for Denise through Exchange Bank or to the "Grateful for our Past, Building our Future" campaign to retrofit the original St. Rose Church.



Colleen Edith "Bird" (née Granero) Ramirez
Mrs. Ramirez died suddenly on June 22 just a few weeks before her fifty-fourth birthday. Born on July 2, 1961, in San Francisco, she moved to Sonoma in the early 1990s and worked as a property manager for vacation rentals. Then she became a real estate agent, and she earned an outstanding reputation. A memorial Mass took place on July 1 at St. Francis of Solano Church in Sonoma.

Holy Spirit Church, Santa Rosa
Patrick J. Cadden: died June 24, 2015, age 91; funeral Mass July 1, 2015
Michael Joseph Maher: died June 19; graveside service June 24, 2015

Resurrection Church, Santa Rosa
Aurora Catala Wagner: died June 3, age 96; memorial service July 6, 2015

Star of the Valley Church, Santa Rosa
Nancy Bellow: died June 8, 2015; memorial service June 23, 2015
Joe Busterna: died June 17, 2015, age 90; memorial Mass June 25, 2015

St. Coleman Church, Cazadero
Margaret "Peggy" Canelis: died June 9, 2015, age 91; memorial Mass June 20

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Rohnert Park
William J. "Fergie" Ferguson: died May 16, 2015, age 70; memorial Mass June 20, 2015
Karen Nishihara: died June 13, 2015, age 73; memorial Mass, July 18, 2015

St. Francis Solano Church, Sonoma
Lara (née Westlake) Severson: died June 18, age 48; memorial service, June 26, 2015

St. James Church, Petaluma
Robert Howard Cameron: died June 3, 2015, age 77: funeral Mass June 6, 2015

St. John the Baptist Church, Healdsburg
Daniel Nieto: died May 31, 2015, age 81; funeral Mass June 7, 2015
Dionicio Herrera-Arroyo: July 1, 2015, age 66; funeral Mass July 7, 2015

St. John the Baptist Church, Napa
Stephen Jacobs: died June 18, 2015, age 67; memorial Mass, July 16, 2015
Julia Titgen: died July 1, 2015, age 93; funeral service July 8, 2015

St. Joseph Church, Cotati
Katie M. Fomasi: died June 26, 2015, age 91; funeral Mass, June 30, 2015

St. Leo Church, Boyes Hot Springs
Eugene Michael "Pete" Ryan: died June 23, 2015, age 85; memorial service July 8, 2015

St. Monica: August 27

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
DIOCESE of SANTA ROSA

What is the Crypt of Peace?

With the growth of cremation and in light of the Church's teachings regarding the proper disposition of cremated remains, it is our mission as a ministry to offer a dignified and sacred resting place for all.

Catholic Cemeteries offers at no charge, to anyone, who has cremated remains at home or is considering scattering, a dignified committal of the cremated remains at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Santa Rosa. The committal will occur at the **Crypt of Peace** with the remains permanently interred within the consecrated grounds of our Catholic Cemetery.

Complimentary placement and recordation does not include memorialization. However, in celebration of life and sharing our legacy of faith, you are provided with a link to submit photos, videos and stories through our Web Cemeteries page. Loved ones can leave information for future generations to view and learn about their family members who have passed. Please contact us for more information at (707) 546-6290.

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8/24 St. Bartholomew, apostle ❖ 8/25 St. Giuseppe Calasanzio Bl. Maria Troncatti, missionary religious

News Briefs

Diocesan

There will a "lot" at this sale
On August 22, from 9am-2pm, **St. Anthony of Padua Church** in **Willits** will hold its annual **parking lot sale**. Although neither of its parking lots are for sale, nor is it held in the parking lot (it's in the **parish hall**), the largest sale of second-hand household goods in Willits offers the opportunity to pick up some great treasures in furniture, small appliances, kitchen wares, linens and blankets, toys and games, books, and tons of "guy stuff."

Organized by the **Ladies' Guild**, proceeds fund scholarships for parish high school graduates, give support to local charities, and provide for maintenance needs of the church building.

St. Bernard Reports
St. Bernard Church in **Eureka's Knights of Columbus'** junior auxiliary group, the **Columbian Squires** held a car wash in the church parking lot on Saturday, July 18 to fundraise for their various charitable works.

Also, July 24-26, the parking lot was seal coated and re-striped.

Finally, on the last weekend of the month, the parish welcomed **Fr. Noel S. Octaviano, MJ** of the **Missionaries of Jesus**, who made an appeal for prayers and financial support. He was a missionary in **Brazil** for 10 years. Since 2000, he has worked in the **Philippines**, currently at **San Isidro High School**, and he is active in the local **Christian-Muslim Dialogue Ministry** in the **Territorial Prelature of Marawi** on the island of **Mindanao** in the Philippines. More than 65 percent of the Missionaries' annual budget to support its worldwide efforts comes from the Mission Appeal. Please make checks out to St. Bernard Church, and the parish office will send them to the Missionaries: 615 H St., Eureka, CA 95502

St. Mary's Makes Moves
When **Fr. Michael Cloney**, pastor of **Christ the King Church** in **McKinleyville**, recently retired, **Bishop Robert F. Vasa** named **Fr. Balaswamy Govindu**, pastor of **St. Mary Church** in Arcata, pastor of Christ the King, **Holy Trinity Mission** in **Trinidad**, and **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Mission** in **Hoopa**, and chaplain for the **Humboldt State University Newman Center**. With so many additional duties, Father has understandably needed to make some changes.

Starting last month, there will no longer be a Mass on Monday mornings at St. Mary. The other weekday and weekend Masses remain unchanged.

Fr. Cloney will stay in the McKinleyville rectory this summer and attend to McKinleyville and Trinidad. He will also be available on an as needed basis in the future.

Father also appointed Christ the King bookkeeper **Cindy Meadows** to the same position at St. Mary.

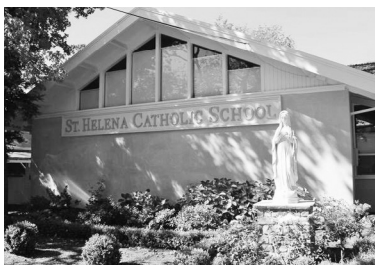
Finally, St. Mary has initiated an **Hour of Prayer**. It met for the first time on Thursday, July 9, at 7pm in the church.

Calling anyone with "a fine way to play a Steinway"
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in **Windsor** is starting a youth Mass and needs a keyboard player. For information on schedule and stipends please contact: **Frances Rozowski** at 707-837-8962.

Also the parish has the following volunteer opportunities: Communion for the homebound; giving people rides to Mass; ushers for the English Masses; and gift store volunteers for two-to-three hours Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Love is in the air in Rohnert Park
On Sunday, July 26, **St. Elizabeth Seton Church** in **Rohnert Park** acknowledged couples with anniversaries in July with a special Mass. Recognized were **Jim and Bernadine Coughlin** (54 years); **Larry and Marilyn Hansen** (49 years); **Ken and Joanne Brencic** (47 years); **Bob and Jane Ginn** (41 years); **Brian and Anne Thomas** (32 years); **Phillip and Carol Barraza** (31 years); and **Stephen Hall and Linda Sims** (11 years). Thanks to all these great couples. As **Pope Francis** says, "Marriage isn't easy, but it's beautiful."

St. Helena Catholic School Wins Award
Reports **Fr. Gordon Kalil**, pastor of **St. Helena Church** in **St. Helena**, "We are grateful to all who worked so hard on the upgrades to the school building last summer. The stucco, bathroom upgrades, painting, and more done in the heat of July and first week in August were monumental. The beautiful results served as a foundation for new landscaping. And 80 percent of the work was done by volunteers—including over 40 men commuting from the **Central Valley**." For the remarkable generous gift from many, the work and improvement to the campus, the school was honored with an award in the **Beautification Foundation's** non-residential category.



St. Helena Catholic School

But wait, don't get out that checkbook yet …
St. John the Baptist School in **Healdsburg** announces its "transitional Kindergarten" program, which begins this month. Children must be four years old by September 2. Introductory tuition is $3,000 for the first year.

Also transfer assistance grants are available to first through eighth grade students who transfer to SJBS: 30 percent off for the first year, 15 percent for the second.

For information, call 707-433-2758 or visit www.sjshbg.org.

An "Epic" adventure begins at St. Eugene's
What do the **Inquisition**, the **Crusades, Bloody Mary**, and the **Galileo** affair all have in common?

According to a DVD series that started last month at **St. Eugene Cathedral**, what you learned about them in school has only given you one side of the story, and it's not the Catholic one.

To give that perspective, the parish's **Knights of Columbus Council 4930** will host ***Epic: A Journey Through Church History***.

According to promotional materials provided by the cathedral, "Epic provides Catholics with a fast-paced … understanding of Catholic history, instilling in participants a greater sense of meaning and identity as heirs to 2,000 years of Catholic history heritage."

The presenter on the DVDs is **Prof. Steve Weidenkopf**, history lecturer at **Christendom College's** graduate school. He says, "If Catholics understand their story, they will be better equipped to live out their faith in the world. By recognizing the beauty and glory of the Catholic Church, they will be inspired to live their lives with a greater sense of mission and purpose."

Classes began on July 12, but coordinator **Greg De Gennaro** says participants are still welcome. The study is free and meets each Sunday at 10am on the second floor of the parish life center.

For more information, call 707-542-6984.

Justin-Siena alumna blazing media trail
Gabriella Morrongiello (Justin-Siena High School Class of '11) is setting the world of political journalism on fire. Over the last four years, Gabriella, age 21, has appeared on Fox News, Fox Business, The Blaze, Newsmax TV, and One America News Network. As a reporter and spokeswoman for **Campus Reform**, an online publication, Gabriella regularly appears on these networks to bring a **Millennial** perspective to current issues, including immigration, student debt, and free speech. Gabriella graduated from **George Washington University** this May with a BA in political science and a minor in journalism.

Gabriella Morrongiello

National

Millennials: Government should force compliance
Washington, DC (*The Blaze*)—A new survey conducted in the wake of the **Supreme Court of the United States'** legalization of same-sex unions June 26 in ***Obergefell v. Hodges*** found that 19 percent—or one in five of **Americans**—believe that "religious institutions or clergy should be required to perform same-sex [unions]."

