

NORTH COAST CATHOLIC

The newspaper of the Diocese of Santa Rosa 🌸 www.srdiocese.org 🌸 JANUARY 2015

First Sisters Report Published

Noticias en español, pp. 19-20

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—The Vatican has published the results of its apostolic visitation examining the quality of religious communities across the United States in a report described as realistic yet encouraging.

Voicing thanks to women religious for their service to the Church, the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life, the Vatican dicastery in charge of religious life, also encouraged them to remember to keep Christ at the center of their communities.

The congregation asked the women religious to “carefully review their spiritual practices and ministry” to ensure they are “in harmony with Catholic teaching about God, creation, the Incarnation, and the Redemption.”

Launched in 2009 to examine the quality of religious communities across the US, the visitation included meet-

ings, questionnaires, and visits to about one-quarter of the country’s religious communities.

It involved 341 religious congregations, to which approximately 50,000 women in the nation belong.

The survey presented religious communities several questions concerning religious orders’ vocation promotion, admission and formation policies, and fidelity to and expression of their vows. The reflections also asked respondents about their concerns for the future of their religious order.

It is different from the inquiry into the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), a canonically-approved body which has over 1,500 leaders of women religious communities as members.

The LCWR has been assessed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who raised concerns of dissent

from Church doctrine on theological topics including homosexuality, the sacramental priesthood and Christ’s divinity.

The woman who led the Vatican’s three-year investigation admitted she faced resistance and criticism from fellow sisters.

Writing in the British weekly *The Tablet*, Mother Mary Clare Millea said the Vatican allowed her to select her own collaborators to carry out the apostolic investigation of the nearly 400 institutes of women Religious. She said she felt she had “the complete trust of the congregation in Rome” to formulate a strategy for carrying out the investigation.

Mother Clare, who is superior general of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, said she completed her report in January 2012.

(see *Sisters Report*, p. 7)



João Cardinal Braz de Aviz speaks as Sr. Sharon Holland, president of the LCWR, and Sr. Agnes Mary Donovan, co-ordinator of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, listen during a the press conference for the release of the report (CNS)

Distinguished Educator Set to Retire This Year

by NCC staff

This summer will mark the first time in over 30 that Dr. Mary Lyons (née Peters), president of the University of San Diego, will not be actively engaged in the field of education. The reason? She’s retiring.

But only in the professional way. If there’s one word that doesn’t describe this dynamic and amazingly admirable woman, it’s retiring. Her entire life has been a catalog of never-ending effort and hard work.

Born in Sebastopol, she lived the first part of her life in Guerneville. Because her father, a World War II vet, was in the army, her family “moved all over the place.” But when her father retired from the military, the clan returned to Sonoma County between her freshman and sophomore years in the summer of 1962.

This, of course, coincided with the creation of the diocese. Asked what she remembers, she said, she was “taken with the experiences” of that time and recalls the “parochial atmosphere,” in that church life seemed to suffuse everyday life. She came from a “devout family that nightly said the Rosary.” The period was, Lyons remembers, “ecclesial. Church culture was part and parcel of growing up here.”



Dr. Mary Peters

(see *Distinguished Educator*, p. 7)

St. John the Baptist School in Healdsburg Announces Scholarships

Healdsburg—St. John the Baptist School in Healdsburg recently announced that not only is it currently accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year, but it is also offering a referral incentive of \$250 to current St. John families who bring new students into its community. The criteria require the referred family to also enroll at and attend St. John School.

Additionally the school is offering scholarships for transfer students from public or other private schools. This will provide their parents a discount of 30 percent off the first year’s tuition and 15 percent off tuition for the second year with the stipulation that from year three and beyond, the families will incur a standard tuition commitment.

Pre-K-8 students who transfer to St. John School this school year are eligible for the transfer scholarship this school year. Students in grades 1-8 who transfer to St. John and enroll for the 2015-2016 school year are eligible for it next school year.

Those interested should call 707-433-2758 for information or to schedule an individual tour. ❖

I Confess: This Would Make a Good Resolution

In our culture there seems to be this nearly irresistible need to make New Year's resolutions.

In general—though I am far from Pollyannaish—I believe people make these resolutions because they want to be good and to do good. Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, the good we seek to do we often fail to do, while the evil we wish to avoid is very easy to trip over.

This was St. Paul's experience (cf. Rom 7:19). Indeed it afflicts us all. Precisely because this is true, it is all the more necessary for us to continually redouble our efforts and to take hold of every advantage.

So the thought of a New Year's resolution is quite nice but for most that is as far as it goes: It is just nice. Translating a resolution—even a very good one—into concrete and identifiable change requires more than something “nice.” It requires firm, committed action. And when those resolves involve something spiritual, then it requires something else, the utilization of powerful spiritual tools.

If you've made such a resolution, consider one such tool: the sacrament of reconciliation. It is one of the

Church's most powerful weapons in the battle to cooperate with grace and avoid, resist, and dispel evil. As the Act of Contrition clearly indicates: “I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life.”

This “firm resolve,” this purpose of amendment, is more than a wish. It is more than a “nice” resolution. It involves a heartfelt commitment to stay in the battle, to continue to confront and resist evil, especially our own evil inclinations and weaknesses.

What is our alternative? Relying on our own devices? That would be like fighting an inferno with a drop of water. We are simply, severely outmatched. Recognizing this is what separates Christian resolutions from other well-meaning, “nice” ones. We ought to know what and who opposes us. St. Paul

had no illusions: “Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power. Put on the armor of God

so you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore put on the armor of God, that you may resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground” (Eph 6:10-13).

This is not to say the use of regular confession guarantees we will quickly or even easily overcome our flaws, faults, weaknesses, sins, or evil inclinations. Regular confession however assures us we will periodically review the effectiveness of God's grace within us. We will see where we have (again?) fallen short of the desired mark. And we will reconstitute a firmer and more determined “resolve.”

For a Catholic utilizing the sacrament of reconciliation, every confession is a new beginning, a new resolve, literally a New Year of grace. It would not be a bad idea to add a very firm resolve regarding more frequent confession to the New Year's list of resolutions because fidelity to confession might just be the best way to help assure success with all of the other resolutions as well. ❖



From the Bishop

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

Yo Confieso: Esta Sería una Buena Resolución

En nuestra cultura parece haber está casi irresistible necesidad de hacer resoluciones de Año Nuevo.

En general, aunque estoy lejos de Pollyannaish-Creo que la gente hace estas resoluciones porque quieren ser buenos y hacer el bien. Por desgracia, la naturaleza humana siendo lo que es, el bien que buscamos hacer a menudo lo dejamos de hacer, mientras que el mal que queremos evitar es muy fácil de tropezar.

Esta fue la experiencia de San Paul (cf. Rom 7:19). De hecho, nos afecta a todos nosotros. Precisamente porque esto es cierto, es más necesario que redoblemos nuestros esfuerzos continuamente y apoderarnos de todas las ventajas.

Así que la idea de una resolución de Año Nuevo es bastante agradable, pero para la mayoría no llega ser más que eso: Es simplemente agradable. Traducir una resolución, incluso una muy buena, en concreto y de manera identificable requiere más que algo “agradable.” Se requiere una acción firme y comprometida. Y cuando esas resoluciones implican algo espiritual, entonces se requiere algo más, la utilización de potentes herramientas espirituales.

Si usted ha hecho una resolución de este tipo, considere una de estas herramientas que es el sacramento de la

reconciliación. Es una de las armas más poderosas de la Iglesia en la batalla para cooperar con la gracia y evitar, resistir y disipar el mal. Como el acto de contrición indica claramente: “Propongo firmemente, con la ayuda de tu gracia, confesar mis pecados, hacer penitencia y enmendar mi vida.” Esta “firme decisión”, este propósito de enmienda, es más que un deseo. Es más que una “buena” resolución. Se trata de un compromiso sincero para mantenerse en la batalla, de continuar para enfrentar y resistir el mal, especialmente nuestras propias inclinaciones y debilidades del mal.

¿Cuál es nuestra alternativa? ¿Confiar en nuestros propios recursos? Eso sería como luchar contra un inferno con solo una gota de agua. Simplemente, estamos severamente superados. Reconocer esto es lo que separa a las resoluciones cristianas de otras resoluciones bien intencionadas. Tenemos que saber qué y quién nos opone. San Paul no se hacía ilusiones: “Por último, tomen a su fuerza del Señor y de su gran poder. Pónganse toda la armadura de Dios, para que puedan ser capaces de mantenerse firme contra las tácticas del diablo. Porque nuestra lucha no es contra sangre y carne, sino contra los principados, con los

poderes, con los dominadores de este mundo tenebroso, contra los espíritus malignos en los cielos. Por lo tanto, tomad toda la armadura de Dios, para que podáis resistir en el día malo, y habiendo acabado todo, mantenerse firmes” (Efes 6: 10-13).

Esto no quiere decir que el uso de confesión habitual nos garantiza que tendremos rápidamente o incluso podamos superar fácilmente nuestros defectos, fallas, debilidades, pecados, o malas inclinaciones. La confesión regular sin embargo nos asegura que vamos a revisar periódicamente la eficacia de la gracia de Dios en nosotros. Vamos a ver dónde hemos caído (de nuevo?) corto de la marca deseada. Y vamos a reconstituir una “voluntad” más firme y decidida.

Para un católico que utiliza el sacramento de la reconciliación, cada confesión es un nuevo comienzo, una nueva resolución, literalmente, un nuevo año de gracia. No sería una mala idea añadir una voluntad muy firme con respecto a la confesión más frecuente a la lista de las resoluciones de Año Nuevo porque la fidelidad a la confesión podría ser la mejor manera de ayudar a asegurar el éxito con todas las otras resoluciones también. ❖

Cursillo Helps Remove “Restless” Feeling

Are you satisfied with your relationship with Christ? Do you want more intimacy and closeness with Him?

Many things seem to shout for our time and attention. How do we keep our attention on what is most important? Beginning a new calendar year seems to generate a longing for something more. St. Augustine's words ring true: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O God.” Is your heart restless for God?

At a church's “Ask Father” night, a priest answered a parishioner's question about how to get closer to Christ and grow spiritually by recommending a Cursillo weekend.

On the Catholic Cursillo weekend, attendees are led to a personal encounter between themselves and Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus speaks to our hearts about His love for us and about our lives and priorities. Taking time away, we come to see ourselves and the importance of our relationship with Jesus and we see how all can be centered around Jesus. We have time to talk to God about what is on our hearts. The weekend proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which

one's spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner. The method is introduced by a short course during the three-day weekend—Cursillo.

The movement is based on friendship. We become friends in Christ and our motto “Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ” is lived out through our mutual support of one another and our desire to keep an ongoing deepening relationship with Christ. After the weekend, small groups of three to five friends (called small group reunions or fourth days) can meet weekly with like-minded Catholics for 30 minutes over coffee to focus on reinforcing the intimacy we experienced with Christ and with the community over our Cursillo weekend.

Ultreyas (groups of small groups) allow us time to connect to others in small group sharing, and to listen to another person's current personal sharing of their efforts to keep their connection with Christ, followed by communal adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In gathering together, we find allies

and models for maintaining the intimacy we received on our Cursillo weekend as we grow in friendship and holiness.

We hope you will seriously consider making a Cursillo weekend for your New Year's Resolution for 2015. We would like to be your friend and invite all to join us at the Ultreya which is most convenient to you: St. Eugene in Santa Rosa on the first Wednesday (January 7) from 6-8pm, or St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park on the third Saturday (January 17) from 2-4pm.

For further information, call Debbie Simonson at 707-762-7165. ❖



St. Hilary of Poitiers, Feast: January 13

Local Actor Returns With Divine Mercy Play



Leonardo Defilippis

For five days this month—January 9-14—the play *Faustina: Messenger of Mercy* will be performed at parishes from Ukiah to Santa Rosa.

The production stars Hollywood-based actress Maria Vargo and features diocesan native Leonardo Defilippis, who also produced the drama.

Last month, Defilippis consented to an e-mail interview with NCC.

NCC: Your teenage years coincided with the early years of the diocese. What do remember about the local Church at that time.

I was confirmed by Bishop Leo Maher, and the diocese was beginning to grow with the increase in population. All the priests and nuns and the Carmelites I knew [back then], especially in the Napa Valley, were Irish. So I had this impression that all clergy and religious were from Ireland! Everyone had an Irish accent, and they all had a special bond together.

I also remember the huge altar boy gatherings for servers from all over the diocese coming to the Carmelites in Oakville with so many priests, probably 100 boys! We had times for prayer, but also for swimming, games, and festivities.

NCC: It's the month we focus on Catholic schools. Tell us about your experience with the parochial education you got here? How was Justin-Siena different than today?

I was born in St. Helena and then moved to Napa when St. Apollinaris [School] was first established. There were only three grades, first through third. The Sisters of Mercy from Ireland were in every classroom and were very dedicated. There were at least 50 students in each classroom.

They were primitive times in that there were very little resources, and the Sisters reached out to the poor of the community. They instilled in me a love for the Church and also tried to create a Catholic culture in California.

At Justin High School, as it was called then, I was in the first class of the school. We attended when the school was not even completely built and with only 50 boys for the freshman class. We were seniors *every year*, as they added a lower class each year. There was a hand bell when the classes ended, and we always ate our meals outside, sitting on the curb of the street in front of the school. We were part of and witness to the growth of Justin High School. It was a very special time.

NCC: You've created a really unique niche in the realm of Catholic theatre. How did that happen?

After a reconversion to the Catholic faith while I was an actor at the Old Globe Theatre (a professional theater company in San Diego), I began to discern religious life. At the same time, I became fascinated by all artists who expressed their faith, no matter the medium. Therefore in 1978, I gave a presentation of Catholic poetry in the St. As convent chapel in Napa, and that was the seed that was planted for the future ministry.

Two years later, in 1980, while performing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, I launched Saint Luke Productions. The first sacred drama [I produced] was the *Gospel According to Luke*, and hence the name of our ministry.

The Napa community was very supportive of this new work, and now after 34 years of ministry, I am grateful to all those in the diocese who encouraged me and supported this work of evangelization that has touched countless souls.

NCC: What would you say to those who either love the arts and want to support them or who want to go into the arts?

It is vital that we have artists and art in our culture. It gives our humanity the truth and beauty it needs to inspire and discern.

There is a tremendous opportunity for all artists to be a voice and a presence to our society and to the Church as prophets and evangelizers for the Truth. The world is starving for leadership in the arts that has integrity and a strong moral foundation.

The arts should truly be supported because it is an expression of who we are. It should expose the Truth and make us all better human beings. Ultimately, the higher arts reflect the face of God, Who is the Creator of all.

NCC: Many Catholics know nothing about St. Faustina. Give three good reasons for why people should take time out of their busy weeks, DVR their favorite shows, and come out on a possibly rainy night to see this play about her. All the world's a stage, Leonardo, and I'm casting you in role of salesman. Go.

The play on St. Faustina is not so much about her but about Him Who made us. It makes Divine Mercy come alive like never before. You will witness the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, which is the ultimate act of mercy for all times and eternity.

The world needs Mercy more than anything right now, and this will inspire all, young and old.

The play is extremely dynamic and engaging and exposes something so powerful in the hearts of those who attend. It will be one of the most moving experiences that the Diocese of Santa Rosa has ever seen. I encourage all to invite those who are wounded in anyway or those who are discouraged or dying, and you will witness something incredible.

This is a drama that can heal souls. May it spread like wildfire in the hearts of every single person living in California! ❖

Controversial Film Plays at Cathedral Center

About 40 people gathered on December 4 in the Parish Life Center at St. Eugene Cathedral to view *The Stones Cry Out*, a new film about the plight of the Christian Palestinians. The discussion afterwards was led by Jerusalem-born, Palestinian Catholic Therese Mughannam.

The Christian population has dwindled to less than 2 percent in the Holy Land, making the possibility real that the Holy Places could soon become only archeological sites or museums.

In many of Muslim-dominated countries in the Middle East, Christians face dire persecution and often death solely because of their religion.

This is not the case in the Holy Land. His Beatitude, Palestinian Roman Catholic Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabah is quoted in the film saying the conflict is about land, which the Israeli government has been taking from the indigenous Palestinians for decades.

This issue is a controversial one, and it is often difficult to find a venue where it can be discussed in a frank and informative way.

St. Eugene Cathedral Rector Fr. Frank Epperson, however, welcomed the film to the parish because he said it is an issue worth discussing and exploring. ❖

Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy

A Saint Luke Productions
Theatrical Performance

PERFORMANCE DATE(S)

Friday, January 9, 2015

St. Mary of the Angels Church

900 S. Oak St.

Ukiah, CA 95482

Contact: Fr. Alvin Villaruel

Monday, January 12, 2015

St. James Church

125 Sonoma Mountain Pkwy.

Petaluma, CA 94954

Contact: Fr. Michael Culligan

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

St. Apollinaris Church

3700 Lassen St.

Napa, CA 94558

Contact: Fr. William Donahue

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

St. Eugene Cathedral

2323 Montgomery Dr.

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Contact: Fr. Frank Epperson

PERFORMANCE TIME(S)

Varies by location



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Catholic Diocese
of Santa Rosa



Diocese of Sta. Rosa
(@CatholicRosa)

Of the Odd, the End, and the Value of a Catholic School

Statistically speaking, January is the month with the highest number of deaths.

We don't like to think about mortality because it forces us to consider things we'd rather not, in particular the Four Last Things: death, judgment, heaven, hell.

Namely, what will happen to us after we die? What sort of judgment will we face when we come before Jesus? Will we



From the Editor

Brian O'Neel is communications director for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California.

be numbered amongst the sheep in heaven or the goats in hell?

Those questions breed others: "How is my faith life? How is my relationship with God? Would He call me, as He did Moses, 'friend'? How can we have a better relationship?"

Evidently some in Austria have also been thinking about faith, but in a very odd way.

Walk into Vienna's *Jesuitenkirche* (Jesuit Church) from now until April 19, and you will see hanging from the ceiling a 26'-tall black sculpture weighing 1,540 lbs. Observers have said it resembles a gigantic version of something a dung beetle would push around. Having seen a picture of it, I find it hard to argue with their assessment. It is meant to symbolize "faith and its menacing aspects."

I have never experienced faith as something menacing, have you? I can't even fathom how anyone would. Even if I had, would I want that represented by a giant piece of, well, you know, especially hanging in what is otherwise a gorgeous church?

Somewhat related, the day after Thanksgiving, I opened the paper to an unexpected and welcome surprise. It was an obituary.

No, I wasn't celebrating the person's demise. Rather I was celebrating what the obit revealed about one man's faith. The third sentence informed us that the deceased, Henry Moras of Sonoma, "was a devout Catholic and appreciated receiving the sacraments through the end of his life."

To my mind, this is beautiful. It indicates Henry was keenly aware of what was and was not important. His hope was not in that which moth and rust destroy (cf. Matt 6:19. Evidently, he did not find his faith "menacing."

This month, we have put some focus on death in that we have articles on planning your funeral and preparing yourself for what the Church calls "final perseverance, that is, a good and happy death."

January isn't just a month of death, though. It is a month of life, the sort of life offered by our Catholic schools.

As you will see, a parochial education still gives the biggest bang for the buck. It also helps expose our children to values, hard work, and reasonable discipline.

It is popular these days (and rightly so) to approach our military men and women and thank them for their service. Well if you see a Catholic teacher or administrator or staffer, take a moment and thank them for the valuable work they do, too.

"Happy New Year, Feliz Año Nuevo, Shona Bhliain Nua, Nuovo Anno Felice, Chúc Mừng Năm Mới, Bòn Ane, Furaha ya Mwaka Mpya, Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku, Manigong Bagong Taon, and Feliz Año Novo." ❖



Jesuitenkirche

Letters to the Editor

I just wanted to commend Bishop Vasa for amplifying the goodness and mercy of Pope Francis as he witnessed the marriage of 20 couples in Rome ("Pope Francis to couples: Cross illuminates purpose of marriage," October 2014).

