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# NORTH COAST CATHOLIC

The Newspaper of the Diocese of Santa Rosa 🌟 [www.srdiocese.org](http://www.srdiocese.org) 🌟 OCTOBER 2017



Since early May Catholics around the diocese have been celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Fatima.

## The Rosary: The Peace Plan from Heaven

*Catholics are renewing Mary's Rosary devotion as the Church commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions*

by Peter Jesserer Smith (National Catholic Register)

*"Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of the war."*

One hundred years ago at a field in Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Virgin Mary spoke those words to three shepherd children. One thousand miles away, in the bloodstained fields of France, Europe's proud empires counted hundreds of thousands of their youth killed and wounded in another battle vainly

promised as the way to end the "war to end all wars."

The great guns of World War I have fallen silent, but these words of Our Lady of the Rosary have endured. In this centenary year of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, as nations continue to teeter toward war and strife, Catholics have been making a stronger effort to spread the devotion of the Rosary as a powerful way (see *The Rosary*, page 4)

## What Are WE Going to Do About IT?

by Stephen Morris



Region XI Diocesan Directors Annual Fall meeting.

The conversation regarding "it" occurs in many pews, parish centers, at schools, and certainly on the sidelines of sporting events. And I love that everyone has an opinion of what we're to do with "it."

**IT:** Young people leaving the church.

Have you been sensationalized, shocked, or awakened by the stunning statistics that prove "it" or did you just happen to (see *About IT*, page 4)

Noticias en español, pgs. 18-19

## Pope Francis Launches Campaign to Encounter and Welcome Migrants

by Elise Harris



*"Find that immigrant, just one, find out who they are," she said. "Find out why they left their country and try to understand that, try to put yourself in their shoes and see if that helps you understand better why an immigrant has to go through what they do and what should be your responsibility and response to that reality."*

Vatican City, Sep 27 (CNA/EWTN News) - Pope Francis on Wednesday announced a new initiative encouraging a "culture of encounter" and efforts to warmly welcome immigrants and refugees.

Sponsored by the global Catholic charities network Caritas Internationalis, the "Share the Journey" initiative is a two-year campaign dedicated to promoting both awareness and action on behalf of migrants and refugees, and helping them build connections with local communities.

"Don't be afraid of sharing the journey. Don't be afraid of sharing hope," Pope Francis said during his weekly General Audience in St. Peter's Square Sept. 27.

According to Caritas, the project was launched as a response to Pope Francis' frequent call for a "culture (see *Welcome Migrants*, page 8)

# Acknowledging the Miracle of the Sun

On October 13, the day of the promised miracle, people from all across the country, numbered at more than seventy thousand, came to the Cova da Iria. The surrounding area was afflicted by a variety of storms and by mid-morning heavy rain began to fall at Fatima. The children arrived at the site around noon and, as in the past, Mary's appearance was preceded by a flash of light. On this occasion the message of Mary was similar to that of the previous months. Lucia reports Mary's words: "I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes." In response to Lucia's request for cures, conversions and other things Our Lady replied: "Some yes, but not others. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins." Mary continues: "Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because He is already much offended." Then, opening her hands, she made them reflect the sun and, as she ascended, the reflection of her own light projected on the sun itself.

The great event, the Miracle of the Sun, began as Mary disappeared. It was witnessed by more than 70,000 souls. Numerous eye witness accounts describe the same sequence of events. The rain stopped and the people were standing in mud. The sun appeared to be 'pale' and did not hurt the eyes of those who looked at it. Suddenly the sun seemed to come down toward

the earth in a zigzag fashion, seemingly menacing the earth. Others report that the sun began to spin with flashes of every color radiating from the sun like a wheel of fireworks. The event lasted approximately ten minutes. Following this miraculous occurrence the people and the area of the apparition were entirely dry despite the fact that the rain had only very recently ceased to fall. The miracle was observed by persons as far as 25 miles away. Perhaps most convincing is the account of the chief reporter for the secular and critical newspaper, *O Seculo*, *Avelino de Almeida*, who was a major critic of the 'alleged' apparitions. He had written satirically before the Miracle of the Sun but he now reported affirmatively and stood by his story in spite of harsh criticism from his peers.

The Day the Sun Danced, which is how the event is sometimes identified, was thus a very public event witnessed by thousands. There can be little doubt about the authenticity of the reports. While we did not witness the event ourselves we have no reason to doubt that it happened as it has been reported. It is always possible to question the reliability of individual witnesses but it is much more difficult to question thousands of accounts. It is especially difficult to challenge the accounts of those who were there to disprove the supernatural nature of the Fatima apparitions. The reports of the events, as spectacular as they are, still leave us with a choice and a decision. We are free to reject the accuracy of the accounts and we are

free to accept them. Accepting them, while there is sufficient evidence to do so, still requires an act of faith. This is our choice: To choose to believe or not to believe. Further, the choice leads to a decision. A choice to believe the miracle means that we then need to decide whether that belief will lead us to live or act differently. Assenting to the Miracle of the Sun means assenting to the messages which Mary gave to Lucia and her Sainted cousins and it means deciding whether those messages will have any place in our own spiritual lives.

Acknowledging the Miracle of the Sun has huge implications for us. It means we must take the messages of Fatima to heart! The one consistent and repeated message is that of praying the Rosary. "Pray, pray a lot and do sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifice and pray for them." In this Fatima Centenary Year we have the opportunity to beg for a particular grace for ourselves. I would propose that the grace we rightly seek would be for the grace to be increasingly faithful the Our Lady's request that the Rosary be prayed every day.

"But what of the man who hears these words of mine and does not act upon them? He is like a man who was foolish enough to build his house on sand. The rain came down, the floods rose, the wind blew, and beat down on that house; down it fell with a great crash." (Matthew 7:26-27) ❖



From the Bishop

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

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ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, PRAY FOR US!

## PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

**Rev. Jeffrey Keys, CPPS**

October 26, 1991

**Rev. Ron Serban**

October 22, 1993

**Rev. Alvin Villaruel**

October 23, 1994

**Rev. Andres Querijero**

October 18, 1997

**Rev. Sean Rogers**

October 6, 2007

### Prayer for Priests

*Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.*

# Cardinal Burke: Church Divisions Show Urgent Need for Clarity

by Elise Harris

Sydney, Australia, Sep 24 (CNA) - Amid the ongoing debate surrounding *“Amoris Laetitia,”* dubia author Cardinal Raymond Burke said in a new interview that he’s wrongly depicted as the “enemy” of Pope Francis, but he stressed that current division in the Church demands an answer to requests for clarity.

“The urgency of a response to the dubia derives from the harm done to souls by the confusion and error, which result, as long as the fundamental questions raised are not answered in accord with the constant teaching and practice of the Church,” Cardinal Burke said.

“The urgency weighs very heavily on my heart,” he said. In his experience, the cardinal said he’s seen “a great deal of confusion, also people feeling that the Church is not a secure point of reference.”

“Some are feeling even a certain bewilderment... they are looking for a much stronger presentation of the Church’s doctrine.”

Cardinal Burke was one of four signatories of a letter submitted to Pope Francis last September outlining five dubia, or doubts, about the interpretation of his 2016 post-synodal apostolic exhortation *“Amoris Laetitia.”*

That letter had been submitted to the Pope privately, but released to the public two months later, prompting a firestorm of media commentary and debate.

However, the cardinal also addressed the purported “conflict” between him and Pope Francis, stressing that the media portrayal of he and the Pope is inaccurate, and frequently “overdone.”

“It’s all a caricature. They depict Pope Francis as a wonderful, open person and there’s nothing wrong with that, but they depict me as just the opposite,” he said, explaining that this is done “to advance their own agenda.”

However, Pope Francis “is actually not in favor of their agenda. They use this kind of technique to make it seem like he is and that’s fundamentally dishonest,” Cardinal Burke said.