More specifically, 26 percent of Americans under the age of 40 believe churches and clergy should be forced to preside over gay nuptials.

The survey, conducted by the **Barna Group**, a polling firm that studies religion, also found that 94 percent of Evangelicals oppose legalization of same-sex unions, with only 2 percent expressing support. Meanwhile, 86 percent believe the decision will have a negative impact on American society, with just 10 percent saying they believe offering marriage rights is morally acceptable.

Sixty-six percent of practicing **Christians** overall believe the Supreme Court erred in its decision. More broadly, 49 percent of Americans agree with the decision, with 43 percent expressing disagreement.

Sadly 53 percent of **Catholics** agree with the Court's ruling on Obergefell. Some 56 percent believe "extending marriage rights to same-sex couples was morally right (total agree)," while 57 percent believe the Constitution protects same sex union rights (total agree).

On July 1, popular TV show host **Bill O'Reilly** castigated the Catholic hierarchy and laid the blame for this squarely at its feet, saying he had repeatedly tried to get a Catholic bishop or archbishop to come on his program and articulate the Church's teaching. None, he said, would.

Much has been said about the divide between **Millennials** and older Americans when it comes to same-sex marriage, but it appears that practicing Christians under the age of 40 are substantially more likely than their non-practicing peers to reject the Supreme Court's decision.

"Age has been—and continues to be—a defining fault line on this issue. Younger practicing Christians, however, have more in common with their older counterparts than they do with the general population," reads the Barna report. "One-third of practicing Christians under 40 favor the ruling (35 percent), compared to six in 10 among all adults in their age cohort (61 percent)—a gap of 26 percentage points."

Twenty-six percent of practicing Christians aged 40 and older agree with the ruling, meaning that younger Christians are only nine percentage points behind older practicing believers on that metric; 73 percent of non-practicing Christians under 40 support the decision.

First homosexual divorce firm opened
Philadelphia (CBS)—A **Philadelphia** lawyer has launched a new division entirely devoted to LGBT divorce.

Attorney **J. Conor Corcoran** named the website for the division AdamvsSteve.com. He says it is "in response to the homophobic taunts of the past when [people] would chant that God intended 'Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.'"

The law office of J. Conor Corcoran says it is "proud to be the first law firm in the US to practice in the field of gay divorce, providing Private Client Domestic Services, 24/7 and coast to coast, regardless of your sexual orientation."

Defense department to lift transgender ban
Washington, DC—Saying the **Department of Defense's** ban on transgender persons is outdated, **Secretary of Defense Ash Carter** has ordered a six-month study for the purpose of ending this barrier to military service.

While the study group "will review [current] policies and determine if lifting the ban" would adversely impact battle readiness, it "will begin with the presumption that transgender people should" openly serve "except where objective, practical impediments are identified."

Oregon OKs teen sex changes without parental consent
Salem, Oregon (Fox News)—The list of things 15-year-olds cannot legally do in Oregon is substantial: drive, smoke,

donate blood, get a tattoo—even go to a tanning bed.

But under a first-in-the-nation policy quietly enacted in January about which many parents are only now learning, 15-year-olds may now get a sex-change operation. This does not require parental notification, and the state will even pay for it through its **Medicaid** program, the **Oregon Health Plan**.

Lori Porter

"It is trespassing on the hearts, the minds, the bodies of our children," said **Lori Porter** of **Parents' Rights in Education**. "They're our children. And for … a life-altering decision like that to be done unbeknownst to a parent or guardian, it's mindboggling."

In a statement, **Oregon Health Authority** spokeswoman **Susan Wickstrom** explained, "Age of medical consent varies by state. Oregon law—which applies to both Medicaid and non-Medicaid Oregonians—states that the age of medical consent is 15."

While 15 is Oregon's medical age of consent, the decision to cover sex-change operations was made by the **Health Evidence Review Commission**.

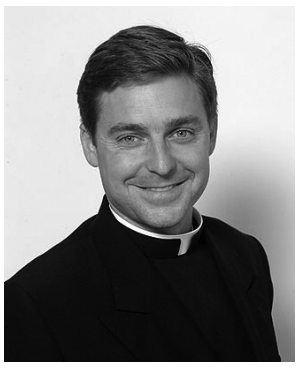
CDC report: Teen use of morning-after pill climbing
New York (Associated Press)—The Centers for Disease Control reports more than one in five sexually active teen girls have used the morning-after pill —a dramatic increase that likely reflects the greater ease teens have to buy the emergency contraceptive. A decade ago, usage was one in twelve.

That, however, was when a teen needed a prescription, which usually required parental consent. Now all teens can buy it without a prescription.

Usage of other forms of birth control have not changed much. Almost all sexually active teens have used a condom and half have used the Pill.

The CDC also reported that teen sexual activity is still at 45 percent for both boys and girls, unchanged from a decade ago, but down from the 1980s, when it was 60 percent for boys and 51 percent for girls.

Well-known priest spit on at Pride parade
New York City (Yahoo)—**Fr. Jonathan Morris** wasn't feeling prideful after being spit on by two men near a **Gay Pride Parade** in **New York City** on June 28.


Fr. Jonathan Morris

"Walking down Broadway and 22nd St. just now, I ran into gay marriage parade. Two men walked by and spat on me. Oh well… I deserve worse," Morris tweeted.

Morris, a frequent guest on Fox News Channel, added the two men don't represent all the marchers.

"The two men who spat on me are probably very good men caught up in excitement and past resentment. Most in that parade would not do that," he added.

International

Oldest Qur'an found
London (*Times of India*)—The world' oldest **Qur'an** has been found at the **University of Birmingham**.

Radiocarbon analysis conducted by scientists at the **University of Oxford** have said with 95 percent accuracy that the manuscript with the British university dates between 568-645 AD, meaning it belonged very close to the time of **Muhammad**, who likely lived between 570-632.

Researchers have concluded the text is among the earliest written evidence of the Islamic scriptures known to survive.

"Abortion drones" launched into Poland
Warsaw (AFP)—Feminist activists recently sent a drone from **Germany** to **Poland** carrying **abortion pills** to highlight the Catholic country's restrictive abortion laws.

The pills are not available in Poland, and **Jula Gaweda** of the feminist organisation **Feminoteka** said that two non-pregnant Polish women swallowed them as part of the "symbolic" stunt organized by **Dutch** pro-choice campaign group **Women on Waves**.

Activists launched the drone in the German city of **Frankfurt an der Oder**, flying it over the river to the bordering Polish town of **Słubice**.

A dozen pro-life protesters gathered at the landing site and gave out plastic fetuses to the pro-choice activists, Gaweda said, adding that several plainclothes police officers attended the event without intervening.

Poland, whose population is 90 percent Catholic, only allows abortion within 12 weeks of pregnancy in cases of rape or incest, or 24 weeks in cases of irreversible fetal malformation or a threat to the mother's life.

After 24 weeks of pregnancy, the procedure is allowed on a case-by-case basis if the mother's life is at risk.

South African parliament lowers age of consent
Pretoria—**South Africa's National Assembly** has passed the **Sexual Offences Amendment Act**. The bill allows children ages 12-15 years to consent to sex with each other. It also allows a child aged 16 or 17 years to have consensual sex with a child of between 12 and 15 years of age if the age difference is two years or less. Before the enactment of the law, a 15-year-old boyfriend and a 13-year-old girlfriend could both be prosecuted for statutory rape.

Christina Nomdo of Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect said the legislation "is a call to action for parents, the state, and children. Parents must build closer relationships with their adolescents in order to influence their life choices." She also said it gives the government an opportunity at better sex education and children better access to "snon-judgmental adults."

The **African Christian Democratic Party** released a statement saying it "considers the passing of this Act as a gross violation of the moral fiber of society and an insult to the rights of children in our nation. This Act is a paradox because it spits in the face of the Child Protection Act which states that 'exposing or subjecting a child to behavior that may harm the child psychologically or emotionally' is criminal. Yet the government has placed children in harm's way considering that 12-year-olds are not mature enough to make sexual decisions or understand the consequences thereof. Moreover government is exposing children to the risks of HIV/Aids and other STDs, prostitutions, statutory rape, abortion, and child pornography."

Freedom for Catholic education in England uncertain
Portsmouth, England (CNA/EWTN News)—**Catholic** schools in **England** could face problems under both a new "British values" government mandate and demands to approve same-sex relationships. But in the **Diocese of Portsmouth**, new education guidelines focus on Catholic fidelity, love of neighbor, and the love of **Jesus Christ**.

Portsmouth **Bishop Philip Egan** has written a letter introducing the diocese's guidance on **sex and relationship education** [SRE]. He said the document aims to "articulate the Christian vision of human happiness in a life lived in fidelity to Christ with love and respect for neighbor."

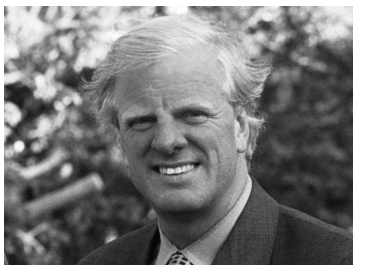
Bishop Philip Egan

He said everyone faces challenges in living up to Christian ideals. Those who fall short of these ideals or view them differently should be shown "genuine pastoral sensitivity." At the same time, Catholics must also recognize that God gives the grace and help to "grow in human maturity and to aspire in practice to what Christians profess."

Bishop Egan's letter did not mention specific regulations. However, the British **Department for Education** has required schools to teach "fundamental British values."

This requirement includes "challenging opinions or behaviors in school." According to the British newspaper *The Guardian*, these rules are likely to conflict with Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and other religious schools because they require them to prioritize secular law over religious teachings.

Conservative **Member of Parliament Sir Edward Leigh**, president of the **Catholic Union of Great Britain**, said in March that the requirement is "damaging Christian schools." He charged that the British education standards office "appears to be guilty of trying to enforce a kind of state-imposed orthodoxy on certain moral and religious questions."


Sir Edward Leigh

Others leaders, such as **Labour Party** leadership front-runner **Andy Burnham**, have said religious schools must teach about same-sex relationships. In an interview with the LGBT newspaper *Pink News*, he rejected Catholic schools' claims that it would violate their religious freedom to force them to teach about same-sex couples in schools.

Burnham said the Catholic schools are "straightforwardly wrong." He called for more action to counter "homophobic bullying," including teaching all relationships are on terms of "absolute equality."