Thank you for shining the light of Christ on this cloudy, grey world.

Mark Grgurich
Roseville, CA

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.

Catholic Crèche Desecrated

Haverhill, Massachusetts—On Christmas Eve, someone stole the Baby Jesus figure from the outdoor crèche from Sacred Heart Church in Haverhill, Massachusetts and replaced it with a freshly decapitated pig's head.

Police said the cuts made it evident the head did not come from a butcher.

The next day, a parishioner replaced the statue.

CBS Boston reporter Brenda Burns said, "I can't change the world, but I can change my city. I'm bringing this, and I'm asking everybody to do the same. Make a statement.... Just come to let everybody who drives by know. Not here. Not my city."

"As parishioners entered the church for Mass on Friday, many expressed disbelief that the incident occurred in their parish.

"I'm thoroughly appalled. I feel terrible about that. It's very, very sad. I can't believe anybody would do that," one parishioner told WBZ NewsRadio 1030's Carl Stevens." ❖



St. Anthony the Abbot, Feast: January 17

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Most Rev. Robert F. Vasa
PUBLISHER

Brian O'Neel
EDITOR

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985 Airway Ct.
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707.545.7610
Fax: 707.542.9702
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ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, PRAY FOR US!

CALENDAR

¡Atención! ¡Atención!

Televisión Católica **Saboreando la Verdad** con **P. Mario Valencia** todos los Domingos de 9:00 a 9:30 a.m. en Azteca América San Francisco. Síguenos en: youtube/saboreandolaverdad o radiocatalicasantarosa.podbean.com

January 7

St. Francis Solano School's Parents' & Dads' Club meeting

8:15AM

Location: The school's library

For more information, call 707-996-4994 or e-mail stf.schooloffice@saintfrancissolano.org.

January 16

"There's Always More: Expecting New Fire," nine week growth seminar

Hosted by the Christ the King, People of Praise Charismatic Prayer Group

Featuring **Fr. Lawrence Mutiso**, curate, St. James Church, Petaluma

7-7:30pm—Holy Rosary

7:30-8:10pm—Prayer

8:10-9pm—Seminar discussion

Location: St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA

For people of all ages who desire a closer and deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. No fee or text required. For more information, call 707-328-1193.

January 17

Healdsburg ICF Polenta and "Crazy Hat" Dinner

Happy Hour 5:45pm

Dinner 6:30pm

Location: St. John the Baptist Church Hall

208 Matheson St., Healdsburg, CA

Cost: adults, \$15 members, \$18 non-members;

children 6 – 12, \$5; under 5, complimentary

Proceeds will go to help find a cure for thalassemia

also known as Cooley's Anemia

Prizes awarded for best "crazy hat."

Complimentary childcare provided. For more

information, call Mary Madden (707-431-0438).

January 24

Walk for Life Events

9:30am

Mass in the Ordinary Form (all priests are welcome to

concelebrate with **Archbishop Cordileone, Bishop**

Vasa, and 13 other bishops)

Location: St. Mary Cathedral

1111 Gough St., San Francisco, CA

Rally 12:30-1:30pm

Walk 1:30pm

Location: Begins at Civic Center Plaza, ends at National

Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi

Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form 5:00pm

Location: National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi

610 Vallejo St., San Francisco, CA

For more information, go to <http://www.walkforlifewc.com/event-info/event-schedule/>

January 25

Students for Life of America West Coast Second Annual National Conference

9:30am

Location: St. Mary Cathedral

1111 Gough St., San Francisco, CA

For more information, go to <http://www.sflalife.org/>

February 27-28

Jesus, Mary, and Temptation: How to deal with temptation and evil

Speaker: **Fr. Jim Sullivan** of the Diocese of Oakland

Friday, 7:30pm Stations of the Cross, prayer group, Mass

and Healing service

Saturday, 9:30am Talks

1:30pm Mass and Healing Service

Location: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA

No pre-registration required. Free will offering.

Participants asked to bring a brown bag lunch on

Saturday. Call 707-328-1193 for further information.

What Worries a Parent Most (and the Cure)

On the day this article was due, I realized that, not only had I forgotten to write it, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT!

So what did I do? Why, what any good American with a modicum of tech skills would: I went to Google!

Seriously. I Googled, "What were parents worried about in 2014?" The results were unexpected.

Number one? "Colorado Parents Worried Their Kids Will Get Weed Candy for Halloween." After that it was bullies, student debt burden, Ferguson, traffic safety, and Ebola.

Here's the weird thing: *My* parents worried about drugs, bullies, traffic safety, and polio. I worried about drugs, bullies, traffic safety, and pre-marital sex/unplanned pregnancies/date rape/STDs, and AIDS. It seems to me, that parents have worried about similar things since the supposedly bucolic 1950s, but now there is a difference.

Not discounting the importance of worrying about student debt burden—and not wanting to focus on the possible ramifications of Ferguson—what parents today are also worrying about is their children's safety in extreme violence, and the long term effects of exposure to that violence.

School shootings didn't happen in my day. For my children, the first children-related violence was Columbine High School, but Colorado was far away, and we were able to limit their exposure to the media coverage.

Today children are exposed to such a mind boggling variety of violence that it's hard to know how to protect them. There is violence in prime time, violence in movies, *disturbing* violence in video games, and horrifying violence in our communities.

It's not just about gun violence but also emotional bullying that leads to suicidal despair, physical abuse in our homes, and sexual violence amongst teens. With the rising popularity of more and more social media sites and the loss of that face-to-face moment, cyber bullying is rampant.

Economic stress, alcohol, and drug use can obliterate

self-control and cause flaring tempers resulting in physical violence. That the "If it feels good, do it" mantra has given way to an attitude of, "I can do it if I want to," at least partly explains why some teens have the idea that someone else's body is theirs for the taking. Respect for others and self-respect seem to be waning.

Parents today are brave raising children in a world that sometimes seems so bewilderingly out of control. How do you raise happy, healthy, safe kids?

I was going to say there is no easy answer, but then I thought, "Yes there is." It may seem pat or trite, but it is nonetheless true: Focus your mind and heart firmly on God (cf. Prov 3:5-6). Spend time with Our Lord every day.

Ask Him to renew you in strength, to face the daunting task of raising children in a crazy world. Then do everything you can to teach your children to focus their minds and hearts on God (read Deuteronomy 6:4-10; no, seriously read it; it's one of the most ancient Jewish prayers; amazingly powerful).

Bad things may still happen, but the "peace that passes all understanding" will guard your hearts and sustain you. Amen? Amen.

Happy New Year, everyone. ❖



Guarding the Vulnerable

Julie Sparacio is diocesan director of Child and Youth Protection.

Alpha Debuts in Napa

"Alpha" is a name that has standing in the greater Napa area as of Saturday, November 22, for three reasons.

First, although Alpha Pregnancy Clinics opened a Napa clinic in August of this year, it had been a well-kept secret. That Saturday night Alpha had its official debut as part of a fund-raising gala that took place in the handsome setting of Jamieson Ranch Vineyards. One hundred and twenty supporters enjoyed a wine and appetizers reception, dinner by Fumé Bistro, a live and silent auction, and dancing to the band Alive.

Formerly Birth Choice and located at 2945 Jefferson Street, the Alpha clinic performs free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, a Life Program for parents, a baby boutique, STD testing and treatment for clients, and free prenatal care up to delivery at Queen of the Valley Hospital. Alpha also has a recovery program for abortion and miscarriage or stillbirth situations.

Second, Alpha is getting ready to launch a new Mobile Medical Unit to serve the Napa Valley. Parked outside the gala was the sparkling unit for touring.

Third, the finale event on Saturday, which especially cheered Bay Area pro-lifers in attendance, was the pre-

sentation of the "Defender of the Unborn" medal (Alpha annual award) to Napa's own Ron Maxson.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ronald Maxson has been a local fixture on the Napa pro-life scene for decades. One can see him rain or shine in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic on Jefferson Street, silently in prayer, and waving to sympathizers.

Most of those who recognize Ron Maxson have no idea of his background and how fitting it is that he devotes his time to saving lives.

During his 22 years of service as a career army officer, he served two tours as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He not only received a Purple Heart but also two Silver Stars for valor, five Air Medals for valor, and several Bronze Stars for valor. (The word "valor" is only applied when the soldier actually saved lives while earning the award.)

Maxson is a former board member of California Right-to-Life, co-founder of the Life Legal Defense Foundation, a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, the founder of Napa Valley Culture of Life, and the Napa director of 40 Days for Life.

Many members of Maxson's family were on hand to congratulate him. ❖



St. Raymond of Peñafort, Feast: January 7

Burying the Dead: A Holy and Wholesome Thing

by Fr. Raúl Lemus

In my 12 years as a priest, I have noticed that in some funerals the deceased person is Catholic but their children or the persons handling their funeral arrangements are either not practicing or have left the Faith, or they are practicing Catholics who do not know what the deceased person wanted in terms of their funeral.

Sometimes the next of kin just ask for a simple service, but that might not have been the wishes of the deceased. For this reason it is very important for us to clearly state to our loved ones how we want our funeral services conducted.

For example, when I die I would like a full Catholic funeral. That is, I would like a vigil service with the Rosary, a requiem Mass that includes all the rites of a Mass of Christian Burial, and the Rite of Committal at the cemetery.

Moreover, as a priest I still want the prayers that say, "Be merciful in judging our brother . . ."

Paragraph 6 of the *Order of Christian Funerals: General Introduction* reads, "The Church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins."

This might surprise you coming from a priest, but because I am human, I am a sinner. I need the mercy and forgiveness of our God when I am judged.

Sometimes people say, "[The deceased] wasn't really an active Catholic so a simple service will be fine."

I would say the opposite. If I were not an active Catholic, I would want all the rites and prayers I could get. Even a saint would feel cheated if he/she did not receive a complete Christian funeral and burial.

Similarly some modern funerals have been turned into

a "Celebration of Life" or, worse, a *de facto* canonization. Maybe that's part of our culture's thinking it's better to avoid mourning and grieving.

I disagree. Something deeply prayerful, even life-affirming occurs when we mourn. In the past four-and-a-half years I have lost two members of my immediate family: First my brother Carlos and then my father eight months ago.

I am not embarrassed to say I cried at both of their deaths or that I am still not completely over my loss. I still pray for them and remember them at my Masses.

Maybe it is our discomfort with mourning that has led us to forget about the four last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. We sometimes forget we will be judged by a just judge, God Himself.

When my father, Dcn. Armando Lemus, passed away, I appreciated all of the condolences my family and I received and all of the Mass intentions people sent us. One person who expressed his sympathy also said, "I will also pray for your father, just in case he is in purgatory."

I found that a comforting and beautiful thing to say because one never knows, and the holy souls in purgatory always *need* our prayers. It is partly by our prayers and sacrifices that these souls might leave purgatory sooner than normal.

It is also biblical. In 2 Maccabees 12:46, it says, "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins."

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. ❖

My Big, Fat Catholic Funeral

To PLAN ... or not to Plan? That is the question!

My own death ... never a comfortable topic, but I never thought it would happen today! What now?

I'm Catholic and I believe in the resurrection and the communion of saints and all the parts of my daily prayers. But thinking about my actual death and what that means for my loved ones and my earthly remains ... not something I thought about.

First they called 911, and questions were asked. My loved ones answered in shock and tears, barely able to speak at times. What to do first?

Oh, no! My family, they don't know what to do! Will they call the priest? The funeral home? The cemetery? Our friends? How will they get through it? I will pray for them, but why didn't we talk about this beforehand?

I never expressed my desire to be buried full body or to be cremated. I'm sure they know I want Father to celebrate my Mass, but will they pray the rosary at my vigil? Where will they bury me? I want to be next to our family, but that was so long ago. Is there space for me? Can they afford it? I've heard it's very expensive, but what does that mean?

Why didn't I plan ahead to save them additional stress and uncertainty?

Every day families find themselves confronted with a similar scenario, whether it's a sudden death or the final result of a long illness or injury. We all recognize our mortality. And though we cannot plan *when* we enter eternity, we can plan and prepare for that event. We all will leave a legacy of some kind. What will yours be? Will it be confusion, worry, and uncertainty added to the grief and sorrow? Or will you leave a legacy of faith and consideration that expresses your love for God and your loved ones?

The best way to ensure your legacy is to PLAN. At this traditional time of New Year's resolutions, the following points can help you begin planning your Catholic funeral:

Plan—cemetery arrangements, casket or cremation, final resting place (grave, mausoleum, or urn garden, crypt or niche), memorial marker options; my funeral, including the vigil, funeral, and committal; mortuary arrangements

Legacy—of faith; peace of mind and comfort for my loved ones; a place of remembrance and visitation; fiscal planning and responsibility

Act—pre-plan cemetery and mortuary arrangements; vigil, funeral, committal; fiscal preparations and arrangements

Notify—loved ones of plans: priest and parish, cemetery and mortuary, lawyer and trust or will administrator

For more information call our offices in Santa Rosa (707-546-6290), St. Helena (707-963-1703), or Petaluma and Sonoma (707-762-8462), or find us on the web at www.CatholicCemeteries-DSR.org. ❖

A Prayer for Priests

O almighty and eternal God, look upon the face of Your Christ and for love of Him Who is the eternal high priest, have pity on Your priests. Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them by the imposition of the bishop's hands. Keep them close to You lest the enemy prevail against them so they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priests; for Your sick priests; for Your aged priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in purgatory.

But above all I commend to You the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me; the priest who absolved me from my sins; the priest at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priest who taught and instructed me or helped me and encouraged me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, particularly (priest's name here). O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.

Prayers for the Dying

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

O glorious prince, St. Michael, guard and protect the souls of those who are dying, especially those who will die this day. Defend them from the attacks of Satan and his evil spirits. Be their advocate, we humbly pray, in their final hour of earthly life. Assist them, dear St. Michael, in their final agony, from the evil spirits who like devouring lions (cf. 1 Pet 5:8), will contrive their attack upon those suffering souls. Behold them, great archangel, safely through the gates of heaven. May we be faithful during our lives in venerating you, O wondrous saint, and implore your powerful aid at the hour of our death. Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Dying

O St. Joseph, silent saint, we have no recorded words from you. Yet by your faithful love and devotion, in obedience to God you have spoken more than words. You fulfilled the unique mission of being the foster father of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the chaste guardian of the Virgin Mary, His Immaculate Mother. We ask you to have compassion on the dying who in their illness and agony may have lost the ability to pray. Speak for them before the throne of God, and obtain for them pardon, mercy, and the gift of eternal life. St. Joseph, patron of the dying, we entrust to you those who will die this day, from now until the end of time. Amen.

Prayer for a Holy Death

O most merciful Jesus, I entrust to You the hour of my death. In Your great compassion, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, wash away all my sins in Your most Precious Blood. Make me clean, Lord, worthy to look at Your radiant Face. Lead me through the gates of paradise where I will live with You forever. O most merciful Jesus, I place all my trust in You. Grant me the grace of a holy and peaceful death. Amen.

If you feel called to give greater spiritual assistance to those who are on the cusp of eternity, contact the Apostolate of the Dying, PO Box 38-9185, Cincinnati, OH 45238, 513-922-0370, or apostolateforthedying.org. ❖

(Distinguished Educator, cont.)

After his retirement, her father, formerly an army Ranger, initially had trouble finding employment. So her mother took a job at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, run to this day by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange (CSJ), who were nonetheless founded in Eureka.

Around that time, Bishop Leo Maher appointed Sr. Justine Withy, CSJ, as the diocese's first director of Religious Education, a position currently held by Dcn. Dennis Purificacion.

"In those days," Lyons recalled, "Sisters needed companions if they were to drive for any distance."

"Well, my mother knew I'd talked about being a Sister, so she more or less volunteered me to be Sr. Justine's companion whenever she had to drive around this new diocese.

"A lot of the priests in the diocese were very young men" who had "only recently been ordained. It was a vibrant time in the Church. We had a brand new diocese, a young, enthusiastic clergy. It was an extraordinary time, quite frankly, and I had both luck and good fortune in that I really got to know the clergy and diocese pretty well."

She did so with Sr. Justine in the latter's Ford station wagon driving about the diocese to give talks about setting up religious education programs

Lyons recalls, "I would be in the car with her on these long drives, this 15-year-old, and in those days, cars didn't always have a radio. And then Sister would tell me, 'It's time for my meditation now,' and then, 'It's time for us to say the Rosary.' I can't say these trips were *really* exciting. But after a little while, she began to trust me. She wanted me to participate."

Sister, she said, "didn't suffer fools and was very direct. She was not used to young people."

In that directness, she instructed Lyons, "Now I want you to give a talk about the role of the helper, but I want you to dress up and wear high heels so you look older."

Then somewhere between her sophomore and junior year at Ursuline High School, Bishop Maher tasked Sister with "putting together a little group in Humboldt County to determine how many Catholics were there at the Hoopa Reservation."

As a result, Sister, Lyons, and two other ladies—Adele Guibert and Margaret Molina—spent an entire summer on reservation, where they stayed with this "little, tiny woman" who ran the reservation's McGillvray Market. "She had a nice home that could accommodate us, and in the morning, we would fan out. In some clearing there would be a small trailer, and I'd go knocking on door, introducing myself, asking if the home was Catholic. It was a little bizarre, and really, really hot," she remembers with a laugh.

Although her family's parish was St. Rose, on Sunday she would often travel to Bodega Bay and St. Teresa Mission with Sr. Justine and whatever priest would say Mass there that Sunday.

In the period immediately following the Second Vatican Council, many parishes featured what were called commentators. These "would get up before the people and tell them the readings for the day and what they were about. I was often the commentator, and I often led the singing because I could sing and play guitar."

A particularly fond memory was when Msgr. John Brinkle, who had just come back from his canon law studies,



L-R: Bishop Leo Maher, Sr. Justine Withy, CSJO, Adele Guibert, Mary Peters, and Margaret Molina.

allowed her to drive his brand new Mercedes back from Bodega. She says, "It was one of the biggest thrills of my young life."

Not only did she earn the consideration of Sister and Monsignor, but His Grace, as well.

"Bishop Maher was very kind to me. He often had a cigar in his mouth, and when I was at the chancery, he'd say, 'Hey, kid.'"

"He was an interesting guy and had expensive tastes, as I remember, but he attracted wonderful young clergy who did a lot. There was a lot of pastoral outreach" and she remembers the time as "vibrant and wonderful."

Her experience of this vibrant Catholic life in the Church and with the Sisters convinced her to become a religious. This probably was the only way she could have attended college since she came from a blue collar family. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange "put us right into a college classroom. I really owe them a great debt."

She stayed with them for five years before realizing her vocation lay elsewhere. By this time she was almost finished with her degree, so she enrolled at Sonoma State University. With her experience as a parochial teacher during her time as a CSJ, she planned to get a job teaching.

Then a professor asked whether she'd ever thought about getting a Master's. It had never crossed her mind. Her mom still worked at Memorial. Her dad and other male relatives worked in nearby shipyards. She herself worked at JC Penney at Stonestown Galleria just to put herself through school. The thought seemed unrealistic.

Then she recalled both of her parents' military experience, and she entered the navy so as to earn college money through the GI Bill. She earned her commission as an ensign and the navy stationed her at San Diego, where she worked with a program called "Boost." Admiral Elmo Zumwalt had devised this college prep course geared primarily toward minority enlisted men and women who showed potential for college and who simply needed a "boost." Lyons then transferred to Moffet Field where she was assigned to a P-3 Orion submarine hunter training squadron as student control office. When her active duty obligation ended in 1975, she used the GI Bill to go to SJSU, where she earned a Master's in English.