Neither is there an intention to build up resistance against the Pope, he continued, explaining that the image of him being the “enemy” who is trying to undermine the Pope “isn’t the case at all.”

Cardinal Burke made his comments in a recent interview with Australian journalist Jordan Grantham, published Sept. 21 in Diocese of Parramatta’s online publication, *“Catholic Outlook.”*

The cardinal noted that as faithful Catholics, those who have expressed doubt or concern over the confusion surrounding *“Amoris Laetitia”* love the Pope “with complete obedience to the office of Peter.”

Yet at the same time, he said, “they don’t accept these questionable interpretations...of *‘Amoris Laetitia,’* interpretations, which in fact contradict what the Church has always taught and practiced.”

Without clarity on these issues, “people are in a very difficult state,” he said, explaining that this is demonstrated by the fact that bishops conferences have issued conflicting guidelines on how to interpret

*“Amoris Laetitia.”*

In addition to Cardinal Burke, other signatories to the dubia letter were Cardinals Walter Brandmüller, president emeritus of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences; Carlo Caffarra, Archbishop Emeritus of Bologna; and Joachim Meisner, Archbishop Emeritus of Cologne.

Cardinals Meisner and Caffarra passed away within two months of each other over the summer, leaving Cardinals Burke and Brandmüller to carry forward the ongoing debate over the dubia.

Cardinal Burke’s latest interview was not related to the release of a letter signed by 62 Catholic clergy and scholars, the most notable being superior general Bishop Bernard Fellay of the breakaway Society of St. Pius X. That letter presented itself as a “filial correction” to Pope Francis for reputed errors and heresies.

Among other things, the letter argues that the Pope has either directly or indirectly perpetrated seven heresies, most of which surround comments he has made about Martin Luther and ambiguities in *“Amoris Laetitia,”* specifically related to the question of the reception of Holy Communion by divorced-and-remarried Catholics who cannot get an annulment.

The letter also objects to the Pope’s silence in the face of the “dubia” submitted to the Pope by the four cardinals.

Like the four cardinals’ original dubia letter, the 25-page letter of *“filial correction”* was also sent to the Pope privately, but the signatories decided to publish it after having received no response from the Pope.

Neither Cardinal Burke nor Cardinal Brandmüller signed the document. According to a Tweet sent out by the traditionalist blog *“Rorate Caeli,”* which has provided favorable coverage of the document’s release, cardinals were not asked to sign. The letter was “step one only.”

In his interview, Cardinal Burke said that many lay people argue over *“Amoris Laetitia,”* and “many priests are suffering in particular because the faithful come to them, expecting certain things that are not possible because they’ve received one of these erroneous interpretations of *‘Amoris Laetitia.’*”

As a result, these people no longer understand Church teaching, the cardinal said. And in the Church, “we have only one guide, the Magisterium, the teaching of the Church, but we now seem to be divided into so-called political camps.”

The at times volatile “attacks” from parties who disagree is “a very mundane way of approaching things, it has no place in the Church,” Cardinal Burke continued. “But that’s where we’re at right now.”

The only way for the conversation to move forward on these matters, he said, “is to make the point of reference the doctrine of the Church. That’s what unifies us.”

Cardinal Burke also cleared up what he said are several misconceptions about him that are often promoted by the media, namely that he is “only interested in doctrine and law,” and that he is “out of touch with the times and living in the Middle Ages.”



The cardinal noted that as faithful Catholics, those who have expressed doubt or concern over the confusion surrounding *“Amoris Laetitia”* love the Pope “with complete obedience to the office of Peter.”

“I am very pastoral and in fact, I don’t see any contradiction between being pastoral and being faithful in announcing the Church’s teaching and following the Church’s law,” he said.

The cardinal insisted that he is also “very conscious of the everyday culture in which we live, and I try to address it, but in a way that is full of compassion in the sense of addressing the Church’s teaching to the cultural situation and trying to lead the culture to a certain transformation.”

Referring to those who at times paint a picture of the Pope as a great revolutionary changing the tide of the Church in modern times, the cardinal said being the Successor of Peter “has nothing to do with revolutions.” Rather, it involves “maintaining the Church in unity with her long and constant tradition.”

Many people also claim the Pope is somehow going against the Church’s centuries-long tradition, he said. “And that isn’t possible either, because the Roman Pontiff is that principle of unity, unity which is not only present now, but unity with those who have gone before over the centuries.

“In fact, the two are one. When we are unified with the saints and especially with the great teachers of the faith along the centuries, then we also find unity with one another.”

Offering a word to all those currently worried about the state of the Church, Cardinal Burke stressed the need to remain confident in the fact that it is Jesus Christ whom they encounter in the Church, and who comes to meet us.

“Therefore, no matter what confusion or even divisions enter into the Church, we should never give up hope,” he said.

“We should cling all the more faithfully to what the Church has always taught and practiced. And that way we will really save our own souls, with the help of God’s grace, which, of course, we must always be about.” ❖

*(The Rosary, cont. from page 1)*

for men and women to draw close to Jesus Christ and convert the world.

“The message of Fatima is more relevant today than in 1917,” David Carollo, executive director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, also known as the “Blue Army,” told the Register. While the world no longer faces the prospect of Soviet communism, Carollo said many nations throughout the world are succumbing to spiritual annihilation through atheistic secularism.

The Blue Army has many different activities worldwide in 2017 to spread the Rosary devotion and awareness of Our Lady’s message at Fatima—which began on May 13, 1917—that people turn away from their sins, do penance and draw close to Jesus. It has produced a Fatima documentary as well as a 13-part miniseries with EWTN (the Register’s parent company), called Fatima: Hope for the World, as well as another one-hour documentary with EWTN. The Blue Army also has a campaign to bring the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue to 100 dioceses in the U.S. to commemorate the 100 years of Our Lady’s apparition. It intends to extend the campaign into 2018, so all 195 U.S. dioceses and eparchies can participate.

“We want Our Lady to regain her dominion over this country and turn things around,” he said. “That’s really what it is all about.”

#### **‘So Many Blessings’**

The America Needs Fatima campaign of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) has also planned 5,000 Rosary rallies for May 13, to commemorate the start of the Marian apparition, and another 20,000 Rosary rallies nationwide for Oct. 14, the day following the 100th anniversary of the “Miracle of the Sun” at Fatima. The organization aims to distribute two million rosaries to commemorate the Fatima events and spread the Marian devotion.

**2 MILLION ROSARIES 2017**

## Recent Tally

**1,657,314**

Our Lady of Fatima Parish St, Lakewood, CO

*Rosary count as of October 1st.*

Our Lady of Fatima parish in Lakewood, Colorado, spearheaded a major campaign in May 2015 to invite Catholics to pray one million Rosaries by Oct. 13, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the final Fatima apparition. The campaign has drawn participants from across the nation and around the world and surpassed its goal March 31.

Its “Fatima Centennial” site has a Rosary counter that shows how many Rosaries have been offered as part of the campaign. The new goal is to have two million Rosaries prayed by the October centenary, according to Mary Herzogenrath, the parish’s volunteer coordinator.

“We’re just stunned since we made the campaign,” she told the Register, of the response.

Denver Archbishop Samuel Aquila, Herzogenrath

added, has greatly supported the parish’s efforts to spread the message of Fatima about the Rosary. The archbishop, she said, obtained permission from the Vatican to declare a “Fatima Pilgrimage Year” and consecrate a holy door at Our Lady of Fatima parish. Pilgrims who visit the parish and enter through the holy door, carved by a local Catholic craftsman, can obtain a special plenary indulgence. The pilgrimage year ends Oct. 29, when the archbishop will close the holy door. Three groups have come on pilgrimage so far, totaling between 250-300 people, and as many as seven groups are already registered to come to the church as pilgrims. “There are so many blessings coming out of this,” Herzogenrath said.