For the Diocese of Portsmouth, SRE is "an education in love and responsibility." This means that the moral dimension must always be incorporated and consciences formed so students can recognize the value of their peers.

The guidance said that all Catholic school staff's daily dealings with students are expected to support Catholic teaching. This is "especially important" concerning personal relationships and sexual morality.

Classes should refer to God's Word as revealed through the Bible and Church teaching, with an emphasis on teaching the love of Jesus Christ.

Alternative views about non-marital sexual relations, contraception, homosexual acts, and artificial reproduction "should not be presented as neutral or value-free information, but always in relation to Church teaching on marriage and loving relationships."

At the same time, because students come from a variety of families, SRE must be "taught in the context of God's unconditional love, with mercy and compassion" so that parents and students feel supported. The guidance voiced respect for the presence of communities from other faith traditions in Catholic schools, while acknowledging that it might not be able to support these religions' teachings.

The guidance said students should be encouraged to grow to realize the Christian life. For this, it is essential for students to have "constant prayer, frequent confession, receiv[e] the Holy Eucharist, along with the cultivation of self-discipline and virtuous habits."

SRE teaching must help assist students … to think "about the sacredness of their body." Its content must not offend against modesty or privacy.

"Purity and the virtue of chastity must be promoted. We must help students recognize that the proper place for sexual relationships is within the loving and permanent relationship of marriage," the diocese said.

Anglican Bishop: US State Department won't let Assyrian Christians immigrate
(Washington, DC)—The **United States Department of State** may have sent a signal to an Anglican bishop in Iraq that despite persecution and harassment from the terror group known as ISIS, Christians in that country will not find any support from the United States government.

According to **Faith J.H. McDonnell** of **Philos Project**, the **Right Rev. Julian M. Dobbs**, bishop of the **Diocese of CANA East (Convocation of Anglicans in North America)**, revealed that part of US foreign policy during an interaction with the State Department's **Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)**. Dobbs made his case to the State Department on behalf of a group of **Assyrian Christians** who are desperate to leave northern Iraq.

"There is no way that Christians will be supported because of their religious affiliation," the State Department said.

McDonnell elaborated on the plight of Christians and other minorities in the region since ISIS took over the Iraqi city of **Mosul** in June 2014.

"Christians, **Yazidis, Mandeans**, and others were targeted for destruction, and within just the first week of ISIS' occupation, more than 500,000 people fled the city," McDonnell wrote. "The homes of Christians were marked with the Arabic letter 'nun,' standing for Nazarene. [Editor's note: The way ISIS uses this term is very much like a white racist calling black persons the "n" word.] Christians were threatened with death if they did not convert to Islam, pay jizya [an extortion tax], and live as a subjected people—*'dhimmi'*—or flee immediately."

According to McDonnell, Christians have even been threatened by some Muslims in the refugee camps run by the **United Nations Refugee Agency**, or **UNHCR**. However, the State Department has refused to resettle affected Assyrian Christians in the United States.

"Donors in the private sector have offered complete funding for the airfare and the resettlement in the United States of these Iraqi Christians that are sleeping in public buildings, on school floors, or worse," McDonnell wrote. "But the State Department—while admitting 4,425 **Somalis** to the United States in just the first six months of 2015, and possibly even accepting members of ISIS through the Syrian and Iraqi refugee program, all paid for by tax dollars—told Dobbs that they 'would not support a special category to bring Assyrian Christians into the United States.'"

Such treatment by the State Department has even extended to Christian leaders in Iraq. According to a report on Fox News, the agency recently reversed a decision that denied a visa for an Iraqi Catholic nun who wanted to inform Americans of the persecution directed by ISIS against Christians.

"**Sr. Diana Momeka** is a leading representative of the **Nineveh** Christians who have been killed and chased from their homes in and around Mosul by ISIS," Fox News wrote. "Momeka, who has been likened to **Mother Teresa** for her work with the poor and persecuted, was turned down, she said, because she was 'internally displaced' in Iraq, and deemed a risk to stay in the US, where she once lived and studied for six years."

Australian bishops put on the defensive

Hobart, Tasmania (CNA/EWTN News)—In a recent pastoral letter on marriage, Australia's Catholic bishops reaffirmed Catholic teaching. And one bishop has countered a leading same-sex marriage activist who said the pastoral letter should be reported to the Tasmanian government for illegal bias.

"The **Catholic Church** in **Tasmania** is exercising its right to freedom of opinion, just as opponents to the Church's views on marriage are also exercising their rights," **Archbishop Julian Porteous** of **Hobart** said, according to the *Catholic Leader* newspaper.

His comments concern *Don't Mess with Marriage,* a pastoral letter the Australian bishops' conference released May 28. He said the booklet "explains the meaning of marriage enshrined in our laws from a religious perspective."

Australian political leaders are considering whether to define marriage in law to recognize same-sex unions as civil marriages.

"A document defending the current law in our nation could hardly be called discrimination," Archbishop Porteous said.

"We are being asked to abandon the plan of God for marriage and family (and) this would be a disastrous step to take."

The pastoral letter was sent home with students of Catholic high schools in several archdioceses, including Hobart. It stressed both respect for all and respect for the unique nature of marriage as a union of man and a woman.

Randy Croome, national director of **Australian Marriage Equality**, claimed the booklet is illegal under Tasmanian law. His group cited statutes that bar offensive conduct, inciting hatred, and publishing notices that promote or express discrimination.

"The booklet likely breaches the **Anti-Discrimination Act**, and I urge everyone who finds it offensive and inappropriate, including teachers, parents and students, to complain to the **Anti-Discrimination Commissioner**," Croome said June 24.

A formal complaint against the archbishop has been filed with the commissioner, according to the newspaper *The Australian*.

Lyle Shelton, a spokesman for the non-denominational group **The Christian Lobby**, asked, "Where have we come to as a society when the political activists for redefining marriage want to use the law to stop children in religious schools from being taught that religion's teaching? If a family sends their child to a Christian school they should not be surprised if their children are taught the faith and morals of the school's religious identity."

Australian Marriage Equality has attracted powerful allies in its push to redefine marriage. These include major businesses such as **Google**, which also funded the pro-same sex unions side in Ireland's recent referendum. Polls indicate a majority of Australians at present support redefining marriage.

Anthony Cleary, a religious education and evangelization official in the **Sydney** archdiocese, said positive comments about the pastoral letter outnumbered negative complaints "about two or three to one." He noted that other information often goes home with students.

"Also we see schools as part of the evangelizing mission of the Church, not apart from it," he told the *Catholic Leader*. He said advocacy of marriage redefinition is "saturating mainstream and social media."

"We all know and love people with same-sex attraction," the booklet said. "They need love and support like anyone else. But pretending that their relationships are 'marriages' is not fair or just to them."

"As Christians we must be willing to present the truth about marriage, family and sexuality and to do so charitably and lovingly."

Vatican Expert: Holy Family wouldn't flee to Egypt today

Cairo/Rome (*Crux*)—**John L. Allen, Jr.**, CNN's Vatican commentator and former *Vaticanista* for *National Catholic Reporter* recently wrote the following:

John L. Allen, Jr.

"At the very origins of Christianity lies the story of the **Holy Family's** flight into **Egypt**, escaping persecution under an Israelite king. In the crypt of a small **Cairo** church, one can still find the well from which tradition holds that **Joseph, Mary**, and the child **Jesus** drew fresh water during their exile.

"Sadly, Egypt today has become a place a small number of Christians are running away from, not toward, while most express a grim determination to hold on no matter how bad it gets.

"Along with my *Crux* colleague **Inés San Martín**, I spent [a] week in Egypt collecting the stories of these persecuted Christians.

"For instance, we met **Wadie Ramses**, a 64-year-old Christian doctor who was kidnapped in Egypt's **Sinai** region last year and held for 92 days, blindfolded, and handcuffed until his family paid a ransom. Periodically he would be put in a car and driven around listening to verses from the **Qur'an**, while his captors beat him with a rubber hose for refusing to accept Islam.

"We met **Andraous Oweida**, a 44-year-old construction worker and father of two who was wounded and almost crushed to death when the Egyptian army plowed their armored personnel carriers into a crowd of Christian protestors four years ago, leaving 22 people dead, including several of Oweida's friends."

To read the rest of this compelling story, go to http://tinyurl.com/qdcxr6d.

Belgian doctors give depressed 24-year-old right to assisted suicide

Brussels (Independent, UK)—Doctors in **Belgium** have granted a medically depressed woman the right to end her own life.

The 24-year-old woman, named only as "**Laura**," told doctors she had suffered from depression since she was a child and wished to end her life, local newspaper De Morgen reported.

The date of Laura's death is yet to be decided, but she may become part of a small increase in younger individuals seeking to end their lives.

Belgium legalized euthanasia in 2002, with approximately 1,400 cases every year since then. In 2013, the same year that the number of requests to die spiked at over 1,800, the Belgian parliament passed an amendment extending the law to terminally ill children.

Pope consolidates all Vatican communications

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—The **Vatican's** nine communications offices will soon be consolidated under the authority of the newly-established **Secretariat for Communications**, per a June 27 directive of **Pope Francis**. The Roman Pontiff instituted the new secretariat effective June 29.

The new dicastery will oversee the all of the Vatican's communications offices, including Vatican Radio, *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican Television Center, the Holy See Press Office, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Vatican Internet Service, the Vatican Typography, the Photograph Service, and the Vatican publishing house.

Pope asks Waldensians forgiveness

Turin (CNA/EWTN News)—On June 22, **Pope Francis** met with members of the **Waldensian** movement, an ecclesial community which suffered persecution from Catholic authorities from the twelfth through seventeenth centuries. He apologized for the Church's "non-Christian attitudes and behavior" towards them during that period.

"Reflecting on the history of our relations, we can only grieve in the face of strife and violence committed in the name of faith, and ask the Lord to give us the grace to recognize we are all sinners, and to know how to forgive one another," the Pope said June 22 at a Waldensian temple in **Turin**.

"I ask forgiveness for the non-Christian—even inhuman—attitudes and behaviors which, through history, we have had against you. In Jesus Christ's name, forgive us!"

Monday's encounter marks the first meeting between a pope and the Waldensian community. Founded in L**yon, France**, in the late twelfth century, it is currently centered in **Piedmont** region of **Italy**, which Pope Francis visited June 21-22.