Providence again intervened through a professor who asked whether she had ever thought about getting a doctorate. She applied for and was accepted into the doctoral program in rhetoric at the University of California. The Franciscan school at the Graduate School of Theology in Berkeley invited her to provide students a practicum in homiletics. This part-time position changed into a full-time job when, after earning her PhD, the Franciscans made her dean of the school.

Next she spent six years as president of the Maritime Academy in Vallejo, before assuming the presidency of St. Benedict College in St. Joseph, Minnesota, for seven years.

Then the president's position at USD opened, and this summer, she will conclude her twelfth year with her aforementioned retirement.

In that time she has known both kudos and criticism. Kudos because she has kept down costs and improved academic excellence. Criticism hasn't come as frequently but it did come several years ago when she revoked a fellowship to a British, ostensibly Catholic scholar who publicly took stands against a multitude of Church teachings. While some roundly condemned Lyons' action, she stood by her decision as being in the best interest of maintaining her school's Catholic identity. It should be said, she is one of the few presidents of a big name Catholic university or college who has shown the courage to do this in recent years.

Even now, roughly 45 years after leaving here, Dr. Lyons sees a reminder of Bishop Maher and her time in the Diocese of Santa Rosa every day since the building that houses her office used to be the Diocese of San Diego's chancery building. Lyons says, "My office used to be Bishop Maher's office, and my desk used to be his desk."

Even though she will no longer have that daily reminder in a few months, one imagines that the North Coast will remain near to her heart.

Congratulations, Dr. Lyons, on a fantastic career. You make us proud. ❖

(Sisters Report, cont.)

She reported she had felt "overwhelmed" when asked to carry out the task by the then-prefect of the congregation in 2008, Franc Cardinal Rodé.

"Although I realized immediately the task would be well beyond my abilities, I knew in my heart that I had to say yes," she writes.

She said wanted the investigation to take "place with profound respect for each individual congregation and each individual Religious," adding, "We tried to put compassionate listening at the heart of the process."

Mother met 266 of the 341 superiors general of the American institutes engaged in apostolic activities, and they shared with her "the joys, hopes, and challenges" of their institutes.

In addition, 75 "visitors" went to selected Religious houses to ask each Sister to share "her lived experience and to express her personal vision of her charism and mission."

The report recognized that although this visitation was in some ways "unprecedented," they are a normal phenomenon in the life of the Church.

"We initiated the visitation because of our awareness that the apostolic religious life in the United States is experiencing challenging times," current prefect João Cardinal Braz de Aviz told journalists.

He affirmed the need for new vocations, as well as an exploration of themes such as an order's community and spiritual life, their work and apostolate, in light of the modern call for "credible and attractive witnesses of consecrated religious who demonstrate the redemptive and transformative power of the gospel."

Interviews with various communities revealed that often entrance candidates seek to live in a "formative community" and be "externally recognizable" as consecrated women through wearing some form of a habit, which is a challenge for institutions that don't observe such practices.

As for the sisters' spiritual life, the visitation found that institutes generally have written guidelines for receiving the sacraments and strict spiritual practices.

However, the congregation cautioned each community to "evaluate their actual practice of liturgical and common prayer," and to do whatever is needed to foster each member's personal relationship with Christ.

"Changes in the healthcare system in the United States, resulting in uncertainty regarding the availability of government funding for the future needs of the elderly is a particular concern," the report observed.

In terms of ecclesial communion, the report revealed that although many religious described themselves as integral members of the universal Church, they expressed a desire for there to be "greater recognition" on the part of pastors for the contribution of women religious.

Some spoke in the survey of feeling like they did not have enough input into pastoral decisions that affect them despite having "considerable knowledge and experience."

The report also recognized the refusal of some communities to participate in the visitation's mandate, which Cardinal Braz de Aviz called a "painful disappointment" for everyone involved.

LCWR President Sr. Sharon Holland, IHM, told journalists she is "concerned about those who may still be angry. It's a concern for me because it's not healthy to remain angry."

Although she said she doesn't know all of the reasons why some women religious feel that way, "sometimes when we're fearful and feel powerless then we externalize that in anger, but underneath that there's a fear or hurt or anxiety over what will happen."

Nevertheless Sr. Sharon said, "I think a lot of us have come beyond that."

"There is an encouraging and realistic tone in this report," she said. "Challenges are understood, but it is not a document of blame or of simplistic solutions. One can read the rest and feel appreciated and trusted to carry on."

In the report, the congregation affirmed Pope Francis' call for a greater participation of women in the life of society and the Church, as well as his resolve that "the 'feminine genius' find expression in the various settings where important decisions are made." ❖

Author, Cardinals Spar Over Reports of Conclave Campaigning

Vatican City (CNA)—The 2013 papal conclave that elected Pope Francis is news again now that four cardinals have denied a new book's claim that they campaigned for Pope Francis to be elected – though the book's author has clarified the Pope himself was not a part of their supposed campaign.

In his new book *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope*, the London-based Catholic journalist Austen Ivereigh contends a group of cardinals on what he bills as “Team Bergoglio” worked during the last conclave to promote the current Pope's election.

According to Ivereigh, Cardinals Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Walter Kasper, Gottfried Daneels, and Karl Lehmann orchestrated a behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign which led to the election of Pope Francis.

Ivereigh wrote that the members of “Team Bergoglio” toured private dinners and other gatherings of cardinals the day before the conclave.

According to Ivereigh, a key role was played by Murphy-O'Connor, for whom Ivereigh worked as a spokesperson from 2004-2006.

Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor had turned 80 and could not take part in the conclave due to age limits. However, Ivereigh claims the Cardinal teamed up with others in order to promote then-Jorge Mario Cardinal Bergoglio's candidacy, as he already had done in 2005, when the archbishop of Buenos Aires stood as the main competitor of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, who would become Pope Benedict XVI.

“They had learned their lesson from 2005, and they first secured Bergoglio's assent,” Ivereigh wrote. He added that the 76-year-old Cardinal Bergoglio's advocates “got to work, touring the cardinals' dinners to promote their man, arguing his age should no longer be considered an obstacle [since] Popes could resign.”

Ivereigh's reportage has caused a certain media frenzy. Some have argued that if the report is true, Pope Francis election may be invalid.

An article of the apostolic constitution regulating papal elections *Universi Dominici Gregis* has established that cardinals before the election “shall further abstain from any form of pact, agreement, promise, or other commitment of any kind which could oblige them to give or deny their vote to a person or persons.”

The conclave rules stress that cardinals who commit to an electoral agreement for a papal conclave automatically incur excommunication.

However, the apostolic constitution explicitly states cardinals may exchange their opinions during the vacancy of the papal chair.

Questions on the issues raised by Ivereigh's claims drew a response direct from the Holy See Press Office director Fr. Federico Lombardi, SJ.

On December 1, he stated the four cardinals “explicitly denied this reporting, both concerning the request of approval from Cardinal Bergoglio and concerning the conducting of a campaign to push his election.”

The four cardinals, Fr. Lombardi added, “wish that it is known that they are surprised and displeased by what is written.”

Ivereigh responded in a December 2 statement, focusing on his book's statement that the four cardinals “first secured Bergoglio's assent.”

He said he “never meant to suggest” the four cardinals had “some kind of agreement” with Cardinal Bergoglio. Rather he had meant to suggest that, unlike the 2005 conclave, the cardinals believed that “this time Cardinal Bergoglio would not resist his election.”

“I am sorry for any misunderstanding arising from my choice of words,” he said. His book's future editions will have revisions to this statement. The new text will read, “In keeping with conclave rules, they did not ask Bergoglio if he would be willing be a candidate. But they believed this time that the crisis in the Church would make it hard for him to refuse if elected.”

Ivereigh said he had found no evidence that Cardinal Bergoglio had been approached about his potential election to the papacy. He also found no evidence of “any violation of the conclave rules.”

Ivereigh also stressed that his book's chapter on the conclave, read in its entirety, “makes clear” that Cardinal Bergoglio “played no role whatsoever in the bid for his election.”

However, on December 1, Ivereigh reiterated the point on Twitter that “what the cardinals are denying is an agreement with a particular candidate. They are not denying they urged his election.”

He said it is “normal for cardinals to urge voting for candidates,” citing as examples Cardinals Jorge Medina Estevez and Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, who backed Cardinal Ratzinger in the 2005 conclave. ❖

Cardinal Scola: Pope Francis Will Stand With Tradition

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—In an interview with an Italian paper, Angelo Cardinal Scola of Milan said Pope Francis will not push the Church away from the understanding of marriage's indissolubility.

“During the synod, I thoroughly discussed with Cardinals Marx, Daneels, and Schoenborn in my ‘minor circle’ about the possible access to communion for the divorced and remarried, but I cannot see how to combine on one side the indissolubility of the marriage, and on the other seeming to deny de facto the same principle,” the cardinal told *Corriere della Sera* December 2.

This way of thinking would end in “a separation between doctrine and pastoral care and discipline,” he said, and “indissolubility would be almost reduced to a Platonic idea which is not reflected in real life.”

Such reasoning “also poses a grave educative problem: how can we tell young people getting married, who have difficulties with the ‘forever,’ of the indissolubility of mar-

riage if they know there will always be a possible exit?”

Cardinal Scola said “the Pope will not likely take” any stance he himself would not share, that is, one not in accord with the Church's tradition.

He emphasized that “the majority” of synod fathers supported the indissolubility of marriage.

Cardinal Scola's own proposal at the synod, he said, was one of “making [a] reflection on sexual difference, and a theological reflection on the relation between marriage and the Eucharist,” and, to simplify the process of investigating nullity, involving the local bishop more.

Given that Pope Francis will not likely go against tradition, Cardinal Scola underscored on the other hand that “we must acknowledge the style of this Pope, [its] provocation to us Europeans,” since “it leads us to consider our commitment as Christians in a different way.” ❖



OFFICIAL

The Most Rev. Robert F. Vasa, bishop of Santa Rosa, wishes to make the following announcements:

Fr. Ismael Mora, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Napa, is assigned the same position at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Napa, effective December 1, 2014.

Fr. Mario Valencia, parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Church, Napa, is assigned the same position at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Napa, effective December 1, 2014.

Fr. Bernard D'Sa, religion teacher at Cardinal Newman High School, is assigned as parochial administrator, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Clearlake, with residence in St. Mary Immaculate Church rectory, Lakeport, effective January 5, 2015.

Fr. Krzysztof Lewandowski, parochial vicar at St. Eugene Cathedral, is assigned the same position at St. John the Baptist Church and St. Thomas Aquinas Church, both in Napa, effective December 15, 2014.

Fr. Juan Carlos Chiarinoti, in residence at St. John the Baptist Church, Healdsburg, is assigned as parochial vicar, St. Rose Church, Santa Rosa, effective January 5, 2015.

Fr. Samuel Moses Brown, parochial vicar at St. Rose Church, Santa Rosa, is assigned as religion teacher and assistant chaplain at Cardinal Newman High School, Santa Rosa and will maintain residence in St. Rose Church rectory, Santa Rosa, effective January 5, 2015.

Fr. Daniel Roa, previously in prison ministry and Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, is assigned as parochial vicar, St. Eugene Cathedral, Santa Rosa, effective January 5, 2015.

Fr. Christopher Henderson, CPM, a priest of the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy, is assigned as temporary chaplain for the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa and will be in residence at St. Eugene Cathedral, Santa Rosa.

Fr. Gary Sumpter, retired, formerly in residence at St. Eugene Cathedral rectory, Santa Rosa, is now in residence at St. Thomas Aquinas Church rectory, Napa, effective December 1, 2014.

Msgr. Gerard Brady, formerly pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Napa, recently retired, is now residence at Sacred Heart Church rectory, Eureka, effective December 1, 2014.

Francis, Filtered

by George Weigel

About a year ago, I suggested to one of the top editors of a major American newspaper that his journal's coverage of things papal left something to be desired, as it seemed based on the assumption that Pope Francis was some kind of radical wild-man, eager to toss into the garbage bin of history all those aspects of Catholic faith and practice that mainstream western culture finds distasteful. My friend replied, in so many words, look, you know how these media narratives are: They're like bamboo. Once they get started, there's no stopping them. They just keep growing.

Alas, he was right. And while there's been a lot of talk about the "Francis Effect," it's worth pondering the "Francis Filtration."

The Francis Filtration began in earnest during the impromptu press conference in the papal plane while the pope was en route home from World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro. That was the presser that produced the single-most quoted line of the pontificate: "Who am I to judge?"

But as Francis Cardinal George pointed out in a pre-retirement interview with John Allen, that sound-bite "has been very misused...because he was talking about someone who has already asked for mercy and been given absolution...That's entirely different than talking [about] someone who demands acceptance rather than asking for forgiveness." (For the record, the entire quote, which is almost never cited, was "Who am I to judge them if they're seeking the Lord in good faith?")

But as my journalist-friend suggested, the "bamboo" shoot of "Who am I to judge?" has continued to grow, until it's now a virtual bamboo curtain. And what's being filtered out? All the things the Pope says that don't fit the now-established "narrative" of "humane, progressive pope vs. meanie reactionary bishops and hidebound Catholic traditionalists."

Things like what?

Well, things like the Pope's passionate defense of marriage as the stable union of a man and a woman, which he underscored in an address to the Schoenstatt movement

right after 2014 Synod, and in his keynote address to a November interreligious conference at the Vatican on the crisis of marriage in the twenty-first century.

And things like the Pope's defense of the Gospel of Life, a persistent theme in Francis's November address to the European Parliament. The press reports I read focused on Francis's concerns for immigrants and the unemployed. Fair enough; that was certainly in the text. But what about the Holy Father's defense of those whom indifference condemns to loneliness or death, "as in the case of the terminally ill, the elderly who are abandoned or uncared for, and children who are killed in the womb"?

What about his insistence that "Europe," past, present, and future, makes no sense without Christianity? What about his condemnation of those who subject Christians "to barbaric acts of violence," and his plea for support for those Christians who are "evicted from their homes, and native lands, sold as slaves, killed, beheaded, crucified or burned alive, under the shameful and complicit silence of so many?" You didn't read much about that, did you?

Nor did you read (unless you read the Pope's text itself) that Francis, having made a plea for environmental stewardship, went on to "emphasize" (his word) that "along with an environmental ecology, there is also need of a human ecology which consists in respect for the person."

Another aspect of Pope Francis' preaching too often filtered out of the coverage of his pontificate involves (if you'll pardon the term) demonology. No pope in decades has so regularly referred to Satan as Pope Francis. The Evil One is no abstraction to this pontiff, nor does he think of "satanic" as a rhetorical intensifier to underscore one's disapproval of, say, Hitler. Satan and his minions are very real to Pope Francis; it would be interesting for an enterprising reporter to draw him out on the subject in one of those freewheeling papal press conferences.

The Francis Filter may be bamboo. But if it keeps growing, so will the distortions that bamboo curtains create. ❖



George Weigel's column appears courtesy of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Pope Appoints Vatican Financial Watchdog

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—Pope Francis has appointed René Bruehlhart president of the Financial Information Authority, the Vatican's financial watchdog, thus opening a new phase for the authority that Bruehlhart had until now directed.

Bruehlhart replaces Bishop Giorgio Corbellini, president of the Labour Office of the Apostolic See, as president of the FIA. Bishop Corbellini has been appointed the FIA's interim president in January.

New statutes for the body were issued in November 2013, while in July the board of directors was entirely replaced by new members, in order to improve the authority's international profile—the previous board was solely composed by Italians.

Carrying out the transition, Bruehlhart's appointment is a promotion, and an appointment for the now-vacant director's position is expected soon.

Hired by the Vatican as "ad hoc" advisor for anti-money laundering efforts in 2012 and later appointed director of the authority, Bruehlhart has carried forward the process of reform.

Under Bruehlhart's direction, the Financial Intelligence Authority has become part of the Egmont Group (a forum which brings together the financial information units of many countries), and has signed several memoranda of understanding with its counterparts, the most important being those with the US, Germany, and Italy.

The reform of the AIF's statutes followed a series of further adjustments to help bring the Vatican ever more in conformity with international financial standards, a processes begun by Benedict XVI. ❖



St. Theodosius the Cenobiarch, Feast: January 11

"I'm Not Worried" about Resistance, Pope Francis Says in New Interview

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—In an interview with the Argentine daily *La Nacion*, Pope Francis spoke on a variety of topics, giving specific attention to the ongoing reform of the Roman Curia and some of the resistance he's facing.

"I am not worried. It all seems normal to me. If there were no difference of opinions, that wouldn't be normal," the Pope told Elisabetta Piqué in a wide ranging interview published in *La Nacion* December 7.

"Resistance is now evident. And that is a good sign for me, getting the resistance out into the open, no stealthy mumbling when there is disagreement. It's healthy to get things out into the open, it's very healthy."

The bishop of Rome revealed he had no expectations regarding the "cleansing process" of the Curia before starting, because "I expected to go back to Buenos Aires."

"After that, well, I don't know. You see, God is good to me. He's bestowed on me a healthy dose of unawareness. I just do what I have to do."

In regards to media buzz during the Synod due to comments by Raymond Cardinal Burke suggesting that the Church is like "a ship without a rudder," the Pope said that "those expressions strike me as odd."

"I am not aware of anybody using them. The media quote them," he said, admitting that "until I can ask the people involved, 'Have you said this?' I will have brotherly doubts."

The bishop of Rome also addressed the appointment of Cardinal Burke as patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, following his six years serving as prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura.

Announced shortly after the Synod, the decision has

drawn speculation from all sides, with many attributing the move to the Cardinal's comments during that meeting as well as his staunchly conservative viewpoints on canon law.

Pope Francis said that sometime before the Synod, Cardinal Burke had asked what he would be doing, since the Pope had not yet confirmed his position as prefect of the Signatura. The Pontiff responded by asking for some time while his advisors considered various proposals for the restructuring of the Church's legal system.

"I told him nothing had been done about it yet, and that it was being considered. After that the issue of the Order of Malta cropped up, and we needed a smart American who would know how to get around, and I thought of him for that position," the Pope said.

"I suggested this to him long before the Synod," he continued, explaining he wanted the announcement to be made after the Synod was over so Burke could participate in the discussions. As chaplain of Malta, His Eminence could not have been present, he explained.

"He thanked me in very good terms and accepted my offer. I even think he liked it. Because he is a man that gets around a lot, he does a lot of travelling, and would surely be busy there. It is therefore not true that I removed him because of how he had behaved in the Synod."

Additionally the Roman Pontiff spoke of the continuing reform of the Roman Curia, saying that it's a slow process. "We're tackling it little by little."

Pope Francis referred to the restructuring of the Institute for Religious Works, also called the Vatican Bank. They did "quite a good job there."

He revealed that when he was elected Pope he had been planning to retire, and that once he moved to the Vatican he had to start his plans again from scratch, that everything was new for him.

"From the start I said to myself, 'Jorge, don't change. Just keep on being yourself, because to change at your age would be to make a fool of yourself.'"

"That's why I've always kept on doing what I used to do in Buenos Aires, perhaps even making my old mistakes. But I prefer it like this, to be myself."

Even though he only has one lung, his health is good.

"I do have some aches and pains, and at my age ailments don't go unnoticed, but I am in God's hands. Up to now I have been able to work steadily." ❖



St. Sebastian, martyr, Feast: January 20

The Joy of Teaching (?)

by Mrs. Mara Russo

Having been a homeschooling mother for the last several years, my husband and I prayerfully decided to place five of our six children in traditional school this past year. (Translation: I was beginning to think that vodka might be an acceptable ingredient in my morning smoothie.)