#### **History of the Rosary**

The practice of the Rosary in the Catholic Church has had both “ups and downs” over the past 100 years since the Fatima apparitions, according to Father Donald Calloway, a Marian of the Immaculate Conception and author of *Champions of the Rosary*, a comprehensive history of the devotion from the 12th century to the present day.

“We’re in a good period of the Rosary being promoted and prayed,” he told the Register. The Rosary devotion had suffered in the 1960s and ’70s, he said, but in seminaries today, it is highly common to see young men pray it faithfully.

Father Calloway explained the Rosary is a private devotion that serves as “a supplement” to the higher public prayer prayed by the Church’s members: the Divine Liturgy—the Mass—and the Liturgy of the Hours, such as matins and vespers. “It comes from the liturgy and leads us back to the liturgy,” he said. The Rosary began as a way for Catholics to join themselves spiritually to the monks chanting the Psalms and was known in St. Dominic’s time as “Mary’s Psalter”: The 15 decades of Hail Marys, with each decade separated by an Our Father, represented the 150 Psalms.

All the mysteries of the Rosary, Father Calloway explained, put the New Testament on “a set of beads” and help a person make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where they can contemplate the life of Jesus Christ and how to imitate him.

“What the Rosary does is reconnect us to Our Lord. And it is a sacramental which leads us to a changed way of life,” he said.

One of his favorite examples of the Rosary’s power to produce real change of heart is Blessed Bartolo Longo (1841-1926), a fallen-away Catholic who became a Satanic priest before he came back to the Church.

Blessed Bartolo later founded a pontifical basilica dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii and was dubbed the “Apostle of the Rosary” by St. John Paul II.

#### **A Heavenly Peace Plan**

The 2017 Fatima centenary shares some historical parallels with 1917 that underline the renewed urgency of Our Lady of the Rosary’s message at Fatima.

When Our Lady appeared to Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto and their cousin Servant of God Lucia dos Santos, it took place on the eighth day of Benedict XV’s novena to Our Lady, Queen of Peace, after the Holy Father’s pleas for conversion, reconciliation and peace were rejected by the world.

Pope Francis, who daily practices the 15-decade Rosary and calls it “the prayer of simple people and saints,” has declared repeatedly World War III is being fought “piecemeal” with conflicts all over the globe, particularly in the Middle East. The Fatima centenary

follows the Jubilee Year of Mercy, in which the Holy Father also proclaimed an “invitation to conversion.”

Carollo expected that Pope Francis’ canonization of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco in May would spur renewed attention to the Blessed Mother’s call for conversion and penance through the Rosary as the path to peace.

But he pointed out the Church in the past has been slow to embrace Our Lady’s message: World War I was followed by World War II, and Russia spread atheistic communism all over the globe, making it necessary for St. John Paul II to consecrate the entire world to the Immaculate Heart in 1984.

But Carollo said he has no doubt that the Rosary has helped prevent “worse things from happening.”

Five years after St. John Paul II’s consecration of the world, the Soviet Union fell. Carollo said the world needs to embrace Our Lady’s “peace plan from heaven.”

“When enough people truly understand it, we’ll attain that era of peace that was promised and bring about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart.” ❖

*Peter Jesserer Smith is a Register staff writer.*

*(About IT, cont. from page 1)*

look around at Mass last Sunday? We’ve commonly heard about the rise of the “nones”—people who claim no religious affiliation (Insert Scary & Depressing Statistic about church attendance here!).

So indeed an important question: “what are we going to do about the great exodus of youth?” People are passionate about this question and their own answers because no one wants young people to leave the church—we don’t want anyone to. If we are true disciples of Christ then how can we stand by while friends/family risk their eternal path towards the Trinity. This is Salvation of Souls 101 here!

Fortunately, people discuss the “it” simply because they care. I have listened to grandparents who share heartbreaking stories about their grown children now won’t even Baptize their grandchildren. These stories are shared with great sadness and tears.

Their stories are heard; the struggle is real.

I’m the bearer of GOODNEWS: our question has been heard. Answered prayers and works of the Holy Spirit are in plain view. There are numerous places around the country where the tide has turned. The shared question is national as well as international and the Magisterium, ordained, professional ministers, and consecrated laity—people with merciful hearts and decades of experience—have roused the Holy Spirit in guidance for shared answers.

I’m pleased to direct your attention to a few regional, national, and global conversations about the youth and the family (aka. the domestic church) that are helping solve the “it.”

#### **1. “The Joy of Adolescent Catechesis” (2017)**

Written to inspire and challenge those who participate in the ministry of adolescent catechesis. The document discusses forming young disciples and empowering them to authentically encounter the person of Jesus Christ through their Catholic faith.

*(see About IT, page 21)*

# Is Hugh Hefner in Hell?

by Fr. Dwight Longenecker

Hugh Hefner, the founder of *Playboy* magazine is dead.

The Catholic Church teaches that at the moment of death the eternal destiny of each soul is determined. You go up or you go down.

Hugh Hefner led a life that was not only sexually self-indulgent, but it objectified women, glamorized sin and caused millions to dive into sin with carefree abandon. He not only hurt women, but helped in the breakdown of marriage, the destruction of the family and contributed to the culture of contraception, abortion and death. Predictably, he is being hailed as a trailblazer, a man ahead of his time, an entrepreneur and a great American.

"*Playboy*" was an apt name because his hedonistic lifestyle encouraged millions of men to treat sex as play time and to remain boys-addicted to adolescent fantasies about sex. A man who sold women? Entrepreneur is one name. I can think of a few others. A trailblazer? What he did may have been daring, but it was not new.

But let's cut to the chase. The man is dead. The question remains—is Hugh Hefner in hell?

It's not for me, or anyone to determine that. Any soul, at any time, up to the last moment may experience the grace of repentance and faith. He was ninety one. In his final years of old age did he have regrets? Did he turn to the light? We don't know. We can hope.

Saint Faustina had a private vision in which every soul, at the point of death, saw the merciful Christ who asked three times, "Do you love me?" and only the souls who refused his love three times would depart into the dark.

I once read an interview with Hugh Hefner in which his sophisticated facade dropped for a moment and he revealed that he was a lonely child with a distant, unaffectionate mother. If I remember the interview correctly he had a stuffed bunny to keep him company. So go figure. Analyze that one.

Maybe those who would condemn Hugh Hefner can see beneath the celebrity fornicator a lonely little boy looking for love. Maybe when he came face to face with the source of Love he said "Yes, this is what I have been looking for all my life..."

On the other hand, St Faustina was no softy when it comes to hell, and we're not to conclude that everybody will say yes to Jesus' invitation. Faustina warns soberly about the reality of hell and shares her vision of it. If you want to read what she saw, read the footnote.

Now, some have speculated that the choice St Faustina visualizes is the summary of all the soul's choices on earth. If Hugh Hefner rejected his Christian upbringing and turned from the Beautiful True Love of Christ every time he was exposed to it in his earthly life, the hope that at the end he would make a different choice seems remote.

We don't know. It is God's mercy not our condemnation that matters.

Hugh Hefner's death gives the opportunity to ask why the Catholic Church condemns pornography and the *Playboy* lifestyle.

"What's wrong with looking at pictures of pretty ladies?" you might well ask.

There is nothing wrong with the naked human form

as such. God made it and God doesn't make junk. Certainly the classical understanding of the nude in art is that it is possible to appreciate the nude human form for its ideal beauty without eroticism.

However, this was not what *Playboy* was about and everybody knows it. This was not aesthetic appreciation of the human form, nor was it love. It was lust, and like all lust one thing leads to another. There is little doubt that we would be experiencing the epidemic of porn in our society if it weren't for Hugh Hefner and *Playboy* magazine.