The movement was founded by **Peter Waldo**, and it embraced evangelical poverty and lay preaching. It teaches there are only two sacraments, baptism and the Eucharist. The **Third Lateran Council** condemned the movement's ideas as early as 1179. Beginning in the early 1200s, many Waldensians were executed on account of heresy.

One of the largest killings took place in 1545, during which soldiers killed scores of Waldensians in the French city of **Mérindol**, although the extent of casualties is disputed by historians.

Pope Francis told the community, "On behalf of the Catholic Church, I ask for your forgiveness." ❖

This Month in History...

50 Years Ago

Then-Fr. John J. Brenkle and Fr. Louis Persano, spoke at the Portland Liturgical Week. The Week was an annual meeting that drew many thousands of Catholic laity, priests, and religious, not to mention many Protestant observers.

Msgr. Brenkle, who was past superintendent of Schools for the diocese, spoke on schools and their role in the light of the post-Second Vatican Council liturgical reform. Fr. Persano spoke on music in the same context.

Moneymaker's Anniversary

Bishop Leo T. Maher attended the fiftieth wedding celebration for Mr. and Mrs. Ora and Elizabeth (née Mertens) Moneymaker. He presented them with a scroll designed by Mother Mary Andrew Urban, OSU, on behalf of the Catholic Committee for the Aging. Mrs. Moneymaker had been named Santa Rosa Mother of the Year in 1953 and was a daily communicant at St. Rose Church. She also visited the sick. She hailed from St. Louis, and he from Knoxville, Tennessee. They met in Uniontown, Washington, moved to Forestville in 1937 to become dairy farmers, and then relocated in 1951 to Santa Rosa, where Mr. Moneymaker started a trucking business. By August 1965, their union had produced thirteen children, thirty-eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Mr. Moneymaker died in 1975 at age 81. His wife passed in 1980 at age 87.

30 Years Ago …

From 1983, St. Rose School students had been split up amongst three different locations. The new school year saw the opening of the new school located at 4300 Old Redwood Hwy. The cost was $1.1 million ($2.4 million today), aided in large part by parents and parishioners who raised $500,000 ($1.1 million today).

Ursuline High School student Magdalena Konieczny competed for the Sonoma County Junior Miss title. Then a senior at Ursuline, she won the poise and appearance category.

Magdalena Konieczny

The 1985-86 school year saw the diocese welcome three new principals: Donna Passalacqua at St. John the Baptist School in Healdsburg; Br. Martin Fallin, FSC, at Justin-Siena High School in Napa; and Sr. Olive Murphy, RSM, at St. Apollinaris School in Napa.

10 Years Ago …

Reflecting on five years in office, Bishop Daniel F. Walsh told *NCC*, "What has really inspired me is that priests, deacons, religious, and laity have stepped forward to take ownership of their Church. The problems we've met together have not been viewed as the bishop's problems but our family's problems. As a family, we have learned to cooperate with one another to resolve our difficulties and to grow in our faith."

The new school year saw the welcoming of several new seminarians, two of whom—Fr. Sean Rogers, now pastor in Healdsburg; and Fr. Mario Valencia, now pastor in Cloverdale—went on to receive holy orders.

NCC featured a small article on Sr. Mary Marius Mei, BVM, and her seventy-fifth—or diamond—anniversary as a religious. A native of San Francisco, Sister taught at St. Vincent de Paul School from 1943-46 and 1951-54, as well as at other BVM schools around the country. She retired to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Mount Carmel residence and its infirmary, Marian Hall. She died there at age 96 on June 17, 2007. ❖

(Oakland A's Captain, cont.)

What are the biggest differences between pro baseball in your time and today?

The game of baseball hasn't changed much at all, but one thing is that it's geared more toward offensive output today.…

Most of the changes in the game … [don't] have anything to do with actually hitting, throwing, or catching a ball…. There's much greater media exposure, and the salaries are way above what they used to be.

Does all the attention make it tougher to keep a balanced perspective on life?

It certainly doesn't make it easier. By the time I was 30 years old, I had been in four All-Star Games and won three World Series titles. This can really go to your head if you don't have a stable spiritual foundation. I had taken the Catholic faith seriously before my major-league career, but baseball eventually became even more important than God to me. I was living and breathing baseball, without much thought of what God expected from me.

It took on-the-field struggles to open my eyes and see how I needed to get things in the right order. I saw that my idol of baseball was really a passing thing, but that God would never become irrelevant. No matter what life might bring, God has to be the first priority. This is essential for anyone to be reminded of, but probably even more so for someone who plays professional sports.

Active belief in God helps us through the ups and downs of life. Someone who is close to God doesn't get carried away by success, nor does he get depressed by failure. He can even become indifferent to results, because he knows that God wants a sincere devotion and intention on our part, not a specific result. As long as we pray daily and make use of the sacraments Jesus has given us, our efforts to get the right things done will be fine.

Even though most MLB stadiums have Masses today, there weren't any in your playing days.

There were some isolated places were you could have a Mass said, but no, it was nothing like … today.

Letting people know that everything—even the sporting world—is God's domain is a very worthwhile thing. I'm happy that more and more professional athletes are seeing this, too. Overall, they are much more likely to speak publicly about God than they used to be.

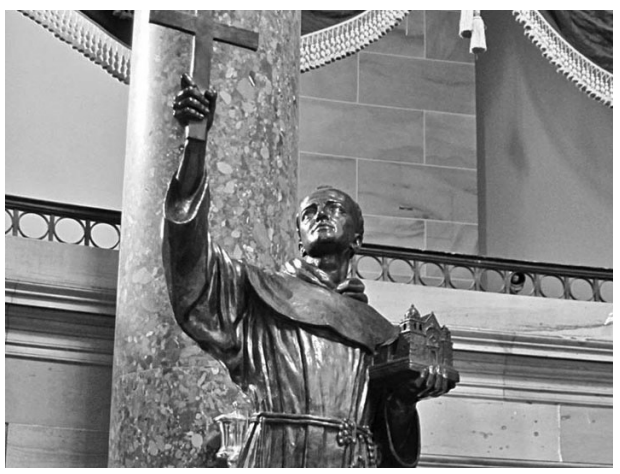
What do you appreciate most about the Catholic Church?

The list of great things about the Church is a long one, but the Mass has to be the most important. It has everything in it that we need to be united with God. The readings from the Old and New Testaments and the sermon are important, but the most important of all is the Eucharist. There's an all-encompassing peace that comes from receiving Jesus in the Eucharist and silently praying afterward. That's a time of great devotion, if we make it so.

As much fun as it was to play in four All-Star Games and win three World Series, those things don't come close to receiving the Eucharist just once. No amount of material success can replace the loss of grace, because grace is what connects us to God. Unless that connection is active, we're going to be uneasy.

Like St. Augustine prayed, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." This becomes most apparent when we receive the Eucharist. ❖

Capitol Serra Statue Safe ... For Now



Sacramento (CNA/EWTN News)—California state lawmakers have decided to request removing a statue of Franciscan missionary and saint-to-be Fr. Junípero Serra, which has stood in the United States Capitol since 1931.

However, given the Pope's imminent arrival, the effort to remove the current monument and replace it with a statue of astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman to travel to space, has been shelved. At least until after His Holiness leaves.

Bl. Junípero played a leading role in California history, helping to bring thousands of Natives to Christ and teaching them new technologies that made it easier to survive. He also founded missions that became major US cities.

Pope Francis has called Bl. Serra "one of the founding fathers of the United States, a saintly example of the Church's universality, and special patron of the Hispanic people of the country."

His Holiness will canonize Serra September 23 in Washington, DC.

The campaign to save Bl. Serra's statue includes "Salvemos a Serra" ("Let's Save Serra"), a Spanish-language site that asks Californians to write their legislators in opposition to removing his memorial. (http://www.salvemosaserra.com/)

"US Hispanics need your support to maintain the presence of our first saint in the US Capitol," the website said.

"Salvemos a Serra" has also asked supporters of Bl. Serra to sign English- and Spanish-language petitions on the website CitizenGo.org.

Many Serra's defenders vigorously dispute the claims, noting the many natives he helped during his life, and their outpouring of grief at his death.

Replacing the blessed's statue would still require the approval of Gov. Jerry Brown (D). ❖

St. Rose of Llima: August 23

Noticias en Español

Obispos de EEUU: Corte Suprema se equivoca con matrimonio gay como lo hizo con aborto

Washington, DC (ACI/EWTN Noticias)--El Presidente de la **Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), Mons. Joseph E. Kurtz**, lamentó el fallo de la **Corte Suprema de lose Estados Unidos de América** que resolvió que el matrimonio gay es un "derecho constitucional." Así como hace 40 años se equivocó al abrir las puertas al aborto en el país, "hoy la Corte se equivocó otra vez," dijo.

Mons. Kurtz aseguró que "sin importar lo que una estrecha mayoría en la Corte Suprema pueda declarar en este momento de la historia, la naturaleza de la persona humana y el matrimonio permanece inalterada e inalterable."

Así como la sentencia de la Corte Suprema en el caso ***Roe vs. Wade*** de 1973 "no zanjó el tema del aborto hace 40 años," la decisión de hoy "no zanja el tema del matrimonio hoy."

Ni el fallo de la Corte Suprema sobre el aborto ni sobre el matrimonio "están enraizados en la verdad," señaló, por lo que "ambos eventualmente fracasarán."

Kurtz subrayó que "es profundamente inmoral e injusto que el gobierno declare que dos personas del mismo sexo pueden constituir un matrimonio."

"El único significado de matrimonio como la unión de un hombre y una mujer está inscrito en nuestros cuerpos," señaló, e indicó que defender esto "es una dimensión crítica de la 'ecología integral' que el **Papa Francisco** nos ha llamado a promover."

"Ordenar una redefinición del matrimonio en todo el país es un error trágico que daña el bien común y lo más vulnerable entre nosotros, especialmente los niños," advirtió el Prelado.

Mons. Kurtz indicó que "Jesucristo, con gran amor, enseñó inequívocamente que desde el inicio el matrimonio es la unión de por vida de un hombre y una mujer. Como obispos católicos, seguimos a nuestro Señor y continuaremos enseñando y actuando de acuerdo a esta verdad."