I generally enjoyed homeschooling, and it was the best choice for our family while we did it. However circumstances arose that if left unchecked would have hindered my ability to successfully carry out my duties. (Translation: Teaching [not to mention a fuller-figure] and prison jump suits don't go well together.)

You think I'm exaggerating? Imagine frantically trying to locate your seventh-grader for his assessment test only to find him on the roof of the house in the act of leaping into the pool. ("Uh, I was, uhm, studying physics, mom...")

I was being pulled in so many directions that my children—precious little vessels of original sin that they are—often used this to their advantage. I would bet my life that they stayed up at night plotting against me.

"Okay, Dominic, you fake a sprained ankle. Then we'll give the baby a bottle of lighter fluid and teach her to say 'Molotov cocktail.' Peter, you cover yourself in shaving cream and run naked down the driveway. Mom won't know what hit her, she'll probably fall into a fetal position under the dining room table and start sucking her thumb and crying again! We could get the whole day off!"

But as the saying goes, "Age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill." Bwahahahaha. Like I stated above, we enrolled five of the children in regular educational institutions ("institutions" being the key word). I admit, I have crowed over their complaints about the structure and tedium of their new schools enough to have been mistaken for an entire flock of birds. I won't lie. It absolutely *thrills* me to know they are miserable but still getting smarter.

Don't judge. :-)

Because of financial circumstances, we could only enroll our youngest in Catholic school. The others attend the local public schools. They are good, but by their very nature, they can't provide what is most important, namely, the instruction in and reinforcement of our Catholic faith.

Canon law reminds us that we parents are the primary educators of our children. As such we have a responsibility to ensure that our children receive a solid, Catholic education. How best achieve that is up to us through prayer and discernment.

This month, during the week of January 25 through January 31, we celebrate Catholic schools. I am grateful that at least one of my children is getting an excellent Catholic education. I realize, however, that this doesn't let me off the hook in terms of ensuring her formation in the Faith.

Whatever method is chosen, a Catholic education mustn't begin and end with the school day, CCD class, or catechism lesson. In order for parents to fulfil their duty as primary educators of their children, we ourselves must first *live* the faith. It is not enough for children to learn about prayer, the sacraments, and who Jesus is. They must grow under the shelter of praying parents who live sacramental lives and who enjoy a personal relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ.

Although we will inevitably stumble along the way as we lead our families, all the while growing in faith ourselves, the attempt itself will at the very least keep us out of prison.

Most likely. ❖



Mara Russo is an only slightly insane wife, mother of six, and youth retreat leader.

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Carmela Manago
Executive Director

Vatican Discovers Millions of Euros Off Its Balance Sheet

London (*Catholic Herald*)—The Cardinal charged with sorting out the Curia's financial affairs has said Vatican reformers have discovered hundreds of millions of euros that did not appear on the Holy See's balance sheet.

Writing in *Catholic Herald* magazine, George Cardinal Pell says the discovery means the Vatican's finances are healthier than they first appeared.

He writes, "It is important to point out that the Vatican is not broke. Apart from the pension fund, which needs to be strengthened for the demands on it in 15 or 20 years, the Holy See is paying its way, while possessing substantial assets and investments.

"In fact, we have discovered that the situation is much healthier than it seemed, because some hundreds of millions of euros were tucked away in particular sectional accounts and did not appear on the balance sheet. It is another question, impossible to answer, whether the Vatican should have much larger reserves."

Last February, Pope Francis appointed Pell as prefect of the newly created Secretariat for the Economy, making him the most senior English-speaking official in the Vatican.

He explains reformers had to tackle an ingrained sense of independence among Vatican departments.

"I once read that Pope Leo XIII sent an apostolic visitor to Ireland to report on the Catholic Church there," he writes. "On his return, the Holy Father's first question was: 'How did you find the Irish bishops?' The visitor replied that he could not find any bishops, but only 25 popes.

"So it was with the Vatican finances. Congregations, Councils and, especially, the Secretariat of State enjoyed and defended a healthy independence. Problems were kept

'in house' (as was the custom in most institutions, secular and religious, until recently). Very few were tempted to tell the outside world what was happening, except when they needed extra help."

The cardinal suggests that for centuries, unscrupulous figures took advantage of the Vatican's financial naivety and secretive procedures.

Vatican finances were unregulated and allowed to "lurch along, disregarding modern accounting standards." But no longer: New structures and organizations are bringing Vatican finances into the twenty-first century and making their workings transparent with full accountability.

The cardinal writes, "A German princess once told me that many used to think of the Vatican as being like an old noble family slowly sliding towards bankruptcy."

They were expected to be incompetent, extravagant, and easy pickings for thieves. Already this misapprehension is dissolving.

"Donors expect their gifts to be handled efficiently and honestly, so that the best returns are achieved to finance the works of the Church, especially those aimed at preaching the Gospel and helping the poor escape from poverty. A Church for the poor should not be poorly managed."

Cardinal Pell says the involvement of lay experts is a fundamental part of the financial reforms. In the New Year, the Vatican will name a lay person as auditor general. This new figure will be answerable to the Pope but autonomous

and able to conduct audits of any agency of the Holy See at any time.

"These reforms are designed to make all Vatican financial agencies boringly successful, so that they do not merit much press attention," the cardinal writes. "Such ambitions cannot ensure that we will not find some static on the lines in the next year or so. But we are heading in the right direction."

The cardinal also discloses that bishops around the world are eager to learn lessons from the Vatican's financial overhaul.

"The responsibilities of the Secretariat for the Economy are limited to the Holy See, Vatican City State and the almost 200 entities directly answerable to the Vatican," he writes. "But already some cardinals and bishops have wondered aloud whether the new set of financial procedures and chart of accounts, introduced in November this year in the Vatican, might be sent to bishops' conferences for consideration and use. This is something for the future." ❖



George Cardinal Pell



Blessed Martyrs of Podiachia, Feast: January 24

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From the Streets of Richmond to Matagalpa, Nicaragua

Increasingly, Hanna boys have been going out into the community not only for internships, jobs, and various classes, but also to give their time and talents to charitable projects that help lift others up in times of need.

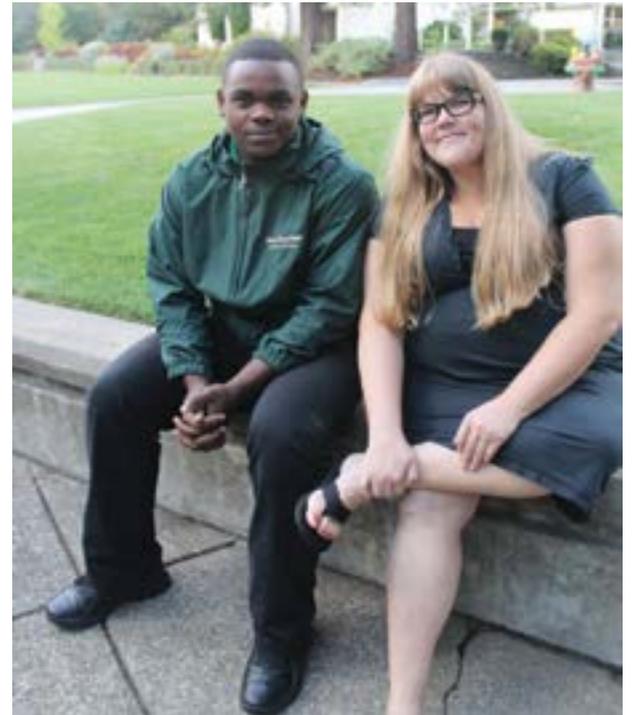
This past summer, Hanna High School senior Javarri McClay had the good fortune not only to engage in a construction project to help build homes for underprivileged families, but also to do so in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, after experiencing the first plane ride of his life. There is no way to overstate the dramatic transformation seen in Javarri's life since arriving at Hanna only last November. His addresses just prior to "Father O'Connor House, Hanna Boys Center" were the "Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility" in Byron, California, where he had been sentenced by juvenile court, and before that, "the streets of Richmond," where he had survived for several months mostly by stealing food from stores and stealing cars merely so he would have someplace dry to sleep.

While in Byron, he came under the guidance of the chaplain there, who made contact with Hanna on his behalf. "I was able to start over here," he says. "My life had been just trouble all over—violence, drugs, weapons, homelessness. My parents were gone, my grandmother couldn't take care of me. I had to steal just to survive."

Less than a year later, he had established such a clear record of accomplishment at Hanna that he was chosen to spend two weeks helping villagers pour concrete and erect the walls of a school in Matagalpa, accompanied by his cottage supervisor Liz Mortensen. In between work sessions, he tutored students, helped with crafts projects and even put on a basketball clinic for village youths.

The venture was part of the international outreach program "Seeds of Learning," a Sonoma-based nonprofit that Hanna has assisted in the past by providing facilities for the group's events.

Uncommonly self-possessed at such a young age, and possessing a straightforward, cordial manner, Javarri



Javarri McClay and cottage supervisor Liz Mortensen



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has come to view his Nicaragua experience through a sober lens.

"I learned to take nothing for granted and to quit complaining about my First World problems. I don't have the latest iPhone? These people have no place to live. They're just looking for banana leaves to cover themselves for the night. We're complaining about wants, not needs. It opened my eyes."

With graduation looming in December, Javarri has college applications at schools in Kentucky and Ohio, where he just visited on the second long-distance journey of his life.

One gets the clear sense it will not be his last.

Efforts Afoot to Increase Hispanic Population in Parochial Schools

As everyone knows, the number of Hispanic Catholics is rising in California and the United States as whole. Some estimate that they are a majority of the Catholic population in this diocese. Mass attendance amongst Latinos is off the charts.

Attendance at parochial schools hasn't kept pace, however. People of Hispanic descent make up 45 percent of the diocesan population in the Santa Rosa diocese, yet they account for just 16.3 percent of our elementary students and only 12.7 percent of secondary school scholars. In both instances, that is the second lowest percentage of California's dioceses.

Part of this is cultural. As Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, Bishop Daniel Flores noted in November, there is no parochial school system in Latin America. Where Catholic schools exist, they "are usually private and often unaffordable" to most families. "Parents do not know how to access the system, think they cost a lot of money, and without much further consideration, discard even the thought of inquiring," he said.

Regardless, the diocesan school superintendents have studied the problem and are developing ways to more aggressively go after Hispanic students.

Indeed, as one superintendent recently observed, if "we are not effective in enrolling Hispanic students, the future of Catholic schools is grim over the next several decades ..."

Part of this outreach will be a deliberate seeking, hiring, and effort to retain Latino teachers.

Another strategy will be to involve pastors. As a superintendent from a diocese south of Santa Rosa recently reflected, "the parish priest has the ability to directly influence Hispanic families to enroll their children in a Catholic school. [He] is held in high esteem by the Hispanic community. ... They are willing to take his advice when it comes to the welfare of the family and the children."

Of course financing is a huge concern as it is for nearly all potential students. Ways are being considered as to how to address that matter in a way that is equitable and won't ultimately lead to schools closing for lack of funds. ❖

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Team da Vinci Students Are Tomorrow's Computer Programmers

Team da Vinci, a parent volunteer-led afterschool program, wrapped up a fun trimester of computer programming at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School.

Some students in the fifth-through-eighth grades club created their own 3D animations. Others students made interactive games.

Both projects used Alice software, made popular and used by college students at Carnegie Mellon University. Students were provided laptop computers where they learned about logic, programming vocabulary, perspective with visuals, and timing.

One fifth grade student was overheard saying, "This isn't just science, this is *FUN* science!"

The sessions finished with the second annual 3D Animation and Interactive Game Showcase in November. This film festival gave family members the chance

to come and see the hard work and coding done by their relations. With a theme of "Powered by STEAM" students were proud to present their work created during their Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math workshop. These students aren't content to just play videos or video games—they actually create them!

Team da Vinci is inspired by the diversity of creative thought represented by Leonardo da Vinci. The group is open to fifth through eighth graders who want to invent, build, and learn. It will continue challenging SVES students with science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics with the winter microcontroller and robotics session.

To learn more about St. Vincent Elementary School and its other excellent programs, please visit the web site at www.SVElem.org or call 707-762-6426 for a tour. ❖



St. Agnes, Feast: January 21



Team Da Vinci students busy programming





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Bl. Maria Teresa Fasce, Feast: January 18

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Supermodel Becomes Consecrated Religious Local Boy Now Cistercian

from National Catholic Register and other sources



Madrid—A beautiful Spanish model has abandoned a flourishing career to become a Sister.

Several years ago, Olalla Oliveros, a beautiful and well known Spanish model who did advertisements, television commercials, and worked as an actress, turned away from modelling and acting to become a consecrated religious.

In November, she made her final vows with the semi-cloistered Order of St. Michael (*Orden y Mandato de San Miguel Arcángel*). The order—which consists of men and women religious—recently passed through a storm of scandal that saw its founder removed by the Church and arrested by civil authorities. The local bishop recently reinstated the institute under strict supervision and conditions. Oliveros is reluctant to talk about herself, but says she

had an “earthquake” experience on a visit to Fatima, Portugal (site of several famous appearances by Our Lady) and could not shake the image of herself dressed as a nun, which at the time she thought was absurd.

Eventually, she realized the image in her mind was a calling. “The Lord is never wrong. He asked if I will follow him, and I could not refuse,” Oliveros said.

Now she just wants to be an ordinary Sister.

Her former agent Mirella Melero told the Argentine blog *El Diario de Carlos Paz* Oliveros experienced her spiritual awakening right after producers had cast her in a movie.

“Being a model means being a benchmark, someone whose beliefs are worthy of being imitated, and I grew tired of being a model of superficiality.

“I grew tired of a world of lies, appearances, falsity, hypocrisy, and deception, a society full of anti-values that exalts violence, adultery, drugs, alcohol, fighting, and a world that exalts riches, pleasure, sexual immorality, and fraud.”

She began working with her religious community and now has a sense of peace.

“I want to be a model that promotes the true dignity of women and not their being used for commercial purposes,” she said.

“Now I live in peace; the world doesn’t appeal to me. I enjoy every moment the Lord gives me.” ❖



Oliveros in habit

by NCCstaff

God bless St. James parishioner Mrs. Pat Carr. She had noticed that several times over the past few months this newspaper had mentioned several diocesan natives who entered religious life. It bothered her, however, that one name was consistently left out.

Br. Christopher Cheney, OCSO, is the son of a friend, a native of Petaluma, and a graduate of Petaluma High School. He entered the Trappist Abbey of New Clairveaux in Vina, California, on August 15, 2007, took his first vows exactly two years later, and made his final vows on June 24, 2012. The gregarious young man currently serves as vocations director and guest master.

His abbey is best known because, according to one source, the limestone blocks to build it came “from the 800-year-old chapter house (meeting room) of the Cistercian monastery of Santa Maria de Ovila that once stood in Trillo, Guadalajara, Spain. William Randolph Hearst purchased and dismantled the chapter house of the old Spanish monastery in 1931 and had the stones shipped to California, intending to include them in Wynton, a grand home he was building in remote Northern California.

“Instead, Hearst gave the stones to the city of San Francisco as part of an arrangement to abate taxes that he owed. The stones sat in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park until 1994 when they were given to the abbey. The chapter house is being reconstructed outside the cloister of the Abbey of New Clairvaux. In October, 2008, the ancient chapter house’s gothic portal was completed. In 2009, construction on the interior of the chapter house began with gothic columns rising to their capitals.”

The abbey supports itself with wine made from grapes taken from vines planted by the late Stanford University founder and California Governor Leland Stanford. It has also partnered with Sierra Nevada Brewing Company to produce those delicious Trappist-style beers. ❖

Ex-NFL Star Turns Farmer

Louisburg, North Carolina—By 2012, Jason Brown had been in the National Football League for seven years and not only was one of the best centers in the NFL, but, at \$7.5 million-per-year, one of the best paid.

However that was the year he walked away from football. His agent told him this would be “the biggest mistake of your life.”

Brown didn’t care. He says he felt the Lord calling him back to his rural North Carolina roots ... to farm.

The problem was Brown had never farmed before. So he did what most people do when they want to learn something these days. He surfed the Internet and watched YouTube videos.

Recently he harvested his first crop of sweet potatoes and cucumbers.

He told CBS News, “When you see them pop up out of the ground? Man, it’s the most beautiful sight you can ever see.”

He considers himself a great success “not in man’s eye’s but in God’s eyes.”

“When I think about a life of greatness, I think about a life of service.”

Brown calls his farm First Fruits because his plan is to follow the biblical example of donating—or tithing—the first fruits of each season’s yield to local food pantries. This past summer, he not only gave the first fruits, he gave everything, 46,000 pounds of sweet potatoes and 10,000 pounds of cucumbers taken from five acres of land. He has 1,000 acres, and ultimately that land will put these food stuffs on the tables of the region’s poor, of which there are many.

Said one local organizer for area food banks, “It’s unusual for a grower to grow just to give away, and that’s what Jason has done.”

Brown says that as a Christian, he is called to give, and “Love is the most that you can give anyone.” ❖



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News Briefs

Diocesan

Several **St. Rose Church** parishioners were in attendance when the **Augsburg (Austria) Boys Choir** recently performed in the **Green Music Center** at **Sonoma State University**, including **Sr. Olive Murphy, RSM**, and **Bill and Mary Traverso**. Of course at the hall, everyone paid for the privilege of seeing these 40 young men sing in their angelic voices.

Imagine their delight, then, when the St. Rose parishioners saw the Choir fill up the church's first six pews after walking over from their downtown hotel.



Augsberg Boys Choir

During Mass, the boys sang the *Kyrie* and "The Lord is My Shepherd."

Said Sr. Olive, "It was very, very beautiful. Awesome, really. They were wonderful young men, and I was impressed by their effort to walk to St. Rose from their hotel to attend Mass, even with the way they filed into church. I thought, 'So reverent.' It was quite clear they were all very much church-going people. And the way they filed up to Holy Communion was very reverent. I thought, 'Wow, I wish I could see our American people receive like that.' We were very privileged that they chose St. Rose to come to Mass. It was just wonderful."

Press Democrat columnist **Chris Smith** later wrote, "[On December 8 the **Santa Rosa Symphony**] posted on its Facebook page a pretty sweet video of [the Choir] singing in the rain at **Armstrong Woods**." It is worth looking for.

Local Author Wins Award

Resurrection Church parishioner **Angela (née Lam) Turpin** recently won the 2014 **Memoir Discovery Contest** for her autobiography *Red Eggs and Good Luck*. The result is that **She Writes Press** will release the work in October 2015.

Red Eggs and Good Luck chronicles the journey of growing up as a Catholic Chinese-American in the Bay Area in the 1970s.



Angela Turpin

She told *NCC* in a statement, "As a biracial outcast, I learned to rely on my faith to overcome many obstacles even when it opposed the concept of luck the Chinese rely upon. When my father became dangerously ill when I was a preteen, the power of prayer rescued him from the brink of death and transformed our family's life for the better."

Turpin hopes to conduct readings and workshops at local parishes and schools to discuss the power of prayer with middle school and high school youth.

Additionally, she is the author of *The Human Act and Other Stories*; *Out of Balance*; *Legs*; and *Blood Moon Rising*. A book of her poetry, *Woman of Crystals*, sold out of its first printing.

She also publishes a monthly e-newsletter on the real estate and finance industries. You can learn more about her and her work at www.angelalامتurpin.com.

Scooby Wright keeps impressing

On Saturday, November 29, in a must win game against interstate rivals **Arizona State University Sun Devils**, the **University of Arizona Wildcats** and its star linebacker **Scooby Wright** (Cardinal Newman '12) not only won, but won big. Wright was a prominent part of that victory

when he forced a fumble early in the game, resulting in a defensive touchdown. The win combined with a loss by UCLA assured Arizona the Pac 12 South championship.