Pornography is one sin in a long list of sexual sins: adultery, fornication, masturbation, prostitution, homosexual actions, pedophilia, artificial contraception, abortion...you know the whole list.

But why are these things wrong? Simply because some old men in red robes in Rome decided to come up with a list of naughty things to make people feel guilty about? Are they wrong because purple lipped puritans disapprove? Is it wrong because Christians think sex is dirty?

No. Something is wrong because it distorts or destroys something that is beautiful, good and true. Evil is nothing positive and good. It is always a good thing broken or twisted or destroyed. I explore this theme further in my book *Praying the Rosary for Spiritual Warfare*.

The sexual sins are wrong because they break the beautiful, true and good thing called marriage. God created man and woman to love one another and give themselves to one another totally, and from this to bring forth new life and new eternal souls.

Marriage is a delicate and difficult gift. It breaks easily. It requires a lifetime of dedication, hard work and self-sacrifice. A good marriage is a rare, beautiful and eternal incarnation of love in which both persons are treasured.

In sacramental marriage we experience the divine graces that give us a ladder to heaven. Marriage expresses the love God has for us. He is the bridegroom. We are the bride. Marriage is therefore a sacred, God given joy and the sexual act seals it and makes it complete. The sexual act is therefore, sacramental.

The sexual sins that *Playboy* promoted spit on all that. They trample that. They pull down the ladder to heaven and break it. The little boys playing with themselves and looking at pictures are avoiding true love and running from that sacrifice and that sacrament. The result is women treated as playthings. The result is unwanted pregnancies, abandoned women and aborted children.

Is Hugh Hefner in hell? I hope not.

If St Faustina's vision is correct I hope he saw true love and said "I'm sorry. I accept your love. Let me go now and serve my time and be purified."

[Footnote from Saint Faustina's diary:

"Today, I was led by an Angel to the chasms of hell. It is a place of great torture; how awesomely large and extensive it is! The kinds of tortures I saw: the first torture that constitutes hell is the loss of God; the second is perpetual remorse of conscience; the third is that one's condition will never change; the fourth is the fire that will penetrate the soul without destroying it – a



Maybe those who would condemn Hugh Hefner can see beneath the celebrity fornicator a lonely little boy looking for love. Maybe when he came face to face with the source of Love he said "Yes, this is what I have been looking for all my life..."

terrible suffering, since it is purely spiritual fire, lit by God's anger; the fifth torture is continual darkness and a terrible suffocating smell, and despite the darkness, the devils and the souls of the damned see each other and all the evil, both of others and their own; the sixth torture is the constant company of Satan; the seventh torture is horrible despair, hatred of God, vile words, curses and blasphemies. These are the tortures suffered by all the damned together, but that is not the end of the sufferings. There are special tortures destined for particular souls. These are the torments of the senses. Each soul undergoes terrible and indescribable sufferings, related to the manner in which it has sinned. There are caverns and pits of torture where one form of agony differs from another. I would have died at the very sight of these tortures if the omnipotence of God had not supported me. Let the sinner know that he will be tortured throughout all eternity, in those senses which he made use of to sin. I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like.

"I, Sister Faustina, by the order of God, have visited the abysses of hell so that I might tell souls about it and testify to its existence. I cannot speak about it now; but I have received a command from God to leave it in writing. The devils were full of hatred for me, but they had to obey me at the command of God. What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw. But I noticed one thing: that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there is a hell. When I came to, I could hardly recover from the fright. How terribly souls suffer there! Consequently, I pray even more fervently for the conversion of sinners. I incessantly plead God's mercy upon them. O my Jesus, I would rather be in agony until the end of the world, amidst the greatest sufferings, than offend You by the least sin." ❖

# How much time do you spend in prayer?

by Chris Lyford

Prayer is a meeting with our Lord. If you want to meet with someone, you have to take time for them. You have to sit down, have a cup of coffee or lunch together and talk. The important thing is, you have to take time!

Our big sin today is that we have no time for God. "The sin of the world consists in the fact that people are not interested in God. The cities and towns are full of churches . . . but people don't go to ask how they can live fuller, happier lives.

The sin of today lies in this, that there is no interest in or time for God. We have time for everything else: but when you say you have no time for prayer, you are really saying, I have no time for God.

Our Lady begs us to take time for prayer. She would say: "Pray when you can. Pray how you can, but always pray more and more." Each of us could pray even for three hours a day. But I know many people don't understand this, because they think they can live by their works alone.

We think what counts most in life is our own efforts, our own endeavors, our works. Man does not live by work alone but also by prayer.

Your work will not go well without prayer. You can work continuously and come up with nothing. Or you can pray as you should and come up with everything.

The prophet Haggai spoke about his. When Israel neglected God, their works were in vain - "He who earned wages earned them for a bag with holes in it" (Hg. 1:6).

Always start your work with prayer and end your work with prayer. On the days you have been praying too little and working too much, pray, and then you will find rest.

In the Our Father, Our Lord taught us to pray: "Lead us not into temptation." The great temptation today is to depend totally on our own resources, to try to do it alone without God. The truth still is "without Me, you can do nothing". In our society I see so much evidence of this dynamic all around; beautiful, elaborate 'houses of cards' all built without God.

When two people are in love, time stands still for them. They love to spend time with the beloved. When we do not want to spend time in prayer, what is that saying? It's saying, "We really do not love God." It's saying, "We are sick spiritually."

If you don't want to eat, you are physically sick. If you don't want to pray you are spiritually sick. If you have to be forced to eat, you are sick; you've lost your appetite for food. If you have to be forced to pray you are sick; you've lost your appetite for God.

We try to gloss over this atheism by pleading we are too busy. Yet we have time to eat, time to sleep, time to work, time for television (sometimes three or four hours a day). But no time for God? That means we are in reality, atheists. We have lost the faith.

Of the ten commandments, the top three focus on our relationship with God. The third asks us to "Honor the Sabbath". Take one day out of seven, and spend the whole day thinking about the important things in life; take a good look at God, a good look at yourself, and a good look at the difference. Since God is Mercy personified, He is willing to meet you on your Sabbath journey with love and tenderness. He desires to dwell with us, but it's up to us to invite Him in. In modern parlance, the phrase "do you want to hang out?" means that someone is thinking

with positive regard about someone else and would like to spend an open-ended amount of time with the other.

The paradox is, if we give time to God, then God will give us all the time we need for everything else. If we have no time for God, we shall soon discover that we shall be pressed for time to do even the things we must do.

Taking the 'one day out of seven' ratio and applying it to our daily lives, that would be three and a half hours each day! How about one hour? Do I hear thirty minutes?

So there you have it. How much time do you spend in prayer? This October 13th it will be 100 years that Our Lady is telling us that what is needed is more than quick, off-the-cuff prayers; more than conscience-easing prayers at the beginning and the end of the day. She wants us to become prayerful persons, persons committed to prayer, persons who are dissatisfied with the meager crumbs of prayer that so often are thrown to God. Our Lady is asking us for a major, not a minor, commitment to prayer. In this October month of the Holy Rosary, let's commit to praying at least one rosary a day. Ask our lady to pray with you for one very significant intention. Better yet, consecrate your whole life to her (or reconsecrate it) so that your intentions become hers, and her intentions become yours. Let us all then pray for each other as we approach the consecration of our Diocese to Our Lady on the weekend of December 9-10, and watch as something beautiful happens! ❖

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

## Blessing the New Marian Vestments

by Gina Lopez, Photos by Urban Pilgrim Photography

Just in time for the Assumption of Mary on August 15, Reverend Jeffrey Keyes, priest in residence at the Cathedral of Saint Eugene, received his Gammarelli custom-made Marian vestment set in the mail. No finer vestments glorify God and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary quite like Gammarelli.

Gammarelli, known as the official tailor for the pope, is a small tailor shop located in the heart of Rome, where six generations of Gammarellis have fitted over a dozen popes and thousands of priests like Father Keyes since its founding in 1798.