"Aliento a los católicos a avanzar con fe, esperanza y amor: Fe en la verdad inalterable del matrimonio, enraizado en la inmutable naturaleza de la persona humana y confirmada por revelación divina; esperanza en que estas verdades prevalezcan nuevamente en nuestra sociedad, no solo por su lógica sino por su gran belleza y manifiesto servicio al bien común; y amor por todos nuestros vecinos, incluso aquellos que nos odian o nos castigarían por nuestras convicciones religiosas y morales."

Al finalizar su mensaje, el presidente de la USCCB hizo un llamado a "todas las personas de buena voluntad a que se unan a nosotros para proclamar la bondad, verdad y belleza del matrimonio como ha sido correctamente entendido durante milenios."

"Pido a todos los que estén en posiciones de poder y autoridad que respeten la libertad dada por Dios para buscar, vivir y dar testimonio de la verdad," concluyó.

Mons. Charles Chaput, arzobispo de **Filadelfia**, que acogerá en septiembre de este año el **Encuentro Mundial de las Familias** al que asistirá el Papa Francisco, señaló que "no es una sorpresa" la sentencia de la Corte Suprema.

"La sorpresa llegará cuando las personas comunes empiecen a experimentar, de primera mano y penosamente, el impacto de la acción de hoy sobre todo lo que pensaron que sabían sobre el matrimonio, la vida familiar, nuestras leyes, y nuestras instituciones sociales."

Mons. Chaput indicó que "los errores de la Corte no cambian nada sobre la naturaleza de hombres y mujeres, y la verdad de la Obra de Dios."

"La tarea ahora para los creyentes es formar nuestras propias familias aún más profundamente en el amor de Dios, y reconstruir una saludable cultura del matrimonio, un matrimonio a la vez, de los escombros de la decisión de hoy," aseguró.

Tribunal de Estrasburgo Presiona a Italia Para que Apruebe Unión Gay

Estrasburg, Francia (ACI)—El **Tribunal Europeo de Derechos Humanos de Estrasburgo** (TEDHE) aprobó este martes un fallo exigiendo a Italia que legisle alguna "forma definida institucionalmente" que reconozca a las uniones homosexuales, pero reiterando su sentencia de julio de 2014 que señala que no existe el "derecho a contraer matrimonio" de parte de las parejas del mismo sexo.

El fallo aprobado este martes responde a la demanda de tres parejas homosexuales italianas. Según el **TEDHE**, el país europeo "ha violado el derecho al respeto de la vida privada y familiar" y dijo que "la tutela jurídica actualmente en vigor para las parejas del mismo sexo en **Italia** no tutela las exigencias fundamentales de una pareja comprometida en una relación estable."

En Italia las parejas del mismo sexo tienen la posibilidad de registrarse en algunos municipios; pero para el tribunal esto tiene "únicamente un valor simbólico" y no les da ningún "derecho."

"A falta del matrimonio, la opción de una unión civil o de una asociación registrada sería el medio más adecuado para las parejas del mismo sexo (...) de tener su relación reconocida legalmente," señaló el Tribunal, que ordenó pagar €10.000 (euros) a cada una de las parejas demandantes como compensación.

Sin embargo, el diario de la **Conferencia Episcopal Italiana**, *Avvenire*, señaló que el fallo también declara "inadmisible" el recurso de estas parejas que invocaron el **artículo 12** de la **Convención Europea de Derechos Humanos** sobre el "derecho al matrimonio."

La sentencia de este martes "no impone una obligación a los estados de garantizar el acceso al matrimonio a las parejas del mismo sexo como en el caso de los demandantes," indica el fallo.

Avvenire recuerda que "los estados pueden legalizar los matrimonios para estas parejas (como lo han hecho once estados adherentes), pero la elección queda a discreción de los parlamentos nacionales, según una consolidada jurisprudencia de la misma Corte europea sobre la materia dedicada a la familia y la vida."

Actualmente el **parlamento italiano** discute un proyecto que legalizaría la unión civil entre homosexuals. Sin embargo, uno de los puntos más polémicos es la posibilidad de que un miembro de la pareja adopte al hijo del otro.

Asaltan convento y amordazan a religiosas en fiesta de San Pedro y San Pablo

México, DF (ACI)—El obispo y los sacerdotes de la diócesis mexicana de Tehuantepec expresaron su más rotundo rechazo a los actos de violencia contra el clero de la región, especialmente al perpetrado por un grupo de desconocidos que el pasado 29 de junio, Día de San Pedro y San Pablo, asaltaron un convento, amarraron y amordazaron a las tres religiosas que viven en el lugar.

En un comunicado con fecha 30 de junio, Mons. Oscar Armando Campos Contreras, obispo de Tehuantepec, expresó su condena a estos lamentables hechos "perpetrado en contra de tres ancianas religiosas, las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón."

"Esta agresión se suma al robo con violencia y mano armada que sufrió hace nueve meses el párroco de esta misma población, que también fue golpeado, amarrado y amordazado."

"Por supuesto que no son los únicos casos, pero si reflejan el grado de violencia que se vive ahí," señala el comunicado.

El texto señala luego que "como ciudadanos y como creyentes nos manifestamos contra cualquier clase de violencia," tras lo cual solicitan "a las autoridades que tienen la responsabilidad de cuidar la seguridad de los ciudadanos, que cumplan con su trabajo para erradicar este mal social que parece se extiende como plaga en nuestra región."

"Verdaderamente nos preocupa la enfermedad llamada violencia que hoy sufre nuestra región, por ello nos unimos al pueblo de México en contra de ella y pedimos elevar juntos nuestras oraciones para pedir a Dios la fortaleza y sabiduría para encontrar juntos los caminos de superación humana y social."

"Que la Virgen Madre de Jesús y Madre nuestra vuelva a nosotros sus ojos misericordiosos y nos anime en la construcción de una sociedad justa y fraterna," concluye el comunicado.Puede leerlo completo en: http://tinyurl.com/qat4m7v

Nuevo hoax: ¿El Papa Francisco ondeó una bandera gay?

México, DF (ACI)—En los últimos días, diferentes usuarios de redes sociales compartieron una fotografía en la que se ve al **Papa Francisco** ondeando la famosa bandera gay. La imagen es falsa y corresponde a un montaje que un medio mexicano hizo en el año 2013.

Según informa la comunidad de **Facebook "La Juventud del Papa Francisco** Primero," actualmente "circula en internet y en las redes sociales esta imagen. No nos dejemos engañar y denunciemos este tipo de abusos con nuestra fe católica."

El montaje fue hecho por el sitio web ReporteIndigo.com utilizando una fotografía del Francisco en el encuentro que sostuvo con jóvenes argentinos durante la **Jornada Mundial de la Juventud Rio 2013**.

Circula en internet y en las redes sociales esta imagen. No nos dejemos engañar y denunciemos este tipo de abusos con.

¿Qué lección dejó el Papa Francisco en Sudamérica? La Iglesia está aquí para servir

Los Ángeles (ACI)—En su nueva columna semanal titulada "La Iglesia está aquí para servir" Mons. José Gómez, arzobispo de Los Ángeles (Estados Unidos), elogió el viaje apostólico del Papa Francisco a Ecuador, Bolivia, y Paraguay.

Papa Francisco

"... durante este viaje pastoral, él me está iluminando con sus palabras llenas de fuerza sobre la familia y con su apasionado llamado a suscitar una sociedad que tienda la mano a los que están solos y a los que sufren, y que trabaje por promover la dignidad humana de cada persona," manifestó.

El prelado también comentó que le conmovió la historia del Papa sobre su madre, quien respondió a la pregunta de cuál de sus cinco hijos amaba más diciendo que ellos eran como los dedos de su mano y que si uno de ellos se perdía o se lastimaba, ella se sentiría igual de herida.

"Fue una bella imagen de la solidaridad y del amor familiar. Me recordó las palabras de San Pablo acerca de la familia de Dios: que si un miembro de la familia sufre, todos los miembros de la familia sufren, en solidaridad con ese miembro," añadió.

Por otro lado, destacó el testimonio de liderazgo que el Pontífice le está dando a la Iglesia al continuar con la labor de sus predecesores por reavivar en los fieles la vocación y el llamado a ser discípulos misioneros.

Además, Mons. Gómez recordó que desde sus inicios como sacerdote ha tenido esa visión de liderazgo y de transmitir el afán misionero a todos los discípulos. Incluso señala que está aplicando esos ideales en estos cinco de su labor pastoral como arzobispo.

El prelado señaló que la Iglesia está para servir y que todos los fieles están llamados a ser esos "discípulos misioneros" que se necesitan.

"Esta es nuestra responsabilidad. Es un deber de amor. El regalo más hermoso que podemos darle a cualquiera es el don de conocer a Jesucristo. No hay nada más hermoso en esta vida que conocer a Jesús y amarlo y luego compartirlo con los demás."

Para leer la columna completa haga clic en este enlace: http://tinyurl.com/prh43f6. ❖

Synod Watch

Some German bishops support traditional marriage
Passau, Germany (*Inside the Vatican*)—In opposition to the apparent majority of their confrères, five German bishops sent a letter of support to Bishop Stefan Oster of Passau after he criticized the call from the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK) to start blessing same-sex relationships as well as new relationships of divorced Catholics.

Bishop Oster criticized their proposal by pointing out the biblical basis of marriage and that the selective "use" of Pope Francis' words to support calls for change had no basis in reality.

Here is the letter:

Honorable Lord Bishop Oster, Dear Brother Stefan:

We thank you for taking a position against the proposal at the ZdK's spring assembly, titled "Building Bridges Between Doctrine and Life—Family and Church in the Modern World." We agree wholeheartedly with your remarks on the teaching about the Christian view of humanity regarding the importance for man- and womanhood, and especially its importance regarding Christian marriage, based as it is on the teaching of Jesus in Scripture and the Tradition of the Church.

In Germany, we are living in a strongly secularized society. This situation should not discourage us or make us want to adapt to the opinion of the majority, but it should be seen as an opportunity rediscover the unique nature of the Christian vocation in today's world. A frank and faithful proclamation of the teaching of Jesus in the Gospel and the development of a relationship with Him as the richness of our lives, as you have undertaken in your reply, are an essential prerequisite.

We are convinced that many faithful are also very grateful for your frank words.