The 6'1", 246 lb. Wright's performance this year has not only led to his winning recognition as the Pac 12 defensive player of the year, but it made him eligible for the **Walter Camp Award** (given to college football's outstanding player), the **Chuck Bednarik Award** (given to the nation's best defensive player), and the **Heisman Trophy**, college football's premier award (while nominated, he was not a finalist for the honor).

Of the eight Heisman nominees, Wright—who is just a sophomore—was the only defensive player. Ultimately the award went to University of Oregon quarterback **Marcus Mariota**. In an October 2 game, Wright helped the 23 point underdog Wildcats seal a 31-24 win when he sacked Mariota and caused a fumble, which he recovered in the game's waning minutes.

Unfortunately when the two teams met again for the Pac 12 championship, Wright's efforts were not enough to stop an Oregon team that absolutely dominated time of possession. Arizona's offense was shut out in the first half and only scored 14 points to the Ducks' 51.

A small consolation prize came when he won the **Bronko Nagurski Award** given to the nation's best defensive player by the **Charlotte (NC) Touchdown Club**. And while he didn't win the Walter Camp Award, he did win the one named for Bednarik.

Upon receiving the award in Charlotte, the *Press Democrat* reports Wright "told the audience ... that Arizona was the only [major college program] to offer him a scholarship and that 'gave me a chip on my shoulder.'"

Chancery parents very proud

Two curial employees are walking a little prouder these days.

The diocese's Chief Financial Officer **Dave Adams**' son **Steve** qualified for the recent state cross country championships in Fresno. This was in spite of the fact that Adams has epilepsy.



Steve Adams

A senior at **Cardinal Newman High School**, Steve discovered he had the condition when he collapsed in an elevator while visiting West Virginia in his freshman year.

His coach **Chris Puppione** is amazed by the 17-year-old. "Steve is the guy who came off the floor of an elevator to run in the state meet," he told the *Press Democrat*. "This is like the **St. Louis Rams** taking a quarterback (**Kurt Warner**) from the Arena League who becomes the Super Bowl MVP"

He has gone public with his battle against epilepsy because, "By telling my story," said Adams, who has not suffered a seizure in at least six months, "I hope to inspire others. I didn't let it beat me. Overcome. Don't give up."

Among his other honors, he was named **Saucony/Heart and Sole Redwood Empire Runner** of the Week along with **Sydney Rvas of Maria Carillo High School**.

Maria Lemus has served as receptionist at the diocesan curia for 17 years. This past season, her son **Chris Lemus**—a 6'2", 275 lb. offensive lineman for the **Santa Rosa Junior College Bear Cubs** he helped lead to the **State Center Bowl**—was named to the **Big 6 All Conference Team**. Lemus, a graduate of **Rancho Cotate High School**, started playing



Chris Lemus

football as a freshman, moving to the varsity squad as a sophomore. His senior year, he played in the annual **Kiwanis All-Star Football Game**.

At this writing he is considering scholarship offers from **Minot State University** (North Dakota) and several other schools.

National

"Godmother of Punk" sings for the Pope

Patti Smith, the so-called "Godmother of Punk" who is best known for her cover of the Bruce Springsteen song "Because the Night," sang last month at the annual Vatican Christmas Concert. It follows her affecting performance at the 2013 concert.

The invitation and her acceptance drew criticism from every side, with conservative detractors calling her "blasphemous" and liberal critics labeled her a hypocrite.

In response the 67-year-old artist said, "I like **Pope Francis**, and I'm happy to sing for him."

One observer wrote, "The poet-rocker has often used religious imagery in her work, for a variety of purposes. She titled her most popular album, 1978's *Easter*, and included in the disc lyrics that quote Psalm 23. On the cover, a cross was placed on the credits below each band member's name. The last sentence of the liner notes quotes the Second Epistle to Timothy: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course..."

"The legendary rocker first met the Pope last spring, shaking his hand in St. Peter's Square. She has called Pope Francis 'very interesting'..."

"Recently, Smith told *The Independent* newspaper in the UK that she finds the Bible "very resonant today."

"It has everything—creation, betrayal, lust, poetry, prophecy, sacrifice," Smith told the paper. "It doesn't really matter what religion you are or if you have no religion, those stories are still relevant to what people go through in their lives and they're also beautifully written passages."

Smith contributed a song on mercy to the soundtrack of the movie *Noah*, and began a recent interview by expressing her admiration of **Pope Benedict XV** (1914-21).

Bill Murray on Saints, Music, Mass

London—In a recent interview supporting his latest movie *St. Vincent*, Bill Murray made some interesting, unexpected observations about the Catholic faith of his upbringing.

According to the British newspaper *The Guardian*, "His parents were Irish Catholics; one of his sisters is a [Religious with the Adrian (Michigan) Dominican Sisters]. This conspicuous religion adds to his broad Church appeal (there's a citation from the *Christian Science Monitor* on his golfing memoirs). You don't need to ask if his faith is important to him. He talks about how 19th-century candidates [for sainthood] risk not getting canonized because the Church is keen to push ahead with the likes of John Paul II and Mother Teresa. 'I think they're just trying to get current and hot,' he smiles.

"One new saint he does approve of is Pope John XXIII (who died in 1963). 'I'll buy that one, he's my guy; an extraordinary joyous Florentine [*Editor's note: Actually he was Bergamese, i.e., from Bergamo*] who changed the order. I'm not sure all those changes were right. I tend to disagree with what they call the new Mass. I think we lost something by losing the Latin. Now if you go to a Catholic Mass even just in Harlem it can be in Spanish, it can be in Ethiopian, it can be in any number of languages. The shape of it, the pictures, are the same but the words aren't the same."

"Isn't it good for people to understand it? 'I guess,' he says, shaking his head. 'But there's a vibration to those words. If you've been in the business long enough, you know what they mean, anyway. And I really miss the music—the power of it, y'know? Yikes! Sacred music has an affect on your brain.' Instead, he says, we get 'folk songs ... top 40 stuff ... oh, brother...'"

Speaking of his Catholic faith, one movie that appears on several Top 100 Catholic Films of All Time lists because of its themes (even though it is not one *per se*) is his 1993 film, *Groundhog Day*.

Chaput: Holy Family holds lesson on immigration

Philadelphia (CNA/EWTN News)—Faithful Catholics "need to remember that the Holy Family too was once a family of immigrants and refugees," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia said on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

He stressed, "We need to treat the undocumented among us with the mercy and justice we expect for ourselves."

Archbishop Chaput's December 12 statement connected the Holy Family's flight to Egypt to the stories of many immigrants today.

"Mary—our mother, the mother of the Church—had an intimate understanding of suffering, flight, homelessness and uncertainty," he said.

The archbishop said that Mary's honorific titles are "richly deserved" but "can sometimes obscure the human reality of Mary's life."

She was "a young woman of the rough Galilean hills,

pregnant, with a seemingly implausible story before her marriage to Joseph, who gave birth to her Child in the cold in a stable far from home and then, hunted by Herod, was forced to flee to Egypt.”

“At Guadalupe, Mary appeared not to the rich or powerful, or even to the local bishop, but to the poor peasant Juan Diego,” the archbishop continued. “Her tenderness to the poor is something we need to remember this Advent, because our Christian faith is more than a set of ideas or beautiful words. It’s meant to be lived. It’s meant to transform our thinking and our actions.”

While acknowledging that “the current White House has taken actions that a great many faithful Catholics regard as damaging,” Archbishop Chaput defended President Barack Obama’s decision to defer deportation for many undocumented immigrants and their families, saying it was “the right thing” to do.

On November 20, Obama issued an executive order staying the deportation of certain undocumented immigrant parents for up to three years and allowing them to work legally.

Deacon who rescued Chilean miners wins against Obama care

St. Joseph, Minnesota—Until November, Dcn. Greg Hall was best known as owner of the company that freed 33 Chilean miners in 2010.

However on November 26, he made history again when the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota issued a permanent injunction in the case of *Rev. Mr. (Deacon) Gregory E. Hall and American Mfg. Company v. Sylvia M. Burwell, et al.*

This is the first Minnesota federal decision that grants a permanent injunction to a for-profit company that challenged the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandated insurance coverage for abortifacients, sterilization, birth control, and related counseling.

On June 30, 2014, the United States Supreme Court, in the matter of Hobby Lobby Stores, held that small closely held companies may assert rights under the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act (RFRA). In light of the Hobby Lobby decision, the Department of Justice stipulated to the order that prohibits the HHS from enforcing the mandate insurance coverage against Dcn. Hall and AMC.

Dcn. Hall is the sole owner of AMC, which is located in St. Joseph, Minnesota, and currently has less than 50 employees. The company manufactures pumps and equipment used worldwide in the drilling and mining industries.

He is an ordained deacon for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Hall filed suit to prevent the federal government from forcing the company’s group health insurance plan to provide cost-free coverage for products and services that violate his deeply held religious beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church. The permanent injunction will allow AMC to continue to provide health insurance without the threat of penalties for non-compliance.

Texas teen convicted of Satanic murder

Houston (Christian Post)—A Houston teen, who claims to have sold his soul to the devil, was recently found guilty of capital murder by a jury for what has been deemed a satanic killing, rape, and mutilation of a 15-year-old girl.

After the jury deliberated for over an hour, 18-year-old José Reyes was given a life sentence without the option of parole but was spared from the death penalty because of the fact that he was only 17 when he killed his friend and classmate Corriann Cervante this past February.

Reyes said the murder occurred as part of a ritual that allowed his friend, Victor Alias, who’s also facing murder charges, to sell his soul to Satan. Reyes alleges he had sold his soul to the devil prior to that night. Alias, who is 16, will stand on trial at a later date.

Website shines light on abortion insurance

Washington DC (CNA)—A new website informing Americans whether or not their health plans cover abortion is up and running, with advocates saying it provides the transparency in the health care law that the government failed to deliver.

ObamacareAbortion.com seeks to “inform Americans about abortion coverage in **Obamacare** plans and expose the great difficulty in obtaining this information,” the **Family Research Council’s Arina Grossu** stated at a recent news conference.

Current US laws such as the **Hyde Amendment** prevent the federal funding of abortion for many government programs. However, the amendment does not apply to the **Affordable Care Act** (i.e., Obamacare), which has its own sources of funding, rather than seeking funding through the annual appropriations bills.

Debates over abortion funding in the 2010 health care law threatened to prevent its passage, as a group of **pro-life Democrats** said they would only support the legislation if abortion funding were excluded.

In response, **President Barack Obama** promised an executive order to ban this funding. At the time, numerous pro-life groups warned that the order was legally unenforceable and would have no actual impact on the legislation.

But a September report from the federal **Government Accountability Office** said the executive order had not been followed, and federal subsidies were funding abortions in more than 1,000 health plans across the country.

Catholic university makes opposition to same sex unions cause for harassment

Milwaukee (CNA/EWTN News)—An anti-harassment training presentation at a Catholic college encourages employees to report critics of “gay marriage”—and could reflect recent federal decisions that the belief in marriage as a union of a man and a woman is discriminatory.

Part of the employee anti-harassment training at the Wisconsin-based Jesuit-run **Marquette University** includes a presentation with a comic strip-style story about a fictional employee named “Harassed Hans,” a man in a wheelchair. The training encourages Hans to report to the university human resources his co-workers Becky and Maria who “have been talking about their opposition to same-sex marriage” all week.

“Their co-worker Hans is offended, but he struggles with whether to report the situation,” the comic says.

“Hans is right to report Maria and Becky’s conversation,” the presentation later adds.

The presentation shares the federal government’s new understanding that beliefs about marriage as a union only of one man and one woman can be a source of discrimination and illegal harassment.

Since 2012, the **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission** has held “sex stereotypes” like “the belief that men should only date women or that women should only marry men” to be illegal discrimination on the basis of sex. This is illegal under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the commission said in a news briefing on enforcement protections for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) workers.

Brian Dorrington, senior director of communications at Marquette University, told CNA that the university requires all employees, faculty, staff, and student employees, to complete an anti-harassment module “in accordance with federal law and university policy.” He added that harassment training “includes the latest changes in law, and workplace diversity training reflects developing regulations.”

He said the presentation uses “hypothetical scenarios” are “teaching tools do not necessarily equate to university policy.”

“They are simply tools to raise awareness of various forms of harassment that could arise,” he said, adding that any specific harassment case “would be reviewed on an individual basis.”

The Marquette University anti-harassment presentation says Hans eventually talks to human resources after another week of listening to Maria and Becky criticize “gay marriage.”

Becky is shown telling Maria that his complaint is “ridiculous.”

“I can’t believe he’s trying to trample on my free speech rights.”

Maria replies: “Why does he even care? Is he gay?”

The presentation continues:

“Even though Becky and Maria were only expressing their opinions and didn’t mean to offend, they could still be engaging in harassment. The complainant does not

need to be involved in the conversation to be offended. Hans’ sexual orientation is also irrelevant; he does not need to be gay to be offended by his coworkers’ discussion of same-sex marriage.”

The presentation said it is important that Hans “report potential harassment right away” because it will increase his credibility and give his employer a chance to investigate and “makes it less likely the offensive behavior will not recur.”

The presentation then displays a “liability avoidance tip.” “Although employees have free speech rights under the United States Constitution, in academic and other workplaces those rights are limited when they infringe upon another person’s right to work in an environment free of unlawful harassment.”

The presentation’s approach to marriage drew criticism from **Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse, PhD**, founder and president of the San Diego-based **Ruth Institute**. She suggests it is an example of the “irrational” nature of the Sexual Revolution and the redefinition of marriage.

Marquette is presently in a controversy over claims that a graduate student teaching an ethics class, in an after-class discussion, told a student that arguing against “gay marriage” could be offensive to homosexuals and the student did not have the right to make “homophobic” comments.

International

Leading Cardinal Critic Appointed Synod Organizer Vatican City (*Catholic Herald*)—**Wilfrid Cardinal Napier of Durban, South Africa**, has been added to the organizing committee for next year’s **Ordinary Synod on the Family**.

The appointment is seen as significant because Cardinal Napier was critical of the mid-term report in November’s Synod and is regarded as an influential voice in favor of Tradition.

Otherwise the committee remains the same, including **Archbishop Bruno Forte of Chieti Vasto, Italy**, who is seen as responsible for the most contentious aspects of the mid-term *relatio* (report).

Other members of the committee are **Luis Cardinal Tagle of Manila**, **Péter Cardinal Erdő of Esztergom-Budapest, Hungary**, **André Cardinal Vingt-Trois of Paris** and **Damasceno Cardinal Assis of Aparecido Brazil**.

The 2015 gathering will continue the work of last month’s Synod and will come up with pastoral guidelines. It will be attended by a much larger group of bishops.

Mom files suit after contraception fails

In 2010, British citizen **Katie-Kelly Ince** was 18 and wanted to be sexually active. So her mother **Paula** brought her to her local clinic where nurses inserted a matchstick-sized flexible rod under her skin that releases hormones to stop ovulation. The contraceptive prevents pregnancy in 99.95 percent of cases. Unfortunately for Katie’s plans, she fell within the .05 percent who become pregnant regardless. **Lifesite News** reports this was “because her implant wasn’t inserted properly by the medical staff at the clinic she visited.”

As a result she has filed a wrongful birth lawsuit against Great Britain’s publicly-funded **National Health Service**.

She “was devastated and cried hysterically for hours about her unplanned pregnancy. She had planned to train to become a dental nurse but now she thought those plans were impossible. She turned to her mother for help even though she thought she had ruined her life and was a disappointment to her family.”

“Despite the fact that Katie was ‘pro-choice’ and her pregnancy was unplanned, she didn’t have an abortion. Katie said, ‘I felt my mental state would be worse if I terminated than if I didn’t.’ Her mother argues that her decision to refuse abortion was partially influenced by her Catholic upbringing.

“Ultimately, Katie received £11,000 from the NHS, which is over \$17,000 in [American] dollars.... Katie was especially upset over the small amount she was awarded since women who were in the same situation received more money if they had abortions.”

“Now Katie’s daughter Niamh is four. Katie concluded, ‘Niamh knows how much I love her. She tells people her mummy loves her the “mostest” of anyone. When Niamh is older I will tell her she is the best accident I’ve ever had.’”



Corriann Cervante

Chinese Cardinal: Atheism Biggest Threat to Asia

Rome (CNA/EWTN News)—Hong Kong's retired prelate Cardinal Joseph Zen said that amid decades of communist rule in China, human values are at stake in all of Asia and can only be salvaged by fervidly preaching the gospel.

What threatens the continent most today, Cardinal Zen told CNA, "is a humanistic atheism; people who oppose God-to-man, man-to-God."

By looking to the history of China, it's clear "that communism has destroyed all human values. So to save human values we have to work hard to spread the good news of Jesus Christ," he said. "We have to preach God because only God can save man."

The retired cardinal gave his comments during a November 18 symposium on the Church in Asia, entitled "The mission in Asia: from John Paul II to Pope Francis."



Italy's return of millions to 'Vatican bank' indicates financial reform

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—The recent return to the "Vatican bank" of some \$28.8 million, seized because of alleged money laundering, closes a story that opened almost five years ago and accompanied the reform of Vatican finances.

In 2010, the Public Prosecutor of Rome made a preventive seizure of 23 million Euros transferred by the Institute for Religious Works (IOR, or "Vatican bank") from an account it held in the Italian bank Credito Artigiano, now Credito Valtellinese.

According to the prosecutor, the IOR had not given the Italian bank the needed information to carry out the obligation of "enhanced due diligence," that is, the identification of the account holder and of the origin of funds.

The seizure came in the midst of the Vatican's drafting of an anti-money laundering law, which it committed to drawing up after signing a Monetary Agreement with Europe in 2009.

The seizure worked as a source of pressure on Vatican officials, who drafted a law which largely agreed with Italian anti-money laundering law.

After the Vatican's anti-money laundering law came into effect in 2011, Rome's public prosecutor ruled that the preventive seizure could be revoked, but at the same time "funds remained bound because of unsolved issues connected with due diligence," as a Nov. 18 statement from the IOR said.

Its anti-money laundering law was first modified in 2012, and substantially rewritten in 2013, while the Institute for Religious Works and the Authority for Financial Information Italian staff has been replaced with a new staff, chosen with international criteria.

The IOR release denotes that "the repatriation of funds was carried out because the Holy See has introduced a solid system of prevention and countering of money laundering and financing of terrorism, and of oversight."

Despite the return of funds, the prosecution against the IOR's management remains open, and with this the question: Why is the trial still open if it was proven that the IOR did not launder money?

World War I's silver lining

Rome (CNA/EWTN News)—A Mass was said on Wednesday at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls to mark 100 years of restored diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the Holy See, a relationship first broken amid the English Reformation.

The UK's ambassador to the Holy See, **Nigel Baker**, was present at the December 3 Mass and stressed the significance of the anniversary coinciding with that of the beginning of World War I.

The reason relations were restored between the Holy See and the UK "was because of World War I," the ambassador told CNA.

"In a sense, it seems strange to be celebrating something that came out of WWI, the great human catastrophe, a calamity for Europe in particular," he said.

"But good things can come out of bad."

From the time of his election in 1914, **Benedict XV** "worked incredibly hard to try and bring the different warring powers to the peace table," he explained.

Diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the UK

were maintained during the Middle Ages until the English Reformation in the sixteenth century, a period marked by brutal persecution of Catholics throughout England.

Relations were officially ruptured in 1536 following **Henry VIII's** establishment of the Anglican Church. They were then re-established in 1553 by the Catholic **Queen Mary**, who reigned only five years, only to be broken again under the reign of her half-sister, **Elizabeth I**.

It was not until December 1914, that the UK re-established relations, with the assigning of **Henry Howard**, a Catholic, to the "Special Mission to the Vatican" with the aim of engaging, Baker said, "with the Holy See on issues of peace, war, and conflict."