Keyes's first visit to the historic shop was in 1987 as a layman visiting the Vatican. Then in 2000, almost ten years after his ordination, Keyes was back in the Ancient City and ordered his first Gammarelli cassock. When he went in for another cassock in 2014,

jokes Father Keyes, his measurements stayed the same except for one, to which the tailor responded: "Parish life has been good to you!"

Since 2007, whenever Keyes makes pilgrimage to Rome, he has ordered a chasuble set of a different liturgical color from vestment shops including Gammarelli, which Keyes classifies as the "Rolls Royce of the [vestment] shops" in Rome. By 2016 his vestment collection was complete, including all liturgical colors (purple, red, white, green, black, and rose), but it lacked a Marian set, which are white vestments with blue accents, as blue is associated with the Virgin Mary. Marian vestments can be worn to celebrate Mass on Marian feast days, such as the Assumption. Now that he is the chaplain for the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, he figured it was time to add a Marian



*With a sprinkle of holy water, Keyes concludes the Roman ritual and joyfully puts on each piece of the set: chasuble, stole, and maniple, while saying vesting prayers as he puts on each piece.*

*(see Marian Vestments, page 9)*

# Equip Your Children With Respectful Courage

by Julie Sparacio

It's officially Fall, school has been back in session for about a month, and parents can take a breath and know their children are in good hands. Right? Thankfully, yes, usually. As our lives get busier, as our children get involved in more activities, the circle of influence outside of ours gets bigger and bigger. It's not just the other adults who influence our children, but the other children they come in contact with as well. As parents, we're not ever going to be able to completely control what our children hear and experience, but we can equip them.

I am really not a confrontational person. (I think most people would say that!) As number six out of seven kids in my family, my lesson growing up was to play nice, to get along. Not challenging authority, being respectful were all major admonitions in my family. Those lessons stayed as an adult, and sadly, I think made it difficult for me to stand up for my kids when they were growing up. I remember questioning one of my daughters teachers because I thought she was saying my daughter was disrespectful. No, she told me she asked too many questions that the other kids didn't understand so she needed to stop asking. I was stunned, and I didn't have much of a response. (My

child was asking smart questions and because others didn't get them she should stop? Are you kidding me?) Now, older, wiser, and bolder, I would totally challenge that statement! I think of other parents who said things about my kids, coaches who handled my kids badly, teachers who made huge generalizations, and if I could have a do over, I would be bolder. Not rude, not mean, but quietly strong. I think back on those times and wish I had shown my kids more often—how to stand for what's right, how to be bold.

When my kids had tough situations, when kids or teachers! were bullies, we talked and strategized on how to handle each situation. I wonder, looking back, what would have happened if I demonstrated strength instead of just talked to them about it? As I got older, and bolder, I began to stand up for the stuff I believe in. I would challenge things that were said and done, and express concerns about decisions or the way things were being handled. I am always respectful, but leaving it alone is not always my best option anymore. In their teen and young adult years, my kids have watched my transformation, sometimes to their dismay. How many times did I hear "please Mom, don't say any-

thing!" And I have to say, I listen and watch my adult children with such pride—they know how to confront, challenge, or accept, all with respect and quiet strength. So when the tough stuff happens, they bend but don't break. Oh how I want to take credit! Sure my influence was there, but so too was the wonderful adults, friends and families my children came in contact with. Some were nasty, but most were amazing. I thank God for them.

So what does this all have to do with my usual stuff I write about? If you have questions about something related to your kids, ask! If something niggles at the back of your mind, doesn't feel quite right, don't ignore that! Question, challenge, find out what is happening. Observe your kids carefully—are they easy with this adult, or uncomfortable? If they're uncomfortable—figure out why. If you hear or see something wrong, do something about it. Always respectfully, because demonstrating nasty frustration is definitely not the message you want your kids to learn! Model for them strong, bold strength. When the day comes that they are challenged, they will know what to do. They will know how to say no, to not just go along or ignore. They will know how to fight back, to stand for what's right, because you will have taught them. In your words, and more powerfully, in your actions, you will have taught them how to bend but not break, to resist what is wrong even when it's easier to give in, to be bold and courageous, because that's who we are called to be. ❖



## Guarding the Vulnerable

Julie Sparacio is Diocesan Director of Child and Youth Protection.

# Why Catholics Are Called to "Share The Journey"

by USCCB Staff

Pope Francis has called on us to join him in the "Share the Journey" campaign to highlight the plight of those around the world who have been driven from their homes. He asks us to love our neighbor and travel with them as they seek the lives of dignity and fulfillment that God intends for us all. The Holy Father is launching the campaign on Sept. 27 with a symbolic gesture of reaching out to those forced from their homes.

This appeal is aimed at the Catholic Church worldwide, its message carried in this country by three agencies who work on behalf of the displaced both here and abroad—the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). As Pope Francis invites others to join him on this journey, the Catholic Church invites all those who share our concern to join us in this campaign.

For too many in America and around the world, migrants and refugees are seen as threatening -- taking jobs, bringing crime, fomenting violence, even terror. But statistics show this is not the case. Very, very few people want to leave their homes. They are leaving because they are desperate. They might be fleeing a natural disaster—drought or flooding (as we saw here with Hurricanes Harvey or Irma). They might



For too many in America and around the world, migrants and refugees are seen as threatening—taking jobs, bringing crime, fomenting violence, even terror.

be fleeing violence—whether from gangs recruiting their children or from bombs dropped from the sky. They are often escaping from the very same terrorists who would do us harm.

What they deserve is not suspicion or fear but, as our faith requires, compassion and respect. We are not saying that all borders should be open or that immigrants should not be vetted. But we are saying that our attitudes and policies should be based on the fundamentals of our faith—on loving our neighbor,

wherever she lives, and treating him as we would want to be treated ourselves.

These neighbors don't always look like us, pray like us, dress like us, talk like us, or even live near us, but each one deserves a chance to flourish in this life.

This attitude toward refugees is fully in keeping with our faith tradition. The Old Testament often refers to the need to be hospitable to those fleeing foreign lands. And in Matthew 25, Jesus explicitly (see *Share the Journey*, page 8)

*(Welcome Migrants, cont. from page 1)*  
of encounter.”

The project also aims to shed light on both the challenges and effects of migration at every stage of the journey in order to promote a “shift in thinking” on the issue. It will have the support of the ACT Alliance, which is a network of 145 Christian agencies and a variety of other religious congregations and civil society groups worldwide.

As part of the project, Caritas will launch various action-based initiatives in the communities in which they are present throughout the world.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, president of Caritas Internationalis, said he himself is an example of what young migrants can offer if given the opportunity.

“Whenever I hear news about the restrictions or even some moves that might affect children, minors (who are) migrants, I remember my grandfather, my maternal grandfather,” Cardinal Tagle told CNA.

“He was born in China and his mother was widowed, and she in her desperation didn’t know how to raise her child up into a decent life, so I suppose with a heavy heart, she decided to give away the child to an uncle, who was trying to do some trade in the Philippines.”

Cardinal Tagle explained that his grandfather never went back to China, but “thanks to people who received him, helped him, educated him, he was able to contribute to society.”

In addition to his work, “he was able to contribute a priest, a bishop, in my person,” Cardinal Tagle said. “So watch out. The children that we might be rejecting might be giving valuable contributions to society.”

The cardinal’s comments were made in reference to rising tensions surrounding the issue of migration in the U.S., where controversy has arisen over President Donald Trump’s travel ban, proposed border wall, and recent announcement of the phasing out of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), which has benefited hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. as minors.

In a press conference announcing the “Share the Journey” initiative, Cardinal Tagle said world leaders should remember that “we are all migrants. Nobody can claim to be a non-migrant, we are all passing in this world.”