In fraternal solidarity, the bishops of: Augsburg, Dr. Konrad Zdarsa; Eichstätt, Gregor M. Hanke, OSB; Görlitz, Wolfgang Ipolt; Regensburg, Dr. Rudolf Voderholzer; Würzburg, Dr. Friedhelm Hofmann.

Annulment "Streamlining"?
Rome (*Inside the Vatican*)—The commission created by Pope Francis to review and change canonical processes for the possible recognition of marriage nullity has concluded its work and submitted its report to His Holiness. The changes proposed are intended to streamline procedures and make diocesan processes faster.

It is likely that a document will be issued in this direction soon, certainly before the opening of the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family in October, to clear up this problem, and make sure the Synod Fathers can consider this chapter closed

Last year's Synod report included recommendations regarding annulments, such as "streamlining, simplified and faster canonical process; granting more authority to the local bishop; greater access of the laity as judges; reducing the cost of the process."

Pope: Pray for Deepening of Church's Spiritual Discernment
Quito, Ecuador (CNA/EWTN News)—During a July 6 Mass, on the first full day of his visit to Ecuador, Pope Francis called for prayers that the upcoming Synod on the Family might discern the needs of the family, an institution irreplaceable to society.

"The Church will celebrate the Ordinary Synod devoted to the family, deepen her spiritual discernment and consider concrete solutions to the many difficult and significant challenges facing families in our time," the Pope said during his homily.

"I ask you to pray fervently for this intention, so that Christ can take even what might seem to us impure, scandalous, or threatening, and turn it – by making it part of His 'hour'—into a miracle."

The family "cannot be replaced by other institutions," he added. For this reason, "it needs to be helped and strengthened, lest we lose our proper sense of the services which society as a whole provides."

Pope says family is in crisis
Rome (CNA/EWTN News)—During a news conference on the return flight from South America, Pope Francis clarified that his call for prayer ahead of the upcoming Synod on the Family referred to today's family crisis generally—not, as some media have sources speculated, to "any point in particular."

"The family is in crisis, you know," the Supreme Pontiff told journalists in reference to remarks made near the beginning of his week-long voyage to the continent of his birth, stressing that he was speaking about this crisis "in general."

The Pope explained his words were a call for prayer "that the Lord would purify us from the crises" among families, such as are described in the *Instrumentum Laboris* or "working document" for October's Synod.

"The family is in crisis: May the Lord purify us, and let's move forward!" he said.

The wide-ranging press briefing on the papal plan en route to Rome came at the conclusion of Pope Francis' July 5-13 trip to Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay.

The journalist's question about the Synod on the Family was in reference to the Pontiff's July 6 Mass homily referenced above.

Some media outlets have interpreted these remarks as heralding changes in the Church's teaching on family issues. These speculations include a more "welcoming" approach to homosexual couples and the allowance for divorced and civilly remarried couples to receive the sacraments.

However, during the July 12 press briefing Pope Francis explained the context of his remarks were in reference to the Gospel account of the wedding feast of Cana, in which Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into "fine wine" at the request of His mother.

His Holiness said he was showing how Jesus had the power to turn the "dirty" water of purification into the finest wine.

"The jugs of water were full, but they were for the purification," Pope Francis said. "Every person who entered for the celebration performed his purification and left his 'spiritual dirt.' It was a rite of purification before entering into a house or the Temple, no? Now we have this in the holy water. That is what has remained of the Jewish rite."

"I said that precisely Jesus makes the best wine from the dirty water—the worst water. In general, I thought of making this comment."

Cardinal: Church teaching secure
North Coast Catholic recently obtained an exclusive interview with Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, archbishop of Vienna, editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and a delegate to the upcoming Synod on the Family about one of the most contentious issues from the last Synod and in the months since.

NCC: The German bishops and the French bishops have been very active, some would say, in promoting a change in the doctrine of not allowing the divorced and civilly remarried to receive the sacraments …

Cardinal Schönborn: Allow me to say, not *the* French bishops or *the* German bishops but *some* have been very explicit in *proposing* certain changes. It's a big controversy, and I think it's a necessary controversy because it's through these controversies that there may be more clarification. The ground teaching, the basic teaching of the Church is very clear, but the deeper understanding needs growth. And therefore I think these discussions also—you may dispute about them—but they can be helpful even if they are controversial. Because it's always better to discuss the matters than to silence them. When there is a problem, you must discuss it. And I am very confident that the Synod—under the guidance of the Holy Father will come out mainly with a *powerful* statement about marriage and family, the uniqueness of marriage and family, the *vital* importance of marriage and family for the society, for every single person. And I think this will be the main focus of the Synod in a world where the family often is put in question, is disputed, is even disfavored by legislation, the Catholic Church will come out with a strong support for marriage and family.

But what about the sacraments for the divorced and civilly remarried? Do you think that will change?

I don't think this is *the* central topic of the Synod. It shouldn't be, and it isn't. It's a matter that concerns certain people, a certain number of people, and there are good pastoral ways … First there are developments in canon law for the annulment processes. Secondly there are very good examples of how to live in these situations even without reception of the sacraments but in a deep, personal faith. There are *good* examples of how it is possible to live with these situations, to be fully integrated into the life of the Church without access to the sacraments. So I think we shouldn't focus on *these* questions. We should focus on marriage and family and their importance for the children, for the society, for *all* of us. I think this will be the main message of the Synod.

And what would you say to the families of this diocese? What would be your message to them?

Pope Francis, in his great, *practical* sense—in the States, you have a practical sense for life, yeah?—he said three words to keep the family together: thank you, please, pardon. Thank you. Please. Pardon. He said with these three words, the family holds together. If everybody knows to say thank you, if everybody knows to say please, and if everybody knows to say, "I ask you pardon," such a family certainly has a great future. ❖

A Prayer of Praise to the Blessed Virgin Mary

by St. Ephraim the Syrian

O pure and immaculate and likewise blessed Virgin, who art the sinless mother of thy Son, the mighty Lord of the universe, thou who art inviolate and altogether holy, the hope of the hopeless and sinful, we sing thy praises. We bless thee, as full of every grace, thou who didst bear the God-Man: we all bow low before thee; we invoke thee and implore thine aid. Rescue us, O holy and inviolate Virgin, from every necessity that presses upon us and from all the temptations of the devil. Be our intercessor and advocate at the hour of death and judgement; deliver us from the fire that is not extinguished and from the outer darkness; make us worthy of the glory of thy Son, O dearest and most clement Virgin Mother. Thou indeed art our only hope, most sure and sacred in God's sight. For His be the honor and glory, majesty and dominion, for ever and ever, world without end. Amen.

DC Cardinal: Christ Didn't Change His Words, and Neither Should the Church

Washington, DC (CNA/EWTN News)—It is not discrimination for a Catholic to publicly profess his faith, Donald Cardinal Wuerl of Washington insisted in a newly released pastoral letter, "Being Catholic Today."

"It has become increasingly acceptable," he stated, "to disparage as bigoted and mean-spirited anyone who seeks to uphold fundamental truths about the human person that have been recognized throughout history."

The Cardinal's pastoral echoes comments US Senator and presidential candidate Marco Rubio (R-FL) made in an interview to the Christian Broadcasting Network.

According to the May 28 *Miami Herald*, Rubio warned "Christianity faces a 'real and present danger' from same-sex marriage supporters who cast opponents as prejudiced.

"'We are at the water's edge of the argument that mainstream Christian teaching is hate speech, because today we've reached the point in our society where if you do not support same-sex marriage, you are labeled a homophobe and a hater,' Rubio told David Brody, CBN News' chief political correspondent.

"'So what's the next step after that? After they're done going after individuals, the next step is to argue that the teachings of mainstream Christianity, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is hate speech,' the [Catholic] Florida senator continued. 'And that's a real and present danger.'"

For his part, Cardinal Wuerl noted that Church teaching is rooted in an "authentic humanism" and "it is neither discrimination nor an undue imposition on the freedom of others to promote that belief and live by it."

Published May 24, the letter outlined various challenges facing Catholics in the United States who want to practice their faith publicly. The faith must be lived in action because the "missionary activity of the Church is essential to her identity," he said. This is practiced through Catholic ministries to the poor, immigrants, and children.

These ministries must never be severed from the teachings of Christ, he added. "The Church is not a business, a club, or a special-interest group. Her origins are found in the will and actions of Christ."

Yet threats loom to the practice of the faith because some wish to impose a secular morality on everyone, including Catholics, he explained. This would include a forced "tolerance" for acts such as abortion or sexual activity that contradicts Church teaching.

As a primary example of this threat, the Cardinal cited two Washington, DC, laws. One, the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act, mandates that employers, including religious and pro-life organizations, are not free to hire and retain only those employees who do not publicly contradict their mission.

The other law, the Human Rights Amendment Act, forces religious schools to "endorse, fund, or provide other assistance for the promotion of sexual conduct contrary to their faith and moral beliefs," he stated.

In both cases, Catholic institutions that live their faith by serving the poor are being forced to violate Church teaching. The Washington archdiocese led an effort to oppose the laws, which were passed the city council and signed by the mayor in January.

An effort to disapprove of the laws passed the House but not the Senate, ultimately failing to stop the laws from going into full effect. Catholic and pro-life organizations in the city now might fight the laws in court if a discrimination lawsuit is brought against them.

Cardinal Wuerl listed other threats to religious liberty, such as demands that Catholic teachers be able to contradict Church teaching in their words and actions.

This battle is being waged in San Francisco by opponents of Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone's move to clarify Church teaching in employee handbooks for diocesan teachers. This included statements of Church teaching on sexual ethics and assisted reproductive technology.

A campaign against the archbishop's action was launched, including a public letter from Bay Area Catholics to Pope Francis to remove Archbishop Cordileone.

"Some now wrongly claim it is discrimination for the Church to insist that those who teach in Catholic schools present Catholic teaching in word and in witness," Cardinal Wuerl stated.

"As Catholics, who we are cannot be separated from how we live. Jesus taught us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and care for the sick and those in need, and the Catholic Church's history of educating and serving the poor is long and well-known."

Catholics can show love to everyone, without approving of sin, he explained.

"We can embrace someone who has had an abortion. But we cannot proclaim that the killing of a child in the womb is good. For someone to insist that we do so under the guise of avoiding 'discrimination' is unjust."