"Every five minutes, a Christian dies in the Middle East" Madrid (CNA/EWTN News)—**Fr. Gabriel Nadaf** is a priest of the Greek Orthodox Church. He lives in Nazareth and faces death threats for publicizing the state of Christians in the Middle East.

Fr. Nadaf has a 24-hour security escort, the highest level of protection offered by Israeli authorities. However, during his recent trip to Spain, he told CNA that he is not afraid and has come "to make the voices of Christians in the East heard."

"What is happening in the Middle East is genocide, and it is happening today, now," Fr. Nadaf said. "Every five minutes, a Christian dies in the Middle East, and Muslim leaders know it"

The persecution of Christians has drawn attention from **Pope Francis** in recent months and was the subject of *The Global War on Christians*, a 2013 book by noted Vatican analyst **John Allen**, who wrote that 11 Christians have been killed every hour, every day, for the past decade. Attention to the plight of Christians in the Middle East has also risen with the escalation of ISIS.

Yet many advocates say there is still not enough awareness—or action—on behalf of the persecuted Christians, particularly those in the Middle East.

Knights donate \$2 million for Middle East refugee housing Washington DC (CNA/EWTN News)—The Knights of Columbus will spend more than \$2 million toward new homes for Iraqi and Syrian refugees, and not a moment too soon, said Supreme Knight **Carl Anderson**.

"We have tens of thousands of refugees in [Northern Iraq] who have been driven from their homes at the point of a gun. Many of them are sleeping outdoors, in hallways, three, four families together in a Christian school. And winter is coming," Anderson told CNA in a November 20 interview.

"So we have to provide something for them on a more permanent basis because this isn't going to be solved in the next few months or maybe even in the next few years," he continued. "What we don't want to have happen is people being born and dying in huge refugee camps, like what's happened to the Palestinians, for example. So it's important that we take some action."

Some construction on the houses began last month. More than 100,000 Christians have fled their homes in the Mosul region of Northern Iraq after Islamic State forces drove them out in their summer offensive. Many of the inhabitants had to leave most or all of their belongings behind, and refugees are now living in tents or schools.

The Church has been the sole source of aid to the refugees because the Iraqi government has done nothing, a member of the international aid group Aid to the Church in Need told CNA in October.

Christians, Muslims unite for justice over couple burned in kiln

Lahore, Pakistan, Nov 20, 2014 / 10:31 am (CNA/EWTN News)—In the two weeks since a Christian couple was killed by a Muslim mob in Pakistan, local leaders from both religions have come together repeatedly to call for justice in the matter, and an end to the misuse of blasphemy allegations.

On November 4, **Shahzad Masih** and his wife **Shama** were reportedly killed and their bodies burned by a mob after they were accused of desecrating the **Qur'an**. The couple lived in **Kot Radha Kishan**, a city located nearly 40 miles southwest of **Lahore**.

The couple worked at a brick kiln, and it has been reported that the kiln owner noticed Shama burning some

belongings of her recently-deceased father-in-law, and charged that some pages she burnt were from the **Qur'an**—he then detained them. They owed him money, and he refused to release them without being paid.

It was then announced from local mosques that the couple had desecrated the **Qur'an**, and a mob forced their way into the room where the Masihis were held and beat them. Reports vary as to whether or not the couple's bodies



were thrown into the kiln before or after their deaths.

The incident has led to calls for better justice and increased solidarity throughout Pakistan.

On November 18, a group of Muslim and Christian scholars and religious leaders met with **Mohammad Sarwar**, governor of **Punjab**, the province in which **Kot Radha Kishan** is located, "to express our deep shock on this barbaric act of burning alive, the fears of Pakistani Christian religious minority and our reservation on the follow up of this heinous crime," according to a report by **Fr. James Channan, OP**, director of the **Peace Center Lahore**.

The meeting "was also to listen to the point of view of the government of Pakistan and what strategy it has adopted to deal with such a crime and would justice be ever done?"

Fr. Channan was joined at the meeting by **Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi**, chairman of the **Pakistan Ulema Council**, and two Anglican bishops.

Sarwar condemned the killing, Fr. Channan reported, and "said that the case of **Radha Kishan** is a test case for the government of Pakistan. We want that all those who are involved in this heinous crime must be given exemplary punishment so that no one else dares to commit such a crime in (the) future. Our government will make sure that all the criminals are brought to justice."

The Dominican also noted that **Tahir Ashrafi** lamented that in the past, "no one was punished who attacked Christian villages and colonies. That is big question for me ... if they were penalized then this incident would have not taken place."

"He said we are with our fellow Christian citizens and we lament and mourn with them. He said that a group of 100 Ulema went to the site of the crime and condoled our Christian brothers and sisters. We are with you and will raise voice so that justice is done to you."

On November 12 the Pakistan Ulema Council demanded "that judicial inquiry should be conducted into the **Kot Radha Kishan** tragedy and the culprits must be brought to justice."

Scottish monk arrested

London (LifeSiteNews.com)—A Scottish monk has been arrested for distributing a series of leaflets in the Cambridgeshire area critical of homosexuality, fornication, contraception, euthanasia, abortion, and divorce.

Br. Damon Jonah Kelly, head of the Glasgow-based charity **the Black Hermits**, was arrested by **Cambridgeshire** police on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8 on suspicion of a Section 5 (religious/racial) public order offence after he wrote a letter to the homosexual news publication, *Pink News*, claiming responsibility for the distribution of leaflets in the city of **Ely**, as well as in **Cambridge**, **King's Lynn**, and several other Cambridgeshire towns and cities.

Initially police declined to take any action following a number of complaints about the leaflets, saying that neither the distribution of the leaflets nor the messages they contain were a crime, and in fact protected by free speech laws.

A spokeswoman for the police said in a statement to *Ely News*, "Leaflets of a homophobic nature were distributed in Cambridge earlier this year. Additionally, similar material has been distributed in other areas of the county and indeed, the country."

"While the material being distributed earlier this week will in many cases offend, irritate, shock or disturb, the content,

context and actions of the male concerned fall short of any criminality at this time,” the spokeswoman added.

However, once the source of the leaflets identified himself, the police arrested him. They then released him on bail with a promise to appear on January 20.

Eleven-year-olds plan gay club at Catholic elementary school Ottawa (LifeSiteNews.com)—Two eleven-year-old girls from Ottawa are planning to start a “gay-straight alliance” club at their Catholic elementary school after the **Ottawa Catholic School Board** recently approved their controversial project on “gay rights” amidst national media coverage.

Homosexual activist **Jeremy Dias**, founder of Jer’s Vision, who had lunch with the girls after the story hit the headlines, was instrumental in encouraging them to launch the homosexual club, reports a homosexual news service.

Quinn Maloney-Tavares and **Polly Hamilton** of Ottawa’s **St. George Catholic School** hope that successfully recruiting students to form a GSA will be the crown of their “gay rights” project. On top of this, the girls have been invited to participate in an OCSB focus group meeting every two years to monitor the climate of inclusivity and diversity in the board’s schools, said one of the girls’ moms.

St. George principal **Ann Beauchamp** had initially told them that the “gay rights” presentation, which the girls said would show why it’s “rude” to “make being gay a bad thing,” was inappropriate given the age of the audience.

The school board backed her decision, but then, amidst front-page coverage from the *Ottawa Citizen*, CBC, the *Ottawa Sun*, and other major media, the board reversed its decision.

“It’s quite clear in there that Catholic schools do respect and welcome all and are prepared to, if you want to talk about presentations, allow presentations,” Director of Education **Julian Hanlon** told *Ottawa Citizen*. “That information is already out there.”

Pakistani Christians really against Taliban school violence Toba Tek Singh, Pakistan—On December 16, nine **Pakistani Taliban** jumped the wall of a school in **Peshawar** mostly attended by children of military personnel and began killing students indiscriminately, leaving over 145 dead, including some teachers.

The next day in a show of solidarity, the Christian community of **Toba Tek Singh** protested against the brutal killing. During the protest, religious leaders and organizations condemned this insane act. A peaceful rally started with prayer and then moved from the Christian colony and ended at **Shabaz Chowk**, a Toba Tek Singh monument.

At the end of the march, candles were lit to pay a tribute to those killed in these deadly terrorist attacks. Prayers for their families were offered, that God may give them patience to bear this incident.



Christians in Toba Tek Singh protest murder of school children. Fr. Khurshid holds the sign on the left.

Everyone also prayed for all those who were injured in this incident. The Christian community, says **Fr. Simon Khurshid**, pastor of **Immaculate Conception Church** in the city, will continue praying for all those children, teachers, and their families.

Pope: Muslims must speak out against terrorism, violence Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—On his in-flight press conference returning from a three-day trip to Turkey, Pope Francis said that Muslim leaders around the world must speak out against violence and terrorism carried out in the name of Islam.

“I believe sincerely that it can’t be said that all Muslims are terrorists. You can’t say that. Just as you can’t say that all Christians are fundamentalists because we have them

too, eh. In all religions, there are these little groups,” he said Nov. 30.

“I told the (Turkish) president that it would be nice if all the Muslim leaders, whether political leaders or religious leaders or academic leaders, say that clearly and condemn it, no?” he continued, explaining that “all of us need a worldwide condemnation, also from Muslims who have the identity who say ‘We aren’t that. The Qur’an isn’t that.’”

The Pope also offered a firm warning on the situation of Middle East Christians.

“Truly, I don’t want to use sweetened words. Christians are being chased out of the Middle East. Sometimes, as we have seen in Iraq, the area of Mosul, they have to go away and leave everything, or pay the tax which doesn’t do any good.”

Speaking of broader violence throughout the world, Pope Francis said he believes “that we are living through a third world war, a war in pieces, in chapters, everywhere.”

“Behind this, there are rivalries, political problems, and economic problems, to save this system where the god of money and not the human person is at the center. And behind this, there are also commercial interests: arms trafficking is terrible; it is one of the strongest businesses of this time.”

He cautioned that while humanity has discovered the positive good of nuclear energy, it has also used this energy for destructive means.

Asked about his trip to Turkey, Pope Francis emphasized ecumenism. He spoke about the importance of dialogue based on shared experience.

The Holy Father voiced his conviction that Catholics are moving forward in their relationship with the Orthodox, who have both the sacraments and apostolic succession.

“Unity is a journey we must undertake together,” praying and working together, he said, also noting “ecumenism of the blood,” as both Catholic and Orthodox martyrs shed their blood for the Christian faith.

Division exists when the Church becomes self-referential rather than focusing outward, the Pope stated. But while there are still difficulties, “we must be respectful and not tire of engaging in dialogue, without insulting others, without dirtying ourselves, without gossiping.”

In addition, Pope Francis spoke about a particularly intense moment of prayer he had during the papal trip.

He explained that he came to Turkey “as a pilgrim, not as a tourist,” and “the main reason was the feast today to share it with Patriarch Bartholomew, a religious reason.”

“But then, when I went into the mosque, I couldn’t say, ‘No, now I’m a tourist.’ No, it was all religious,” he said. “I saw those marvels, also the Mufti explained the things well to me with so much meekness, with the Quran where it spoke of Mary and John the Baptist. And he explained it all to me and in that moment I felt the need to pray. And, I said to him, ‘Shall we pray?’ And he said, ‘Yes, yes.’ I prayed for Turkey, for peace, for the Mufti, for everyone, for myself because I need it. And, we truly prayed. And, I prayed especially for peace. Lord, let’s end wars. It was like that. It was a moment of sincere prayer.”

He also spoke of his visit with refugee children and his desire to visit Iraq.

“For the moment it isn’t possible. It’s not that I don’t want to go, but if I went right now it would cause a quite serious problem for the authorities, for security. But, I would really like to and I want to,” he said.

Pope to create new cardinals next month

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—**Pope Francis** will hold a consistory for the creation of new cardinals February 14-15, 2015, the **Holy See** announced last month, adding the consistory will follow meetings on the reform of the **Roman Curia**.



According to *Universi Dominici Gregis*, **St. John Paul II’s** apostolic constitution governing conclaves, the maximum number of cardinal electors must not exceed 120, and the age limit to take part to a conclave is set at 80.

When Pope Francis will hold the consistory, there will be 110 voting cardinals; in June, three cardinals will turn 80 (the age cardinals are no longer eligible to vote in a conclave), and so there will be 107 voting cardinals; and by November, there will be 105 voting cardinals.

In the course of the next year, Pope Francis will thus have the option of creating 15 voting cardinals.

Those chosen for receiving the red hat are typically the bishops and archbishops of “cardinal sees,” that is, those dioceses that have historically been run by a cardinal.

Examples in this country would be New York and Philadelphia. Such sees can change, however. The **Archdiocese of St. Louis** was once a cardinal see, but it has not been since **John Cardinal May** died in 1992. Similarly, the **Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston** was only a simple diocese until 2004. Its current ordinary, **Daniel Cardinal DiNardo** received the red hat in 2007.

If they are not already, the heads of major Vatican dicasteries also become cardinals as a matter of course. For instance, **Archbishop Dominique Mamberti**, who recently became prefect of the **Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura** (akin to our Supreme Court) will probably receive this dignity.

The Pope may also make cardinals out of people who have passed the maximum voting age of 80 and who have rendered great service to the Church. This is most often done with great theologians (as with the late American **Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ**) but has even been done with laymen.

The final category is the cardinal who is created *in pectore* (Latin: “in the bosom”). This is someone who a pope created as a cardinal secretly, because releasing his name would either jeopardize his safety or that of his community. The person’s name must be released before the pope who made the appointment dies. Otherwise, his cardinalate expires and his name will remain known to God and the Supreme Pontiff alone. The most famous recent example of this is the late **Ignatius Cardinal Kung**, the long-imprisoned Chinese bishop of Shanghai. St. John Paul II named him cardinal *in pectore* in 1979 but didn’t publicly reveal the fact until 1991, several years after Kung’s three decades of imprisonment had ended. John Paul named three other cardinals *in pectore*, all but one of whose names were eventually revealed.

In his first consistory, held February 22, 2014, Pope Francis created 16 voting cardinals, and three non-voting.

Francis: Mary teaches us

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—In his Angelus address for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, **Pope Francis** said because everything we have received is “a gift freely given by God,” we too must “become a gift for others.”

“The message of today’s feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary,” the Pope said at St. Peter Square, can be summarized as follows: “Everything is a gift freely given by God, everything is grace,” and everything is given because “of his love for us.”

The feast of the Immaculate Conception, commemorated annually on Dec. 8, is the day in which the Church celebrates Mary having been conceived without original sin.

Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel account of the Annunciation, during which Gabriel declares Mary to be “full of grace.”

“In her there was no room for sin,” he said, for “God had chosen her (from the beginning) to be the mother of Jesus,” thus preserving her from “original sin.”

The Holy Father noted Mary’s receptivity to grace, and her abandonment to the words of the Angel: “Be it done unto me according to your word.”

“She did not say ‘I will act according to your word’: no! Rather: ‘Be it done unto me...’”

Mary’s response, Pope Francis said, shows “that we must abandon ourselves to God” in order to truly be conformed “to his will.” ❖

Noticias en español

Esposo de Asia Bibi pide el perdón al presidente de Pakistán

Roma (ACI/EWTN Noticias)—“Nadie debería ser muerto por beber un vaso de agua”, son las palabras de **Ashiq Masih** en la carta abierta en la que pide al presidente de Pakistán, **Mammoon Hussain**, perdonar a su esposa **Asia Bibi** y evitar así que se le aplique la pena de muerte por la ley de blasfemia; para luego poder emigrar a Francia con ella y sus cinco hijos.

Asia Bibi fue condenada a muerte bajo la ley de blasfemia en 2010. El año anterior, mientras recogía fruta con otras mujeres musulmanas, Bibi fue al pozo local a tomar un poco de agua. Inmediatamente fue acusada de haber hecho impura el agua para el resto de trabajadores por su condición de cristiana.



Asia Bibis

La carta, firmada el 17 de noviembre, fue escrita por Ashiq luego de visitar a su esposa en la prisión de Multan donde se encuentra hace ocho meses. “Vivimos con miedo; nuestra familia se ve amenazada. Vivo escondido con mis cinco hijos lo más cerca posible de Asia. Ella nos necesita mucho para mantenerse con vida, para llevarle medicinas y comida en buen estado cuando está enferma”, narró.

El esposo recordó que tras cuatro largos años esperaron que el tribunal de Lahore liberara a su esposa, pues ella “nunca blasfemó”. Sin embargo, los jueces confirmaron la pena de muerte el 16 de octubre. “No entendemos por qué nuestro país, nosotros pertenecemos a Pakistán, está contra nosotros”, agregó en la carta divulgada por *The New York Times* el 19 de noviembre.

“Somos cristianos pero respetamos el Islam”, expresó Ashiq, y aseguró que incluso muchos de sus amigos musulmanes no entienden por qué la justicia hace sufrir a su familia.

“Estamos convencidos de que Asia sólo se salvará de ser ahorcada si el venerable presidente Mammoon Hussain le concede un indulto. Nadie debería ser muerto por beber un vaso de agua.”

“Mis cinco hijos y yo solo hemos sobrevivido gracias a la protección de unos pocos amigos fieles que arriesgan sus vidas todos los días (...), muchas personas nos quieren muertos”, alertó.

Finalmente, la carta de Ashiq termina con un mensaje de su esposa Asia: “Mi celda no tiene ventanas y el día y la noche son lo mismo para mí, pero si todavía me mantengo es gracias a cada uno que trata de ayudarme. Cuando mi esposo me mostró las fotografías de gente que nunca he conocido bebiendo un vaso de agua por mí, mi corazón se desbordó. Envío mi más profundo agradecimiento a toda la gente buena del mundo. Son mi única esperanza de permanecer viva en este calabozo, por favor no me abandonen. No cometí blasfemia.”

¿Qué dijo el Papa Francisco sobre los cobros en las parroquias?

Vaticano (ACI)—La homilía de la misa matutina del Papa Francisco en la residencia Santa Marta ha tenido como protagonistas a aquellos que tienen la tentación de hacer negocio en las parroquias en lugar de servir para que la gente se encuentre con el Señor.

El Pontífice ha comentado el popular pasaje del Evangelio en el que Jesús expulsa a los mercaderes del templo. Según ha explicado, Jesús actúa de esta manera porque “el templo había sido profanado”, profanado “con el pecado tan grave que es el escándalo.”

Comentando la escena, el Santo Padre ha explicado que “la gente es buena, iba al Templo, no tenía en cuenta estas cosas; buscaba a Dios, rezaba... pero debía cambiar las monedas para poder hacer ofrendas.”

El Pueblo de Dios “iba al templo, no por esta gente, por los que vendían, sino que iban al templo a encontrarse con Dios” y “allí se daba la corrupción que escandalizaba al pueblo.”

A continuación, se refirió al escándalo que un cristiano puede generar con su comportamiento, “con nuestras costumbres no sacerdotales en el Templo, el escándalo del comercio, el escándalo de la mundanidad... Cuantas veces vemos que entrando en una iglesia, todavía hoy, está la lista de precios”, por recibir el bautismo, la bendición, las intenciones de la Misa, lo que hace que se escandalice el pueblo.

El Papa Francisco contó una anécdota sobre este asunto: “una vez, apenas ordenado sacerdote, estaba con un grupo de universitarios, y quería casarse una pareja de novios. Habían ido a una parroquia: pero querían casarse con una Misa. Y allí, el secretario parroquial dijo: ‘No, no se puede, ¿Pero por qué no se puede con la Misa? Si el Concilio recomienda hacerlo siempre con una Misa...’ - ‘No, no se puede, porque si dura más de 20 minutos no se puede’ - ‘Pero ¿por qué?’ - ‘Porque hay otros turnos’ - ‘Pero nosotros queremos Misa’ - ‘Entonces paguen dos turnos’. Y para casarse con la Misa tuvieron que pagar dos turnos. Esto es un pecado de escándalo.”