“Nobody is a permanent resident,” and no one can claim to “own the space they occupy,” he said, voicing his hope that there would be a universal “conversion of mind” on the issue.

Acknowledging the fear that some might feel at having foreigners enter their country, the cardinal said these fears often dissipate when people take the time to sit with immigrants and listen to their stories. “You will see that they are like you and me,” he said.

Recalling how his grandfather came to the Philippines as a “poor boy from China,” he said, “who would have thought he would have a cardinal for a grandson?”

Present alongside Cardinal Tagle at the press conference was Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, along the U.S. border with Mexico, as well as the director of Caritas Ethiopia, Bekele Moges, and three young migrants from Africa.

The migrants were Yancuba Darboe from Gambia, 21; Amadou Darboe from Senegal, 20; and Berete

Ibrahima from Guinea, 23. Each of them left their homes due to poverty or a lack of opportunities and endured harsh conditions, including torture at the hands of traffickers, before eventually arriving in Italy and finding a fresh start.

In comments to CNA, Sr. Pimentel stressed the importance of getting to know migrants personally.

Meeting and speaking with migrants face-to-face is “so important,” she said, “because that’s what causes the transformation in us.”

Sr. Pimentel recalled the story of a woman who had come to visit one of the centers operated by Catholic Charities in Rio Grande Valley. The woman was “one hundred percent against” their work, believing that migrants shouldn’t be allowed into the country.

In response, the sister gave the woman a tour, and “took her to visit the families and the children and showed her the reality, and she met them personally.”

When the visit ended, the woman’s whole perspective had changed, and she encouraged Sr. Pimentel to continue the work they were doing. The woman’s husband even called the center later to express his shock at the change in his wife’s attitude toward the issue.

“So I believe if somebody can be transformed so fast because of the fact that they saw that mother, that infant, that child (and) we have it in our hearts to reach out to those we find suffering, we will help that person that needs our help,” she said.

Sr. Pimentel described current immigrant policy in the U.S. as “harsh.”

“All the administrations, even the previous administration, were very harsh in deporting a lot of the immigrants and making those detention centers for family units,” she said, adding that in her view, “it’s so unjust and so unfair for a family with children, with infants, to be placed in detention facilities.”

“Just like the previous administration, this administration is doing the same and probably harsher,” she said, stressing that placing families in such centers is “not humane,” because they are essentially being put “into prisons.”

Whether you call it a detention center or even a “child care center,” Sr. Pimentel said, the reality is that “they really are prisons and it’s very depressing, so children should not be in those conditions.”

Instead, the sister said there should be an alternative available where families are allowed to stay together with someone to help them in the immigration process while authorities “figure out whether they have a reason to be in the United States or not, but not keep them for months in facilities that are so depressing and inhumane.”

Sr. Pimentel voiced hope that the new Caritas campaign would help people to truly understand the plight of migrants and push for “laws in our countries that respect the dignity and human life of people.”

The process of breaking the stigma surrounding incoming migrants starts with individuals and the process of encounter, she reiterated.

“Find that immigrant, just one, find out who they are,” she said. “Find out why they left their country and try to understand that, try to put yourself in their shoes and see if that helps you understand better why an immigrant has to go through what they do and what should be your responsibility and response to that reality.” ❖

*(Share the Journey, cont. from page 7)*

tells us to “welcome the stranger,” letting us know that whatever we do to the “least among us” we do for him.

The need is particularly acute now as over 65 million people are displaced globally—the highest level since World War II. Pope Francis has recognized their plight since the beginning of his papacy when he visited the Italian island of Lampedusa where many land on their way from Africa and the Middle East trying to reach Europe. As he has said there is currently a great need for a “spirit of readiness to welcome those fleeing from wars and hunger, and solidarity with those deprived of their fundamental rights, including the right to profess one’s faith in freedom and safety.”

Pope Francis envisions this campaign as both spiritual and practical, personal and political. He asks us to pray and reflect on this issue with Oct. 7 to 13 designated as a Week of Prayer and Action. He asks to seek out migrants and refugees in our neighborhoods, towns and cities, to encounter their lives, to hear their stories. And he asks us to help ensure that our government meets its obligation to protect those who are suffering, wherever they are in our world. (DACA, border wall, immigration reform, travel ban, refugee limits).

We are a wealthy nation, blessed with resources, and it is imperative that we show the international community our moral leadership on this issue, helping to prove that God is bountiful, that he has given us the means necessary to meet the needs of those in peril and in poverty, both here and abroad.

America has long welcomed the migrant. Our country has throughout history been seen as a safe haven from those fleeing violence, persecution and poverty. And the Catholic Church in the United States has been filled with migrants from around the world—from Poland and Italy and Ireland and Mexico and Guatemala. In joining Pope Francis in this “Share the Journey” campaign, we ensure that these traditions continue, nourishing our response to a worldwide humanitarian crisis. ❖



October 2: Feast of Guardian Angels

# The National Council of Catholic Women Celebrates 97 Years of Service at their Annual Convention in Dallas, TX

Washington, D.C. September 2017

The National Council of Catholic Women, founded on March 4, 1920, celebrated its 97th year of service to God and the Church at the annual Convention September 6-9, 2017 in Dallas, Texas with the theme: Catholic Women: Living the Joy of the Gospel.

More than 600 women from all around the United States, undeterred by hurricane Harvey and the imminent threat of Irma, joined with their Council sisters to pray and worship, hear motivating talks from renowned speakers, vote on resolutions, welcome incoming officers, visit the jam-packed exhibit hall and tour Dallas while staying at the beautiful Hilton Anatole in the Dallas Design District.

From the hilarity of Sister's Christmas Catechism, to liturgies that filled attendees with peace and a profound sense of camaraderie as hundreds of NCCW sisters and Spiritual Advisors joined in praise, NCCW members not only experienced a most memorable time together, they also raised funds for and donated necessities to hurricane victims.

Speakers for the 2017 National Convention included: Mary Rice Hasson, a Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. where she directs the Catholic Women's Forum, an initiative that responds to Pope Francis's call for Catholic women to assume a higher profile within the Church; Stacy Thomlison, missionary for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (Focus); Dale Recinella, spiritual counselor and Catholic lay chaplain to prisoners as

well as author of numerous books on the death penalty; and Mother Susan Catherine Kennedy, a former Nacogdoches County judge who founded the order of the Daughters of Divine Hope in 2010 after the death of her husband.

A special treat for Convention attendees was the opportunity to view the trailer for SONY Picture's movie, THE STAR and to attend a pre-release presentation of the movie, Same Kind of Different as Me, based on the best-selling book.

"In Convention, the scope and breadth of our NCCW becomes vibrantly apparent as we gather from across the country to pray, laugh, and learn what together we can do through the interaction of all levels of Council to make our world a better place. I expect that attendees will come away with a renewed sense of appreciation for our NCCW, thankful for all those who established and who have remained true to our Mission through these last 97 years. We now look to a future bright with promise as we move forward in our commitment to unite and assist American Catholic women to live fully the Joy of the Gospel," said Maribeth Stewart, NCCW President.

NCCW's mission is to act through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. Its programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society today. To request an interview with NCCW President Maribeth Stewart, contact



*In Convention, the scope and breadth of our NCCW becomes vibrantly apparent as we gather from across the country to pray, laugh, and learn what together we can do through the interaction of all levels of Council to make our world a better place.*

lbennett@nccw.org or call (703) 224-0990. Visit nccw.org for more information on the National Council of Catholic Women.

Saturday October 14th the local council will host the Woman of the Year Celebration at St. Apollinaris, Napa. To contact our local Diocesan Council of Catholic Women email: Gloria Krzyzanowski: srdc-wjgloria@hotmail.com or Margaret Patrizi: gramypatrizi@icloud.com. ❖

*(Marian Vestments, cont. from page 6)*

chasuble set to his vestment collection. And thanks to gifts from his friends and former and current parishioners on the occasion of his silver jubilee last October, the purchase was made possible.