Rather than an objective judgement of an action, "discrimination" is actually something very different, and something the Church has abhorred through the ages.

"In an age when the prevailing society treated some people like property, the first Christians saw slaves and nobles as brothers and sisters in Christ," Cardinal Wuerl wrote. In modern times, Catholics helped the civil rights movement obtain equal rights for Americans of all races, he added.

"Prejudice and discrimination are wrong because they divide the human family, violate fundamental human dignity and are contrary to the truth and charity to which we are all called," he continued.

Yet although the Church embraces all sinners, it cannot approve of sin, he added. "Jesus did not change his message just because some who heard it felt it was a 'hard saying.'"

"No one should be surprised that the Church continues to be faithful to Jesus' Gospel – his teaching," he added. "After all, it is his message, his Church. We are not free to change either."

The Church is not imposing its will on everyone, he added, but rather seeks the freedom for Catholics to practice their faith publicly. ❖

Pontifical University Plans to Offer Diploma in Child Protection by 2016

Rome (CNA/EWTN News)—Beginning in spring 2016, Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University will begin offering an intensive one-semester diploma program on the safeguarding of minors and the prevention of sex abuse by clergy.

"There are not courses like this diploma in pontifical universities in Rome. Certainly programs in secular universities and in the UK have them, but (this is a) first in pontifical and Catholic universities," Fr. Hans Zollner, SJ, said at the June 24 announcement of the course.

Fr. Zollner is president of the Pontifical Gregorian University's Center for Child Protection (CCP) and is a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, created by Pope Francis last autumn.

The program aims to form persons who will eventually become child protection officers for dioceses, religious congregations, and similar organizations, as well as advisors and trainers in the field of safeguarding.

Seminars will delve into topics including terms and definitions surrounding the protection of minors, child rights, development and safety, safeguarding and prevention, theology, truth and justice, and care for those who have been abused.

The fact that the Church acts on this issue not out of legal binding but out of belief in her mission is something Fr. Zollner said is "not really appreciated or even understood."

"Whatever we can do for the poor and the little ones is part of the mission of Jesus Christ … the first step is to realize that Jesus has come, as He says, for the sick, for those who are in need, not for the healthy," he said.

"The mission of the Church is precisely this: To represent this to the world, and especially to those who are most wounded." ❖

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary: August 22

"I'm Fine." (Not Really)

by Matt Archbold

I woke up this morning with a clear memory of my departed brother's face in my mind. He was smiling. I was so thankful for it because even seeing a picture isn't the same as a clear picture in your mind. So I woke up thankful. And that's a nice way to wake up.

It's an odd thing about losing a loved on. When they pass away, it's not just that you can't imagine them not being in this world; it's that you can't understand the world going on without them. I remember when my brother passed away, I walked outside the hospice and was surprised to see cars zooming by and even clouds moving. You can't quite believe everything and everyone is acting like the most important thing in the world didn't just happen. And there's a part of you that can't quite forgive the world for turning.

The hard part is seeing the world not take notice while believing that not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without the Father knowing it. That is the disconnect Christians have with the world. We're called to take part in it but not be of it. But Christians are good at accepting mysteries. It's not without pain, but we understand it comes with the territory.

Sometimes when we're in pain we just put a face on and just keep going. Sometimes we pretend so well that we forget we're pretending. Maybe it makes it easier. It's a funny thing. We're all out there pretending like the most important things in the world didn't happen to us. We're all acting like our hearts haven't been broken, or that we're not afraid of losing our job, or we know exactly how we're going to pay for our children's' college. We're all acting like it's all OK.

But it's not. I pray that we'd all be not so good at pretending. We should admit sometimes that our worlds have fallen apart and looks to be doing so even now. And we're quite frankly not all that pleased about it. Maybe sometimes we even need to ask for help picking up all the pieces.

That's another funny thing. Why is it so much easier to give help than to receive it? A wonderfully holy priest I met recently spoke of his father who had to nurse his wife for many years after she'd gotten into a car accident. Someone once praised his father for his dutifulness in caring for his wife. But his father responded by saying he had the easy part. He simply had to help. She had the harder part in letting him help her.

There's a lot of truth in that.

Maybe part of being Christian is not just offering help to the hungry and the suffering but admitting sometimes that we are the hungry and suffering. It's ironic in that sometimes the more we're broken, the less likely we are to ask for help in picking up the pieces.

I know when people ask me how I'm doing I answer "fine." It's an unthinking response. I don't want to burden you with my burdens. That sometimes can be a false kindness to the world because it precludes other people's opportunity to show kindness to you. Part of truly loving is offering other people an opportunity to serve and love.

I remember one time my car broke down on the highway, and I was walking to a gas station. A man in a truck pulled over and asked if I needed a lift. He said "How ya' doin?"

I said, "Fine." I wasn't fine at all. I was walking down the side of a highway. He asked me if I needed help, and I said, "I got it." He smiled, shook his head, and finally said, "Let a man help his fellow man." I noticed a big cross hanging from his rearview. He took me to the gas station and even used his own gas can. When he was done filling up my tank he thanked me. Sometimes, maybe the kindest thing we can do is allow others to help. Maybe the kindest thing to do is tell others we're not fine.

Let's be honest. Let's stop seeming all Facebooky and just showing the good parts of our life.

I'll be honest. Today I woke up grateful for having a clear picture of my smiling brother in my mind. But I'm missing him terribly. ❖

Mr. Archbold's article appears courtesy of National Catholic Register.

Little Sisters of the Poor Must Pay for Birth Control

Washington, DC (CNA/EWTN News)—The Little Sisters of the Poor have reiterated their commitment to following their conscience after a federal appeals court ruled they must obey the federal contraception mandate.

"As Little Sisters of the Poor, we simply cannot choose between our care for the elderly poor and our faith," said Mother Provincial Sr. Loraine Marie Maguire, LSP.…

"For over 175 years, we have served the neediest in society with love and dignity. All we ask is to be able to continue our religious vocation free from government intrusion."

Sr. Maguire was responding to a Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling against the Little Sisters of the Poor on July 14.

Little Sisters of the Poor

The Sisters are among several hundred plaintiffs that have challenged the federal contraception mandate requiring employers to offer health insurance plans covering contraception, sterilization, and some drugs that can cause early abortions.

Employers who fail to comply with the mandate face crippling penalties. In the case of the Little Sisters, the fines could amount to around $2.5 million a year, or about 40 percent of the $6 million the Sisters for which they annually beg to run their ministry.

While the contraception mandate has undergone a number of revisions, the Sisters say it still requires them to violate their beliefs.

Because the LSPs are not affiliated with a particular house of worship, they do not qualify for the religious exemption to the mandate.

The Tenth Circuit's order also applies to Christian Brothers Services and Christian Brothers Employee Benefit Trust, the Catholic organizations through which the Little Sisters obtain their health coverage.

Mark Rienzi, senior counsel of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is helping to defend the Little Sisters in court, observed, "It is a national embarrassment that the world's most powerful government insists that, instead of providing contraceptives through its own existing exchanges and programs, it must crush the Little Sisters' faith and force them to participate.

"Untold millions of people have managed to get contraceptives without involving nuns, and there is no reason the government cannot run its programs without hijacking the Little Sisters and their health plan," Rienzi said.

On July 23, the Becket Fund announced the Little Sisters had appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court of the United States. Joining them in the appeal will be the Christian Brothers Employee Benefit Trust, Christian Brothers Services, Reaching Souls International, Truett-McConnell College, and GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. ❖

Jeanette & Alexander Toczko

Catholic Couple Gets Wish, Dies in Each Other's Arms

San Diego (CNA/EWTN News)—Few love stories can be said to have lasted almost a century. But for Jeanette and Alexander Toczko, what began as a childhood crush later bloomed into a deep, committed love, a love that would last throughout a war, five children, and seventy-five years of marriage.

"Their hearts beat as one from as long as I can remember," said Aimee Toczko-Cushman, one of the couple's five children.

After meeting his future wife at the age of eight, Alexander Toczko married Jeanette in 1940 while he in the United States Navy as a telegraph operator. Alexander was a devoted husband, and as Catholics, he fondly carried a snapshot of Jeanette's First Holy Communion in his wallet.

The Toczkos settled in San Diego in 1971 where Alexander and Jeanette worked together, establishing their own fashion photography and advertising firm. Alexander had a passion for golf and sketching, and the couple loved to travel with each other.

Jeanette & Alexander

They raised their five children in the San Diego area and over the years became the proud grandparents of ten grandchildren.

This past June, the couple celebrated their seventy-fifth wedding anniversary. Alexander, a World War II veteran, was 95 and Jeanette was 96.

The couple's health had been declining over the months, especially after Alexander had taken a recent fall, breaking his hip.

"He was going fast," their son Richard Toczko remembered.

Hospice care was brought to their home so they could share their own bed and stay close to each other in their final moments.

Remarkably the inseparable couple had a dying wish they often told their children: They both wanted to pass away together in each other's arms and in their own bed.

Alexander was the first to go on June 17. Once Jeanette had been informed her husband had died, she said, "See this is what you wanted. You died in my arms, and I love you. I love you. Wait for me. I'll be there soon."

Jeanette died only hours after her husband on June 18.

"Even the hospice nurse said it was the most incredible thing to see the two of them taking those last breaths together," Toczko-Cushman said.

They died "holding hands," reflected their son Richard.

A memorial Mass took place on June 29, a ceremony that commemorated two things: the couple's lives and their seventy-fifth wedding anniversary.

They were buried at the Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego. ❖

Justin-Siena High School News

A New Principal for the Braves

Napa (Avanti)—Justin-Siena has named Mr. John Bordelon as its new principal.

John Bordelon

No stranger to Catholic education in the Lasallian tradition, Mr. Bordelon has most recently served as the vice president of Christian Brothers High School (CBHS), a Lasallian school in Memphis.

Prior to that, Mr. Bordelon served CBHS as associate principal as well as director of Admission and Enrollment. As such, he is a well-prepared administrator who comes to school leadership first and foremost as a teacher. Even as vice president at CBHS, Mr. Bordelon continued teaching Advanced Placement United States History.

Mr. Bordelon describes his leadership style as "about love and humility coupled with relentless pursuit of community potential," and is excited to guide Justin-Siena to new heights. This puts his educational philosophy in alignment with Justin-Siena's vision and future plans.