Para aclarar el asunto, el Papa precisó que “cuando los que están en el Templo, sean sacerdotes, laicos, secretarios, que tienen que manejar la pastoral del templo, se convierten en negociantes, el pueblo se escandaliza.”

“Y nosotros somos responsables de esto. También los laicos, ¿eh? Todos. Porque si hoy veo que en mi parroquia se hace esto, debo tener la valentía de decírselo al párroco a la cara. Y la gente sufre ese escándalo. Es curioso: el Pueblo de Dios sabe perdonar a sus sacerdotes, cuando tienen una debilidad, resbalan hacia un pecado... Sabe perdonar.”

“Pero hay dos cosas que el Pueblo de Dios no puede perdonar: un sacerdote apegado al dinero o un sacerdote que maltrata a la gente. ¡Esto no lo perdona! Y el escándalo, cuando el Templo, la Casa de Dios, se convierte en una casa de negocios, como el matrimonio: se alquila la Iglesia.”

En definitiva, “no se puede servir a dos señores: o le das culto al Dios vivo o le das culto al dinero, a las riquezas”, dijo el Papa, quien a continuación dio las claves para entender por qué Jesús actúa de esta manera: “Pero, ¿por qué Jesús la ha tomado contra el dinero, contra las riquezas? Porque la redención es gratis, la gratuidad de Dios es la que Él viene a traernos, la gratuidad total del amor de Dios. Y cuando la Iglesia se convierte en negocio, se dice que... la salvación no es tan gratuita... Por esto Jesús coge el látigo en la mano para hacer este rito de purificación en el Templo.”

Para terminar, el Pontífice recordó que la liturgia de hoy celebra la Presentación de la Virgen en el Templo. “Que Ella nos enseñe a todos, a todos los párrocos, a todos los que tienen responsabilidades pastorales, a mantener limpio el templo, a recibir con amor a los que vienen, como si cada uno de ellos fuese la Virgen”, concluyó.

Pésame Obispos de México por Alexander Mora, uno de los 43 desaparecidos de Ayotzinapa

México, DF (ACI)—Los obispos de la **Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano** (CEM) expresaron su solidaridad y cercanía con **Ezequiel Mora**, padre de **Alexander Mora**, uno de los 43 desaparecidos de **Ayotzinapa** cuyos restos fueron identificados por los peritos forenses argentinos que trabajan en este caso.

La CEM informó que este martes, 9 de diciembre a mediodía, a nombre de todos los Obispos de México, **Mons. Carlos Garfias Merlos**, Arzobispo de Acapulco, y **Mons. Eugenio Lira Rugarcía**, Obispo Auxiliar de Puebla y Secretario General de la CEM,



llamaron telefónicamente a Ezequiel Mora.

En la llamada los obispos expresaron “su pésame por el cruel y reprochable asesinato de su hijo Alexander, asegurarle sus oraciones por su eterno descanso y para que Dios conceda fortaleza a toda la familia Mora Venancio, y su solidaridad en su exigencia de justicia.”

Ezequiel Mora, dice la nota del episcopado, “agradeció la atención de los Obispos y la cercanía en todo momento de su párroco, **P. Agustín Arvizón** y de su comunidad.”

Según informa *Noticieros Televisa*, el estudiante Alexander Mora Venancio, normalista de Ayotzinapa desaparecido en septiembre pasado en Iguala, es velado en ausencia en su casa de la comunidad de El Pericón en Tecoaapa, en el estado de Guerrero.

Su padre Ezequiel Mora Chora confirmó que los peritos forenses argentinos que trabajan en la identificación de los restos óseos encontrados en el basurero de Cocula, Guerrero, le informaron el viernes pasado, en Ayotzinapa, que al menos dos de los huesos encontrados corresponden a su hijo Alexander.

La última vez que Alexander, el más pequeño de los ocho hijos de don Ezequiel, fue a su casa en la comunidad de El Pericón, municipio de Tecoaapa, fue el pasado 16 de septiembre, 10 días antes de desaparecer en Iguala junto con 42 de sus compañeros tras ser atacados por policías municipales.

Mora dijo además que “voy a esperar supuestamente los restos que van a llegar, más o menos como en unas dos semanas, según me dijeron. Creo que como dos restos, dicen los argentinos, dos pedacitos chiquitos. Me dijeron los argentinos que de esos dos huesitos alcanzaron a sacarle los estudios de ADN.”

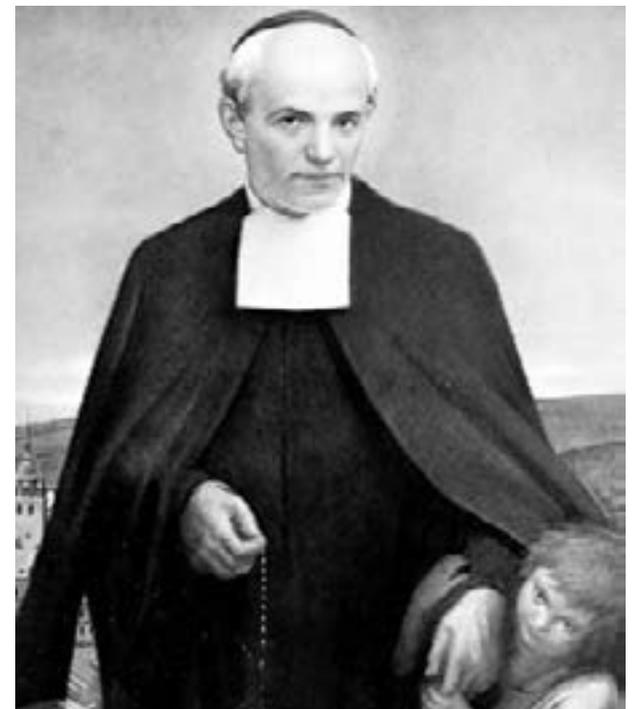
“Vivimos un milagro,” diga arzobispo mexicano

Vaticano (ACI)—El Secretario para los Seminarios de la **Congregación para el Clero**, el Arzobispo mexicano **Jorge Patrón Wong**, afirmó que en la Misa que el Papa Francisco celebró este viernes por la fiesta de la **Virgen de Guadalupe** “experimenté que vivimos un milagro.”

En declaraciones a ACI Prensa luego de la Misa que se celebró en la Basílica de San Pedro, el Arzobispo comentó que “vivimos un milagro con el primer Papa latinoamericano y con ver luego la Basílica de San Pedro convertida en una gran parroquia latinoamericana.”

El prelado, que fue uno de los cardenales y obispos llegados desde distintos lugares de América para esta importante ocasión, dijo que se sintió en profunda sintonía con los latinoamericanos, con sus “esperanzas, oraciones y las lágrimas de millones. Me sentí también en sintonía con el corazón del Papa que en las plegarias colocamos nuestra esperanza y nuestro corazón.”

Mons. Patrón Wong dijo luego que haber estado en esta Misa, como mexicano y latinoamericano, le permitió ahondar “la experiencia de ser de América Latina es la de saber que las dificultades se pueden vencer cuando está Dios y cuando dejamos que María nos haga mejores discípulos y misioneros de Cristo.” ❖



St. Louis-Joseph Wiaux, Feast: January 30

Beato Manuel González García: El obispo de los sagrarios abandonados

“Jesús en el Sagrario está callado, se ha obligado a perpetuo silencio. Y no obstante lo riguroso e impenetrable de éste, cualquiera que tenga oídos y se acerque a las puertas de los Sagrarios que se ha buscado para vivir en la tierra Sacramentado, oírás que del fondo de ellos surge a modo de suspiro, que las más de las veces suena a grito de angustia, el ¡TENGO SED! de su última hora de Cruz.”

Nació en Sevilla el 25 de febrero de 1877. En septiembre de 1889, ingresó en el Seminario Menor de Sevilla. Escribió, “Si mil veces volviera a nacer, mil veces volvería a ser sacerdote.”

Es ordenado por el cardenal Spínola, fundador del periódico El Correo de Andalucía, donde colabora desde su época de seminarista. Celebra su primera misa el 29 de septiembre de 1901, en la iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad, consagrada a María Auxiliadora, a la que siempre se encomendó como mediadora.

Fue enviado por el arzobispo de Sevilla a Palomares del Río, un bello y recoleto pueblo del Aljarafe sevillano, pero nadie salió a recibirle. La iglesia se encontraba en el más grande abandono: polvo, suciedad, telarañas hasta en el Sagrario, manteles rotos. Viendo esta situación se arrodilló ante Jesús Sacramentado y pensó en la cantidad de Sagrarios abandonados que habría en el mundo. Es así como nace la semilla de su futura Obra: Las Marías de los Sagrarios, las Marías Eucarísticas Nazarenas, Discípulos de San Juan, Niños Reparadores.

Con 28 años es enviado por sus superiores a Huelva donde encuentra muchos niños sin escuela, golfillos callejeros. A ellos les dedica su principal atención fundando escuelas y organizando catequesis con la ayuda de sus feligreses.

El 6 de diciembre de 1915 el Papa Benedicto XV lo nombra obispo auxiliar de Málaga. Celebró su nombramiento con un banquete al que invitó, no a las autoridades, sino a los niños más pobres de Málaga. Tres mil niños acudieron a la fiesta y luego acompañaron al nuevo obispo al hasta el Palacio Episcopal. Ahí permaneció hasta que en la noche del 11 de mayo de 1931, con la proclamación de



Memorial: 4 de enero

la República, una revuelta popular lo expulsa e incendia el Palacio destruyéndolo todo.

El 5 de agosto de 1935 es nombrado nuevamente obispo de Palencia por el Papa Pío XI. En medio de una visita a Zaragoza en 1939 cae gravemente enfermo por lo que se le traslada a Madrid, lugar en el que muere el 4 de enero de 1940. Antes de morir pidió ser enterrado junto a un sagrario. Dijo, “Pido ser enterrado junto a Sagrario, para mis huesos, después de muerto, como mi lengua y mi pluma en vida, estén siempre diciendo a los que pasen: Ahí está Jesús, ahí está; no dejadlo abandonado.”

Cumpliendo su voluntad fue enterrado a los pies del sagrario de la catedral de Palencia.

Novena

Corazón de Jesús Sacramentado, que te dignaste elegir a tu siervo Manuel para ser el apóstol de tus Sagrarios abandonados, consagrando su vida entera a reparar esos abandonos, dándote y buscándote amorosa, fiel y reparadora compañía en el Santísimo Sacramento; por aquella fidelidad con que te sirvió durante toda su vida y por el celo ardiente con que procuró tu mayor gloria, mediante la educación cristiana de los niños pobres, la formación de sacerdotes santos y la aproximación de todos a Ti en la sagrada Eucaristía, te rogamos humilde y fervorosamente, que si te agradan sus méritos y virtudes, te dignes aceptar nuestras súplicas y concedemos por su intercesión, la gracia que de todo corazón te pedimos si ha de ser para mayor gloria de Dios, advenimiento de tu reino eucarístico, honor de tu Madre Inmaculada, exaltación de tu fidelísimo Siervo y provecho de nuestras almas. Amén.

Padrenuestro, Avemaría y Gloria

Se ruega a quien obtenga gracias y favores por intercesión del beato Manuel González lo comunique a la Causa de Beatificación. C/ Tutor 15-17. 28008 Madrid (España).

Successful Year for Rural Food Program

The St. Philip/St. Teresa Rural Food Program reports that during this past fiscal year (July 2013-June 2014), it served 1,376 families, a 9 percent increase from last year. The parish's monthly collection for the food bank brought in \$20,923, which also represented a 9 percent increase. Additional donations brought in \$5,047.

Donated goods—including paper bags provided by Jim and Jackie Smit—were valued at \$568, and Catholic Charities provided breakfast cereal valued at \$1,500.

Perhaps most impressively, the recently concluded fiscal year saw people contribute 1,433 hours of volunteer service.

Thanks to a generous grant from the McCann Family Foundation, St. Philip/St. Teresa secured additional funding to support the “Betty Bag” program, which gives families with children an additional bag of nutritious groceries (named in memory of Betty Gluch, the bags include milk and juice), enabling the distribution of 348 bags last year.

The Freitas Family Foundation also provided a generous grant that has supported additional produce purchases

from Andy's Produce to provide healthy vegetables and fruit for client families.

Additionally, this year, the initiative expanded its offerings to include a choice of ground turkey, ground beef, healthier snack foods, and more low sodium/low sugar canned fruits and vegetables.

In 2015, the RFP will survey clients regarding their needs for additional healthy options. Many, including a growing senior population, deal with diabetes, gluten intolerance, and other health issues that require nutritious groceries not available from Redwood Empire Food Bank, the RFP's main grocery source. A possible source for these foods will likely be Food For Thought in Forestville.

Those with questions about the Rural Food Program should contact the parish office 707-874-3812 or by email at roddemar@comcast.net. The initiative's leaders ask readers to consider visiting the program and lending a hand if able.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. ❖



Bl. Queen Maria Cristina di Savoia, Feast: January 31



St. Genoveva Torres Morales, Feast: January 5

St. Mary's in Ukiah Continues Plowshares Involvement

Ukiah—This past Thanksgiving St. Mary of the Angels Church in Ukiah continued its longstanding history with Plowshares. Sr. Jane Kelly, PBVM, started Plowshares



back in the 1980s with community activist Martin Bradley. Parishioners have always helped to staff it and to serve on its board. The parish's school has helped with the collection and preparation of food for the Thanksgiving meal for over 15 years, as well.

This year, the various classes donated the following foodstuffs: Kindergarten, packets of gravy; first grade, dry stuff-

ing mix; second grade, canned green beans; third grade, brown sugar; fourth grade, marshmallows; fifth grade, potatoes; sixth grade, butter; seventh grade, onions; and eighth grade donated several 10 pound turkeys.

For parishioners, their involvement with Plowshares at Thanksgiving is especially important because it is a time to remember the ways that God has blessed us. It is thus a time to remember that there are people around us who do not have enough to eat, who have no place to live, and don't have enough warm clothes to protect them from the cold and rain.

Plowshares feeds hungry people a hot meal every evening during the week. To help them prepare a special banquet for Thanksgiving Day, Plowshares gave St. Mary a list of foods they needed for the meal. Parishioners brought the food to the altar, and Fr. Biju Thalupadath, IdM, blessed the food. ❖

Obituaries



Former North Coast teacher dies

Orange—This office has just learned of the passing of Sr. Joan Cunningham, OSJO, who died peacefully at age 92 on October 30, 2014, at her home, a convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Sr. Joan was a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange for 68 years and led a remarkable life of service.

Sr. Joan's affinity for public service reached back to her earliest days. She desired to be a nurse since elementary school and fulfilled that dream upon graduating from St. Joseph Divine Mercy Hospital in Dubuque, Iowa. It was 1943, and within weeks of completing her state board exams, she joined the navy. She was stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, as well as Great Lakes, Illinois and Bethesda, Maryland.

"Mostly I took care of sailors and marines who had lost limbs or whose bodies were cut by shrapnel," she once recalled. Advancing to the rank of lieutenant, her one disappointment was not going to sea. "I always wanted to serve on board a hospital ship, though others had a higher priority."

After the war, Cunningham entered a convent.

"When I told a navy-nurse friend that what I really wanted to do was become a nun, she gave me a look that indicated I was a definite mismatch for convent life or that the nuns must have been hard-up for vocations," remembered Sr. Joan.

She drove to California to stay with an uncle and soon became connected with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Following her entrance into the religious order, Sr. Joan served as nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Pasadena for over 25 years, with additional years serving in hospitals throughout California.

"I've loved being a nurse and a nun," confided Sr. Joan. "I'm still looking around me, and I'm always ready to respond to medical emergencies."

Most of her health care ministry was in Pasadena, though she did serve in relatively short stretches setting up alcohol rehab clinics at several hospitals. This included General Hospital (Santa Rosa Memorial) from 1980-82.

Sr. Joan also served as a nurse at Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna for roughly five months in 1983.

She was laid to rest in Orange on November 10.

Pioneering Nurse Passes

LaVerne Oyarzo (1/30/1933-12/5/2014) passed peacefully at her home in Calistoga on December 5 surrounded by friends and her dear brother Ben. Preceded in death by her parents Benjamin and Alice (née Devany) Oyarzo of Oakland, brother Robert E. Oyarzo, and nephews Michael and Mark Oyarzo.

Survived by brothers Benjamin Oyarzo of Calistoga and Alexander Oyarzo of Yuba City, several nephews, and numerous great nieces and nephews and relatives around the United States and County Wexford, Ireland.

LaVerne attended Sacred Heart School in Oakland and graduated from Notre Dame High School in Alameda in 1950. Thereafter she matriculated from Kaiser Permanente School of Nursing in Oakland in 1954, and worked at Kaiser Oakland in the emergency room and eventually all units of the hospital as a supervising nurse.

She went on to become the In-service Education director and eventually helped set up the region's first nurse practitioner program along with Dr. Stephen Toller. She graduated from the first nurse practitioner program at University of California, Davis, and later UCSF followed the curriculum she helped to create.

LaVerne built her home in Calistoga and transferred to Kaiser Vallejo to set up the NP program there in 1976. She

was the Supervisor of nurse practitioners from 1976-89, while earning both a Bachelor's from Sonoma State and a Master's in psychology and counseling in 1983.

She retired from nursing in 1989 after 38 years of service. Her dedication to her profession and Kaiser Permanente has shaped and will continue to shape Nursing for years to come.

Not one to rest on her laurels and obviously a born leader, LaVerne became vice mayor of Calistoga in 1990, and then served as mayor from 1992-97 for the city she loved.

Additionally, she was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (OLPH) and its women's club. She also assisted as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and belonged to the National Council of Catholic Nurses, the California State Nurse Practitioner Association, Native Daughters of the Golden West # 145, Calistoga Barn Raisers, National Pro-Life Assoc., Upper Napa, Valley Republican Women, and was a life member of the Calistoga Library and Sharpsteen Museum, amongst her other activities.

A fun-loving person, she also enjoyed crafts, singing, swimming, movies, plays, traveling and her many beloved pets ("pups") over the years. LaVerne was a devoted member of the community and touched many lives and will be sorely missed. ❖



Local Residents Help Support Catholics in the Military

by NCC Staff

San Francisco—On December 9, several local Catholics had a unique opportunity to support Catholics in the United States military. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, JCD, archbishop for the Military Services, hosted a benefit reception at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco.

Former Santa Rosa residents Mary and Terrence O'Brien served on the Host Committee for the event, which was attended by Napa residents Mary Riley (whose son is a major in the US army), her father Ron Maxson (a retired army lieutenant colonel), and Judy Barrett of Calistoga.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) is the sole Catholic Church jurisdiction responsible for providing pastoral care and ministry to Catholic men and women serving our nation in uniform, those receiving in-patient treatment in the nation's Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers, and the families of these populations.

The AMS has total responsibility for providing government-required endorsement and faculties for Catholic priests to serve as chaplains—both active-duty and reserve—in the army, navy, air force, marines, Coast Guard, and the VA. Broglio and his four auxiliary bishops make regular pastoral visits to their extended flock, celebrating confirmations, consulting with chaplains, and attending to other episcopal responsibilities.

The cost of providing all these services amounts to more than \$5 million per year in operating expenses, not including seminary expenses now running nearly an additional \$400,000 per year for the education and formation of prospective new chaplains to relieve a chronic shortage of Catholic priests on active duty.

The AMS receives no funding from the military or the government and depends entirely on private giving for survival.