Before Keyes made his annual pilgrimage to Rome in June of this year, he contacted the head tailor, 33-year-old Stefano Gammarelli, whom he knows on a first-name basis and is friends with on Facebook, to see if the shop had any Roman Marian vestments available. There were none; so, with the aid of Google images of Roman vestments, Keyes gave Gammarelli an idea of the kind of vestments he wanted to order.

"Roman vestments are vestments with traditional Roman lines," explains Keyes. These lines include a tau in the front (a symbol of Jesus Crucified) and a column on the back, symbolizing the scourging of Jesus. "They're the vestments of Saint Phillip Neri." This style, commonly worn by Italian clerics in the 16th and 17th centuries is depicted in representations of the beloved saint, patron of laughter and the New Evangelization.

Keyes compares the size of the tailor shop as about the size of the dining room of the rectory at the Cath-

edral of Saint Eugene. His eyes light up as he describes the neighborhood where the tailor shop is located as a "candy store for priests," where a number of liturgical vestment shops and church supply stores satisfy many a sacerdotal sweet tooth.

Fabrics of various colors, shades, and textures lined the walls of Gammarelli. Stefano pulled out a few silk fabrics and laid them out. Keyes selected an ivory fabric and a blue fabric. Stefano suggested a traditional Marian emblem to top off the chasuble, and the tailors got to work.

"Every time I put on a traditional vestment and say the traditional [Extraordinary Form] Mass, I'm saying the same Mass that Saint Gaspar del Bufalo (Keyes's patron saint) and Saint Phillip Neri said. And I try to give attention to detail to the Mass as they did. I feel a closeness to them when I'm celebrating the Extraordinary Form and the Ordinary Form [of the Mass]."

When asked about how he cares for the vestments, Keyes responds, "I keep the chasubles on hangers in the [Marian Sisters] convent sacristy. Most have never been dry cleaned yet."

As the altar servers prepare the altar for the Feast of the Assumption just before the 5:30 Latin Mass at

the Cathedral, Father Keyes blesses the new Marian chasuble set, in Latin, with specific prayers to ask God that the vestments may "be worn to dignify and beautify the worship of thee [God]," as the ancient blessing goes.

With a sprinkle of holy water, Keyes concludes the Roman ritual and joyfully puts on each piece of the set: chasuble, stole, and maniple, while saying vesting prayers as he puts on each piece. "Vestment prayers [an ancient practice] were not taught to me in seminary," laments Keyes. But Keyes says his vestment prayers faithfully each time he dresses himself for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. "There's a certain amount of silence in this sacristy that makes vesting more prayerful."

The altar is set, the parishioners are in the pews, and Father Keyes and the nine mostly millennial altar servers align for procession.

When Keyes ordered his Marian chasuble set in June, Stefano said it could be delivered in October. Keyes replied, "You mean by Assumption?" Stefano responded, "We'll do our best."

One can almost hear Our Lady of the Assumption say, "Don't worry. I'll take care of it." ❖

# Be Not Afraid, We're All in This Together

by Sister Constance Veit, I.S.P.

Each October we observe Respect Life Month in dioceses around the United States. This year's theme is "Be Not Afraid," but of what, or whom, are we supposed to not be afraid?

Pondering this question, I recalled an experience I had while attending the Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando last summer. I met a young woman and her mother from my diocese. The daughter, who had an obvious disability and was using a power wheelchair, had been chosen as a delegate to the Convocation; her mother, a college professor, was there as her assistant.

As we got acquainted, we chatted about accessibility issues in the church. The young woman told me that while most parishes have remedied architectural barriers such as curbs and restrooms, the seating area designated for wheelchairs is often still found way off to the side or at the very back of the sanctuary—evidence, she believes, that handicapped individuals are still not fully embraced as an integral part of parish life.

What she said next cut right to the heart: "It's fine to be able to get in and out of church, but it would be nice if someone smiled at me once in a while, or spoke to me as if I actually knew what was going on." I was stunned. All too quickly we wrapped up our conversation, traded business cards—yes, my new friend has a college education and a meaningful job—and went our separate ways. But I haven't been able to get this conversation off my mind.

When I got home I did a bit of research on attitudes toward the disabled and was shocked by a recent study in the U.K. that found that two thirds of adults are afraid of people with disabilities and feel so awkward around them that they go out of their way to avoid them. Another study indicated that 1.4 million senior citizens in the U.K. feel lonely and cut off from society, many going for over a month at a time without talking to another human being. Since these were not American studies, it would be easy to dismiss this data, but I suspect that we have a lot in common with our British brothers and sisters.

Scholars in the field of disability studies suggest that disabled people mirror a certain kind of personal loss or death. They remind us of our own limitations and mortality—and that is what frightens us. As long as we can avoid those who are handicapped or elderly, we can keep our fears about our own fragility and eventual death at bay. But we are all broken in some way—if we were honest, we would admit that we each experience areas of weakness or disability every day, and none of us is really more than one accident or illness away from losing our cherished independence.

The church proposes a different approach. In the face of suffering and death she tells us, "Be not afraid." With words that echo through salvation history into the depths of our hearts, the Lord says to us, "Do not fear: I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10). He speaks these words not as One who merely observes our pain, but



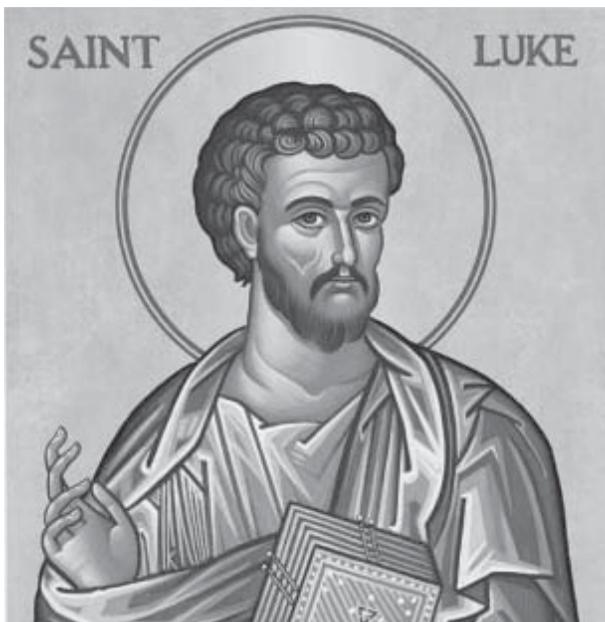
*If we were honest, we would admit that we each experience areas of weakness or disability every day, and none of us is really more than one accident or illness away from losing our cherished independence.*

as One who experienced intense suffering and death in his own flesh before triumphing over death itself.

Reflecting on the wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He is always with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go out to all the world!

So if we run toward our most vulnerable brothers and sisters rather than running away from them, marginalizing them or excluding them from our lives, we will experience the love of God in a powerful new way as we contribute to the building up of a society that witnesses to the beautiful, profound reality that God has created each of us in his own image and likeness, that he loves us infinitely, and that he has confided each person to the love of all. ❖

*Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.*



October 18: St. Luke

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100  
Years  
of Fatima  
Diocesan Consecration

# 33 Days Preparation Activity from Around the Diocese:

This is just a snapshot of some of the activities going on around the Diocese! There are too many to list this month. More next month.

## St. Mary's Arcata

Dear Bishop Vasa,

Thank you so much for making the "33 Days to Morning Glory" available

online. I am participating in our parish retreat, but it is so joyful to keep

seeing Father Gailey's presentations. Each time I view the segments, I learn

more. Everything about my faith is becoming more vivid. I am so grateful to

have this opportunity. Thanks to Father Francis and the Consecration retreat

facilitators here at St. Mary's. Thank you.