He says, "Pursuit of traditional achievement is a given, but documented growth is the true definition of excellence. A growth-focused culture … maintains the highest of standards while individualizing the student experience – finding just the right tension to stretch capacity."

Given the diverse nature of Justin-Siena's student population, Mr. Bordelon's vast experience will serve his administration well. He has designed programs both for gifted students and those who struggle.

He holds a BA in history from Rhodes College, an MA in teaching and an MS in educational leadership from Christian Brothers University, and a MEd in private school leadership from Columbia University in New York.

Mr. Bordelon is married to Lauren and the couple has two young children.

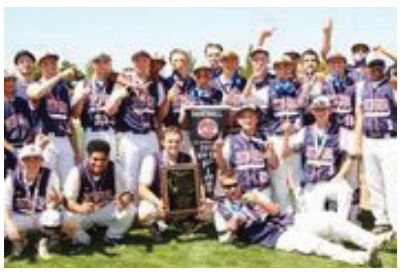
School President Robert Jordan shared, "I look forward to partnering with Mr. Bordelon in this important and sacred work and to hearing his ideas and supporting his efforts. I feel confident in his ability to lead us as a learning and faith community. I appreciate his enthusiasm for this opportunity to serve, and I have no doubt that it will translate into a commitment in making Justin-Siena an even better school and experience for those entrusted to our care."

Napa Supervisors Honor Braves Baseball Team

At its meeting on June 23, the Napa County Board of Supervisors honored the Justin-Siena High School baseball team, the 2015 CIF North Coast Section Division IV champion.

The Braves (17-10 overall) received a proclamation from the supervisors, who proclaimed June 23 as "Justin-Siena Baseball Team Day" in Napa County.

"It was very nice," said Justin-Siena Coach Allen Rossi, who is assisted by Jim Campbell, Spencer Czekalewski, Tim Malloy, and Greg Evans. "I spoke about our team, the accomplishment of winning that Section championship."



Justin-Siena ended the year by winning each of its four playoff games in the 16-team single-elimination bracket. The Braves had wins over Kelseyville (9-2), Cloverdale (18-1), St. Patrick-St. Vincent of Vallejo (3-2), and Saint Mary's-Berkeley (2-1).

The meeting was attended by Justin-Siena's new principal John Bordelon, last year's interim principal David Holquin, and athletic director George Nessman.

Rossi spoke on behalf of his team at the ceremony.

"I talked about how we're trying to use baseball to teach life lessons to the kids," he said. "Some of the things that they learned this year were about being accountable for their actions, learning from their mistakes, owning up to their mistakes."

Justin-Siena's College Bound Athletes

Kathleen Scavo - Golf, University of Oregon
Nafauhu Anitoni - Football, St. John's University (Minnesota)
Joshua McIver - Lacrosse, Marymount University (Virginia)
Samantha Glasson - Volleyball, Chapman University
Joseph MacNichols - Water Polo, Cal Poly-SLO
Claudia Torkelson - Lacrosse, Cal Poly-SLO
Gabriella Guttersen - Lacrosse, Texas Christian University
Jacob Cremen - Football, Sacramento City College

(Vacation Bible School, cont.)

The main hall and the activity rooms were decorated with impressive mountain décor. As one entered into the hall, they went through the base camp, which was festooned with boots, backpacks, picks, shovels, and coats.

Then they entered the main hall area, which was decorated with an amazing array of snowflakes, 3D mountaintops, and mountain animals around icy mounds of fake snow. Each of the activity rooms was decorated with rocks, snow, and snowflakes to give participants the real feeling of being in the mountains.

The day was further broken up with "mountaintop treats," namely, snacks and water. The sessions ended just as they began, with everyone singing and praying together.

In addition, participants brought in their plastic and metal bottles and cans throughout the week to contribute to the parish's ongoing African Mission campaign.

Overall it was a week of fun, activity, music, prayer, and inspiration that Jesus is indeed with us and will help us all the time. "The Power of God" and "Hold on to God" were constant themes each day.

A special thanks to Dominic Figueroa, the parish's interim youth minister, the youth ministry team, and all the volunteers and donors for a memorable week. ❖

Pope Francis will canonize Blesseds Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, on October 18 in Vatican City. It will be the first time in Church history that a married couple has been canonized together.

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

WHAT: Religious Education Congress
WHEN: August 15, 2015
WHERE: Cardinal Newman HS, Santa Rosa

WHAT: ONFiRE NorCal Jam - Youth, Young Adult, Pastoral Juvenil Hispaña 2015-16 school year KickOFF !
WHEN: September 15, 2015
WHERE: 6 Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo

WHAT: XLT//Catholic
WHEN: October 10, 2015
WHERE: St John's in Healdsburg

For more info: Search online "Santa Rosa Diocese Events"
Contact Diocese Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office 707-566-3371

Diocese of Santa Rosa - Department of Religious Education

Presents its Annual

Religious Education Congress

"Living Joyfully with Christ"

Saturday, August 15, 2015 9am - 4pm

Held at Cardinal Newman School, 50 Ursuline Rd., Santa Rosa

Fra Angelico 1387—1455

On Saturday, August 15th, the Diocese of Santa Rosa will present a day of prayer and fellowship for all adults in the Diocese. This year's theme, *"Living Joyfully with Christ."*

The variety of workshops and keynotes available throughout the day are excellent resources for formation and enrichment for you and for your communities faith. The opportunity to listen and be renewed by the wisdom offered truly a gift and a blessing.

WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT A DYNAMIC GROUP OF SPEAKERS:

- **Dr. Pia de Solenni, SThD, Keynote Speaker**
- **Fr. John Boettcher**
- **Mark Brumley, MA**
- **John Galten**
- **Mother Teresa Christe Johnson, MSSR**
- **Sr. Mary Rose Mank, MSSR**
- **Sr. Maria Faustina Scherman, MSSR**

INFORMATION:

- Registration opens July 1, 2015.
- Brochure with workshop descriptions and Registration Form available July 1, 2015 on the website.
- If you wish to receive the brochure, please send us your name, email or mailing address.
- Due to limited seating please register early, workshops fill up quickly.
- Registration Forms Post Mark before July 31, the registration fee is $25.00.
- Registration Forms Post Mark after July 31st and at the door, the registration fee is $35.00.
- Pre-order & pre-paid Lunch $7.00

Variety of Topics

TO REGISTER VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT:

Carmen Perez Aanenson, Diocese of Santa Rosa, *Department of Religious Education*

dre@srdiocese.org | (707) 566-3366 | Fax (707) 542-9702 | **www.santarosacatholic.org**

La Diócesis de Santa Rosa - Departamento de Educación Religiosa

Presenta su Anual

Congreso de Educación Religiosa

"Vivir Alegremente en Cristo"

Sábado, 15 de Agosto 2015 9am - 4pm

Tendrá lugar en La Escuela Cardinal Newman, 50 Ursuline Rd., Santa Rosa

Fra Angelico 1387—1455

El 15 de Agosto, la Diócesis de Santa Rosa ofrecerá un día de oración y compartimiento para todos los adultos en la Diócesis. El tema es *"Vivir Alegremente en Cristo."*

La variedad de talleres y charlas presentadas durante el día es valiosa. Recursos de formación y enriquecimiento para ustedes y para sus comunidades de fe. La oportunidad de escuchar y de renovarse con la sabiduría ofrecida por los conferencistas es un verdadero don y una bendición.

NOS COMPLACE PRESENTAR UN GRUPO DINÁMICO DE CONFERENCISTAS:

- **Mary Ann Wiesinger, MA, La Conferencia Principal**
- **Pbro. Alexander Castillo**
- **Fr. Oscar Díaz**
- **Fr. David Galeana**
- **Herminio Gonzalez Diaz**

INFORMACIÓN

- La registración comienza el primero de julio de 2015.
- El folleto con descripciones de los talleres y el formulario de inscripción están disponibles el primero de julio en el web.
- Si desea recibir el folleto, por favor envíenos su nombre, dirección de correo electrónico o dirección postal.
- Como tenemos una cantidad limitada de asientos por favor regístrese temprano. Los talleres se llenan rápidamente.
- Para los formularios de inscripción que se reciban antes del 31 de julio, la cuota de inscripción es $25.00.
- Los formularios de inscripción que se reciban después del 31 de julio pagaran una cuota de $35.00.
- Las personas que quieran ordenar comida lo pueden hacer en la registración y debe ser pagada por adelantado. También, cada persona pueda traer su comida. El precio de la comida por adelantado será de $7.00.

PARA REGISTRARSE VISITA EL WEBSITE O CONTACTO:

Carmen Perez Aanenson, Diocese of Santa Rosa, *Department of Religious Education*

dre@srdiocese.org | (707) 566-3366 | Fax (707) 542-9702 | **www.santarosacatholic.org**

St. Eugene School Students Thrive in Summer School

Santa Rosa—The youngsters in St. Eugene's annual summer school have stayed sharp by reading some well-known books.

As part of the social studies unit, children learned about the various authors and studied either the state or the country where the author is from. For example, in *The Story about Ping* by Marjorie Flack, the students read about Ping, a spirited little duck who lives on a boat on the Yangtze River in China. This gave teacher Amy Parsons the perfect opportunity to teach her students a little about the "Middle Kingdom."

Student's writing skills were also enhanced by doing "summary writing," an important component of Common Core. One child summarized *Clifford the Big Red Dog* by noticing that Clifford made mistakes and also tried to do good deeds. The *Curious George* series and the longtime favorite book *Corduroy* also helped teach the kids summary writing.

In *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloksey, the children polished their math skills by writing about how many blueberries Sal picked minus how many the bear ate. *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey was a fun opportunity for students to paint some ducks and ducklings using their hand and fingers as a template.

Author Eric Carle has so many books about insects, but a popular one is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The students certainly had fun learning about some of Mr. Carle's main characters, such as spiders, grasshoppers, ladybugs, and caterpillars.

The curriculum ended with Arnold Lobel's *Frog and Toad*, which tell the stories of amphibian best friends who are always there for each other.

Research shows that in order to succeed in school and life, children need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. This is especially true during the summer months. Yet young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. For instance, studies show most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer.

During summer school at St. Eugene School, the children were given enriching experiences along with many happy times to ensure they are ready for school this fall. ❖

St. Augustine and Monica: August 27