For more information, contact Mary Lavin at mlavin@milarch.org or 440-223-6482 or visit www.milarch.org, the official website for Catholics in the military and for the Cause of the Servant of God Fr. Vincent Capodanno, MM, aka, "the Grunt Padre." ❖

What to Say (and Not Say) to the Grieving

The Worst Things to Say to Someone in Grief

- At least she lived a long life; many people die young.
- He is in a better place.
- She brought this on herself.
- There is a reason for everything.
- Aren't you over him yet? He has been dead for a while now/It's time to get on with your life.
- You can have another child still.
- She was such a good person God wanted her to be with him.
- I know how you feel.
- She did what she came here to do, and it was her time to go.
- Be strong.
- I know how you feel.
- You'll get over this/"It'll get better"/"You never forget." Keep those thoughts to yourself.

The Best Things to Say to Someone in Grief

- I am so sorry for your loss.
- I wish I had the right words, but frankly, I don't know what to say. Just know I care.
- I don't know how you feel, but I am here to help in any way I can.
- You and your loved one will be in my prayers.
- My favorite memory of your loved one is ...
- I am always just a phone call away.
- Give a hug or squeeze their hand instead of saying something. Then look them in the eye.
- We all need help at times like this. I am here for you.
- I am usually up early or late, if you need anything.
- Saying nothing, just be with the person.

Then, depending on the circumstance, you may say:

- I know this is a tough time. How are you doing today? Is there a way I can help?
- If you need someone to talk to, I'll listen.
- I'd like to help, but I don't know what you need. Tell me what I can do.
- (Person) loved you.
- You were a good (relationship to them).

Rather than this, say this ...

- Rather than saying "How are you?" say, "How are you holding up?"
- Rather than saying, "Call me anytime if you want to talk," put a note in your calendar and make the call yourself. It's when is at their lowest that they may talk, but those are also the last times when they will pick up a phone.
- Don't make promises to visit, or to call. It's not everyone who can handle being around someone who is grieving. You don't know that you will be able to keep that promise.
- Rather than asking, "How was your Christmas/Easter/Insert-any-major-event-here?" say, "You got through_____. That can't have been easy."
- Rather than, "How did it happen?" say, "Tell me about it." This allows them to select the narrative. A little of the burden is lifted with each re-telling of the story.
- Say, "Is there anything I can do with you?" Note: not "for you" but with you. Maybe they would appreciate company when going to the bank or to see the lawyer.
- Say, "I think of him so often."
- Say, "I can't imagine what you must be going through."
- Say, "I still can't believe it!"
- Say, "I was remembering the other day how he..."
- Say, "I want to propose a toast..." or mention his name during grace. This one means a lot. ❖

PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2015

Fr. David Galeana 1/13/12 Eureka, CA

Famous Convert Maker Meets, Speaks to Napa Valley Legatus

Fr. C. John McCloskey III spoke at the Napa Valley Legatus chapter's November 19 dinner meeting at Farmstead restaurant, following Mass at St. Helena Church. He encouraged the group to share their faith by word and action in the workplace, wherever that workplace might be, including their homes and communities, and echoed Pope Francis' exhortation, "No sad Catholics!" Catholic Christians are the answer to the decline in culture, he said, and must be like early Christians who evangelized the world through friendship and personal witness.

Fr. McCloskey, coauthor of *Good News, Bad News* from Ignatius Press, served as a chaplain at Princeton and is the former director of the Catholic Information Center in Washington, DC, where he received many high-profile public figures into the Catholic faith. He is a research fellow at the Faith and Reason Institute www.frinstitute.org. His writings also appear at www.frmccloskey.com.

Speakers scheduled for the chapter in 2015 include Tom Peters of Catholics Come Home and Tim Gray, PhD, head of the Augustine Institute in Denver. Bishop Robert F. Vasa is traditionally the honored guest speaker at the December meeting. Chapter officers for 2015 are Joe Oberting, president; Betsy Busch, treasurer; Chuck Haas, program chair; and Mary Cunningham Agee, membership chair.

Legatus, Latin for "ambassador," is an international organization for Catholic business owners, CEOs, and top-tier management. The local chapter meets monthly for Mass, fellowship, dinner, and a guest speaker. For more information, visit www.legatus.org or contact Napa Valley chapter president Joe Oberting, joe_oberting@yahoo.com. ❖



L-R: Melanie Oberting, Carole Gruss, Mel Preimesberger, Piera Dermody

Benedict XVI Retracts Previous Stand on Divorce, Remarriage

Ratzinger's retraction the fruit of 42 years of theological maturation

Vatican City (CNA)—News broke weeks ago that a new volume of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's collected works was being released in German with an updated version of a 1972 essay, which no longer suggests the divorced and remarried can receive Communion, as it once did.

But thanks to Sandro Magister and his translator Matthew Sherry, the full text of his *Retractatio* is now available in English.

As CNA reported November 25, Joseph Ratzinger published an essay in 1972, while a priest of the archdiocese of Munich and Freising. He argued for access, under certain limited conditions, to Communion for the divorced and remarried. This line of argument was taken up in a 1977 book by Walter Kasper, who was then a priest of the Diocese of Rottenburg.



Fr. Kasper is now Cardinal Kasper, who in a February address to cardinals advocating for the admission to Communion of the divorced and remarried cited Ratzinger's essay.

But as his thinking developed, Ratzinger moved away from his 1972 essay, humbly retracting the suggestion he had then offered.

In 1991, he wrote the suggestions had been made "as a theologian in 1972. Their implementation in pastoral practice would of course necessarily depend on their corroboration by an official act of the magisterium to whose judgment I would submit ... Now the Magisterium subsequently spoke decisively on this question in the person of (St. John Paul II) in *Familiaris Consortio*."

Dr. Nicholas Healy, an assistant professor at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, told CNA that the development in Ratzinger's thought "shows us what it means to think with the Church. '*Sentire cum ecclesia*' means allowing one's partial perspectives to be integrated into the greater whole of the Church's faith and occasionally corrected by the teaching office of the Church."

Magister's December 3 article includes both the original conclusion of Ratzinger's 1972 essay and the new conclusion written in 2014. He writes that "it comes as no surprise ... that Ratzinger should have maintained that it was inappropriate for Kasper to cite his 1972 article in support of his own theses, as if nothing had happened after that year."

The new version of the essay has more than doubled in length—from 922 words in English to 2,059. And it reflects a personal maturation of thought, from the writing of a 45-year-old theologian-priest to an 87-year-old man who has been a bishop, the Vatican's guarantor of doctrine, Pope, and finally Pope Emeritus. ❖

A Life Devoted to Service and Prayer

During 2015, the Year of Consecrated Life, the Church in California joins Pope Francis and the worldwide Church in honoring the women and men who fulfill their baptismal vocation by formally consecrating their lives to service, prayer, and care for others.

The Sisters, Brothers, and priests in contemplative communities, apostolic institutes, and religious orders are a gift to us all. They live an example of discipleship by their commitment to Christ, holiness, and compassionate service to others. They daily bring the joyful Gospel message to our world. Their fidelity to the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience enriches Church life.

Various religious orders of women and men have long graced California with their unique charisms and courageous missionary zeal. Since the Franciscans entered California in 1769, and with a heartfelt devotion to the people of California, not to mention a particular concern for the poor and immigrants, they have built schools, hospitals, social services, missions, children's homes and other institutions to address the needs of our communities. In doing so, they helped build the virtue and vitality of the Golden State.

This noble history continues. California and the Church benefit from the many new religious orders founded here and elsewhere in the world. As in the past, religious men and women from all over the globe bring the richness and power of their faith to this State. A special note of gratitude goes to those families who have generously given their children to the saving mission of the Church.

During 2015, the Church has planned special celebrations and events around the world and California. Each diocese is blessed with religious communities of women and men who play an integral part of the life of the local church. This partnership will be savored and celebrated in the coming year. ❖

If you want your life to make a huge difference for large numbers of people, consider the consecrated religious life. The first step begins with contacting Fr. Raúl Lemus, the diocese's Vocations director at 707-566-3300. Produced by The California Catholic Conference.

Youth Page

National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry: "Smell like the Sheep"

Two thousand Catholic youth ministers descended upon San Antonio, Texas, this past December for the National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministers' annual convention.

The confab's theme was "Prepare the Way." However, since Pope Francis' ministerial direction permeated nearly every aspect of the five-day meeting, a more appropriate title might have been "Living With the Smell of the Sheep." (In his March 28, 2014, Chrism Mass homily, His Holiness essentially exhorted those in ministry—in particular pastors—to be "shepherds living with 'the smell of the sheep,' shepherds in the midst of their flock, fishers of men.")

Our faith's chief shepherd wasn't present and did not speak directly to youth ministry efforts, yet his voice was heard in nearly every corner of the conference.

Workshops, keynotes, and varied whispers around the convention discussed how the methodology and praxis of youth ministry must see a paradigm shift to meet the demands of our ever changing youth and the secular society they try to operate in.

The national conversation has begun to ask: "Where are the youth?" and "How can we engage them?"

Some ministers have turned to Francis for answers: "Go to the margins with mercy in your heart." His statement, "I see the Church as a field hospital after battle," has caused many of our Catholic brothers and sisters to feel uncomfortable. After all, a "field hospital" in a war zone is dangerous.

Nevertheless, every youth minister knows about the war zone. They are on the front lines of battle and have observed tremendous brokenness among our children.

The harsh irony is that our handheld computers and technological communication advancements, which should make us feel more connected, have made youth feel more alone than ever before. Children don't face the same issues as their parents did when they navigated their adolescent years. Today's youth feel confused and lonely and are looking for truth, which they often find through small groups or on retreats led by an effective youth minister.

Other Francis buzzwords such as "missionary, disciple, evangelization, and mercy" were also heard around the convention. We are to move to those who are suffering.

An additional expression has jumped into the national ministry spotlight as well: "young adult ministry." As we swim in this ever changing secular society, ministry efforts have begun to reach the 18-35 year olds. Many "sheep" have left the fold. They are "spiritual but not religious." How do we reach them where they are?

The "reaching the margins" theme also came out in conference discussions regarding the necessity to change our thinking about social justice.

Keynote speaker Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*, commented on our penal system. The message our broken prisoners receive is that they are not worthy of redemption and reconciliation. Therefore they rot away in our justice system labeled for their worst mistake. Sister Helen challenged us: "How would you only like to be remembered as the worst thing you've ever done?"

Gayle Ballinger, veteran youth minister of Resurrection Parish in Santa Rosa, echoed that sentiment as she focused her time at the conference in sessions dedicated to working with at-risk youth.

"There has been a particular interest amongst experts of late in brain development of at-risk youth," she said, "that the conference workshops provided powerful and useful tools in my ministry."

Another aspect of the conference was the networking



The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Feast: January 1

that took place amongst youth workers. The conference, which only occurs every two years, is a time of renewal. Kevin Staskow, director for the Diocese of Sacramento's Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, who presented at the conference, noted an underlining purpose of the NCCYM was to "connect, commiserate, celebrate, and network with other leaders who are just as passionate about youth and young adult ministry as I am."

Like many involved in any type of ministry, youth ministers rarely pause to spiritually feed themselves. So conference organizers made sure to provide a healthy "meal" of spiritual formation, fellowship, and professional resource building.

Nancy Gibson from St. Leo Church in Sonoma noted that the NCCYM "feeds youth ministers so we can fuel the Holy Spirit in our youth."

On a personal level, the conference did not end with the conclusion of the customary Mass on Saturday night. Instead God had one more terrific surprise for a few attendees who were able to practice street evangelization at San Antonio's airport.

Early Sunday morning the terminal gate was packed with spiritually filled yet very groggy conference attendees. One of the youth ministers brought out her guitar and an angelic voice began to sing Matt Maher's "Lord, I Need You." The result? A flash mob of worship was formed.

Restless passengers began to mingle around the gate, and some even joined the singing as the Holy Spirit took flight among our voices.

A woman came over when the music had stopped to say, "Because I was traveling this morning, I couldn't make it to church. Thank you for having church here."

We played among the sheep but sang with the angels.

See a quick clip of the airport worship on YouTube: NCCYM AIRPORT. ❖



St. Thomas Aquinas, Feast: January 18

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."

Jesus Wins 25-11

by Stephen Morris

I am filled with JOY. Are you? I mean, how joyful it was to spend the Christmas season with one another! We enjoyed filled pews at Christmas Masses, time off from school and work, and travels ... to grandmother's house we went! I love this stuff!

We are to celebrate with Joy in our hearts... Jesus wins. The celebration kicked off December 25 and doesn't stop until January 11th.

Unfortunately secular-society has misled us to think that the "holiday season" was launched Thanksgiving week and ends when the presents are opened. But *au contraire, mon frère*: Our Christmas season just started and continues until the Solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord (i.e., the first Sunday after January 6, Epiphany, which this year falls on January 11).

That, my friends, is the real Christmas season! JOY to the world! Mark your calendars, hit the streets, and continue to wish faith-filled belly-blasts of "Merry Christmas" to all you see. An easy evangelization WIN for us!

Of course, we'll run across Mr. Grump E. Pants and his cousin the Grinch. There are times we may even be those people. We've all slipped an awful bah-humbug about the season here and there. I've done it. When the CEO (aka, Christmas and Easter Only) Catholics filled the pews, I would sneer, "They should show up year-round!" Many will rattle off a disgruntled "Phew! I made it through the season." We fail to see we're *still celebrating* the season. FaLaLaLaLaLaLaLaLa.

However, let's turn lemons to lemonade. We're presented with an astoundingly quick and delicate catechetical moment when we run across those who are "over it."

Evangelization must be done with JOY in the heart and a smile on the face. So when you meet someone who has begrudged "the season," retort with a thunderous "Happy New Year!" and allow the Spirit to fill your heart and smile as you explain how the REAL Christmas doesn't end until Christ is dunked in the Jordan. Push the conversation; explain the facts.

The fact is we should be filled with JOY this time of year, specifically *five points* of joy, as we celebrate the Joyous Mysteries of Our Lord: The Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, all celebrated by January 1. And then (drum roll, please), the Presentation of Christ at the Temple, and, finally, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple. It's a time when we celebrate with joy in our hearts and on our faces, for these mysteries transcend time and space, and we can use them to evangelize.

Lovingly and good-naturedly halt the negative-nellies in their tracks. Jesus is winning and *must* be celebrated during the Christmas season, and don't you dare let anyone miss a day between December 25 and January 11.

And if that wasn't cause enough to celebrate, throw in December 28 (Feast of the Holy Family), January 1 (Feast of Mary, Mother of God, and a holy day of obligation), January 4 (Solemnity of the Lord), and January 6 (Epiphany!), not to mention a few saint's feasts that take the party over the top.

The Church LOVES a good party and provides many reasons to celebrate! Revel with JOY in your hearts and truth on the brain because our Lord and Savior reigns! ❖



Stephen Morris is diocesan director of Youth Ministry.



Adult Faith Formation & Certification - 2015

Two Locations: Fort Bragg & Eureka

BASIC CATECHIST FORMATION

Held: *Our Lady of Good Counsel Church*
255 S. Harold St., Fort Bragg, CA

Saturday: 9:00am - 4:30pm

- ◇ TBA Orientation, Introduction, Spirituality & Methodology
- ◇ Jan 3, 2015 Creed I - IV
- ◇ Feb. 7 Liturgy & Sacraments I - IV
- ◇ Apr 18 Life in Christ, Conscience Formation & Cath. Social Teaching
- ◇ Jun 20 Christian Prayer, Observation & make up

BASIC CATECHIST FORMATION

Held: *St. Bernard Catholic School*
222 Dollison St., School Library, Eureka, CA

Friday: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

- ◇ Mar 20 & 21 2015 Orientation, Introduction, Spirituality & Methodology
- ◇ May 1 & 2 Creed I - IV
- ◇ July 24 & 25 Liturgy & Sacraments I - IV
- ◇ Sept 18 & 19 Life in Christ, Conscience Formation & Cath. 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.
- * There will be various books available to purchase. The class fee does not include the fee for these books.
- * 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.

 Sponsored by the
Diocesan Department of Religious Education

To apply & for registrations, contact:
Carmen Aanenson
dre@srdiocese.org
(707) 566-3366 Fax (707) 542-9702
www.santarosacatholic.org



Adultos Formación de fe y Certificación 2015

FORMACION CATEQUISTA BASICA

dirección: *Our Lady of Good Counsel Church*
255 S. Harold St., Fort Bragg, CA

Sábado: 9:00AM - 4:30PM

- ◇ Se anunciara Orientación, Introducción, Espiritualidad y metodología.
- ◇ 3 de enero 2015 Credo I - IV
- ◇ 7 de febrero Liturgia y Sacramentos I - IV
- ◇ 18 de abril La vida en Cristo, Formación de la Consciencia y La doctrina social católica.
- ◇ 20 de junio La oración cristiana y observaciones.

Almuerzo: 12pm - 1pm
(Por su propia cuenta o traiga su almuerzo)

- * Catequista básico \$100.00/por persona para toda la serie. Incluye todas las clases y temas.
- * Habrá varios libros disponibles para comprar. La cuota de las clases no incluye el costo de estos libros.
- * Para aquellos interesados en ir a solamente una clase el costo es \$20 por clase.
- * Clase se puede utilizar para la recertificación del catequista.
- * Aquellos que deseen asistir y no están interesados en recibir un certificado de catequista son bienvenidos.
- * Llene una solicitud para iniciar el proceso de certificación de catequista Básica.



Patrocinado por el
 Departamento de Educación Religiosa
Para más información o para registrarse, póngase en contacto con:
Carmen Aanenson
dre@srdiocese.org (707) 566-3366 Fax (707) 542-9702
www.santarosacatholic.org

ASK IPS

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

by William McKenna, MS

QUESTION: What does mental health have to do with our faith?

RESPONSE: For years, psychology and theology were like two squabbling siblings, always ready to fight, even though they sought the same end. Theology's end is studying the deeper meaning to life, along with how to navigate that life. Psychology's is how the human being processes the world around him so that he can navigate life.

Catholics may know the names of Freud, Skinner, and Jung and how their theories can be dangerous to their spiritual life. Some of their theories question the nature of Truth, human nature, and even the place of God in our lives.

At the same time you may have seen the vintage videos of Ven. Fulton Sheen condemning the psychiatrists and warning us that modern psychology is malicious secularism that will destroy society.

Granted the late archbishop did have some valid points about modern psychology. But what if I told you that the tide is turning in modern psychology? What if I told you that there is a growing movement within psychology to link the spiritual with the psychological?

Over the past 30 years there has been a steady movement to connect psychology to the virtues, forgiveness, the need for an intact family home, and the welding power of religion within a relationship. This movement is both exciting and promising. The word still needs to get out, together.

That brings me to our current concern for this introductory column to a new series: What does mental health have to do with Catholicism?

In order to answer that question let me first share an exchange I had with a friend.

My friend was staying with my wife and me while she interviewed for a job. That night over dinner we discussed the human condition when my friend claimed that every problem is rooted in the spiritual.

Therefore my friend claimed more prayer, penance, and patience could solve everything. While my friend (like Sheen) did have a valid view, I pointed out to her that her approach was synonymous to telling the medical profession that there is no need for specialists since everything in the body is connected. The human person *can* have spiritual problems. That does not mean the source of the problem is spiritual. Indeed the root could be psychological.

This is where Catholic psychotherapists enter down center stage. We specialize in helping people tackle their psychological problems that are inhibiting them from living a full and happy life (which includes a flourishing spiritual life). Mental health professionals can and should serve the Church with the aim of helping people who are struggling to get back up, and live out their God-given vocations. Thus, psychology and theology truly are like two siblings who seek the same end: to help people. ❖



St. Bathilde, slave, queen, and religious, Feast: January 26