Sincerely yours, Alicia Uemura, Arcata

## St. Joseph's Crescent City

Saint Joseph's Parish in Crescent City has finished its first retreat. On September 8th, ten people were consecrated. Another group of four people started on September 4th and will be consecrated on October 7th.

These are the two groups I have taken through the retreat, 33 Days of Morning Glory. We are now in the process of selecting a date to do the second part of this retreat, "Consoling the Heart of Jesus". I will be combining the two groups into one, as this is a longer retreat, 10 weeks, and the interest is there with both groups.

"To Jesus through Mary" Katie Gavin Chairperson, Marian Garden Committee

## Star of the Valley, Santa Rosa

**October 9th Marian Retreat** Have you signed up for the Marian Retreat yet? It will begin next week at Star of the Valley, and there is no cost to participate. The first of six Monday sessions, start October 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Monsignor Fahey Parish Center, where we will view a short video and break up into discussion groups. Since this is a do-it-yourself retreat, you will be given materials to enable you to continue it at your own pace, and in the comfort of your home, during the weekdays between each Monday session. This is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your prayer life and your personal walk with Jesus with the help of our Mother, Mary. Call Ruth Fulger at 537-9185, or Harriet Draper at 539-4044.

## St. John the Baptist School in Napa

**August/September:** Tell the story of Fatima through books and movies for our students. Share resources from Formed.org for our parents in Spanish and English. **October:** 13th – School wide Eucharistic Holy Hour done in grade level groups with parish priests. 20th 9AM Living Rosary presented by 3rd/4th grade classes. **November:** 33 Days to Morning Glory – Parish has provided books for all faculty/staff and parishioners Teaching of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. **December:** 8th – 8:30AM Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass hosted by 6th Grade School wide entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary and reception of the Miraculous Medal for all students. **January:** Visit by Bishop Vasa to our school campus. Presentation on Our Lady of Fatima from our students to the Bishop. Choir to sing Marian songs. **May:** 2 – 8:30AM Mass hosted by 2nd grade in celebration of their First Holy Communion. Blessing and Crowning of Mary outside the Church following Mass 18 – 2PM Living Rosary presented by the 7th Grade.

Don't forget to share your information on our Facebook page!

[www.facebook.com/DioceseOfSantaRosa](http://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfSantaRosa) ❖

## Diocesan Consecration Dec 9-10

[www.srdiocese.org/33days](http://www.srdiocese.org/33days)

Access the online program

Start Your Preparation

## 33 Days to Morning Glory



## Marian Consecration Prayer

I, renew and ratify today in your hands, O, Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism. I renounce Satan and resolve to follow Jesus Christ even more closely than ever before.

Mary, I give you my heart. Please set it on fire with love for Jesus. Make it always attentive to His burning thirst for love and for souls.

Keep my heart in your most pure Heart that I may love Jesus and the members of his Body with your own perfect love. Mary, I entrust myself totally to you: my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions. Please make

of me, of all that I am and have, whatever most pleases you. Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for bringing the greatest possible glory to God.

If I fall, please lead me back to Jesus. Wash me in the blood and water that flow from his pierced side, and help me never to lose my trust in this fountain of love and mercy. With you, O Immaculate Mother—you who always do the will of God—I unite myself to the perfect consecration of Jesus as He offers himself in the Spirit to the Father for the life of the world. *Amen.*

## Child & Youth Protection

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

**Julie Sparacio, Director**  
Child and Youth Protection  
**707-566-3309**  
jsparacio@srдиоese.org



## Santa Rosa Religious Education Conference

### Conferencia de Educación Religiosa de Santa Rosa

Saturday, December 2, 2017 / 9am - 3pm  
Sábado, 2 de diciembre / 9am - 3pm

St. Bernard Catholic School,  
222 Dollison Street, Eureka

- Registration is now open.
- The Registration Form available on the website, parish & DRE office.
- The registration fee covers admission. Tickets are required.
- \$10.00 - by Monday, November 20 - **Early Bird**.
- \$15.00 - for registrations received after November 20th & day of event.
- Bring your own lunch.
- Ministries & Exhibitors showcasing Books & Gifts.

- El registro esta abierto.
- El formulario de inscripción están disponibles en el website, la parroquia, y la oficina de dre.
- La cuota de inscripción cubre la admisión. Los billetes son necesarios.
- \$10.00 - antes del 20 de noviembre - **fecha limite**.
- \$15.00 - después de 20 de noviembre.
- Trae tu propio almuerzo.
- Habrá una sección de exhibición de libro y regalos.

**CONTACT: Carmen Perez Aanenson**

Diocese of Santa Rosa, Department of Religious Education (DRE)  
dre@srдиоese.org | (707) 566-3366 | Fax: (707) 791-7495  
[www.santarosacatholic.org](http://www.santarosacatholic.org)

# My cousin the martyr: meet Blessed Stanley Rother's large family

by Mary Rezac

Oklahoma City, Okla. (CNA/EWTN News) - They came from Illinois and they came from Wisconsin. They came from Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. They came from Minnesota—three or four buses worth. At least 16 cars made the drive down from Nebraska.

The many, many, first, second and third cousins of Father Stanley Rother descended on Oklahoma City like the Boomers of old descended on the Oklahoma plains when there was free land for the claiming. But this time, they came to watch one of their own become “Blessed” in the eyes of the Church.

Fr. Stanley was born in 1935, and grew up with his parents and four siblings in the rural farming town of Okarche, Okla. He became a priest in 1963 and was martyred in 1981 in Guatemala at the age of 46, after serving as a missionary there for 13 years.

He was beatified on Sept. 23 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. His two surviving siblings, Sister Marita and Tom Rother, as well as hundreds of extended relatives, were in attendance at the Mass, along with 14,000 of the faithful.

Doris Horne was in charge of mobilizing the Nebraska contingent. Many Rother relations are from the small town of Humphrey, Nebraska, while others have settled in the Columbus, Ohio area. “There are 140 of us from my Grandmother Smith-Fuchs side here, from six states,” she told CNA as she sat amongst many of them at the Cox Convention Center before the beatification Mass for Fr. Stanley Rother, her second cousin.

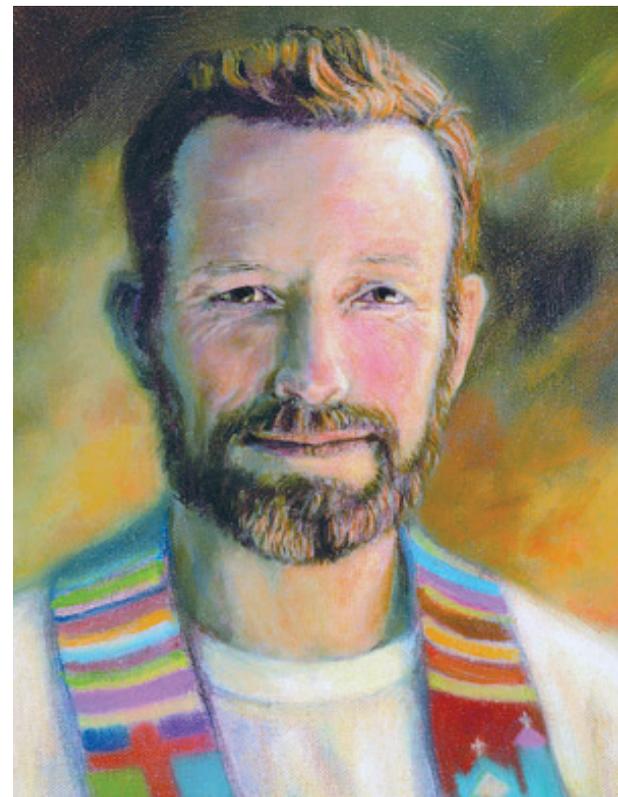
Horne’s parents were first cousins to Fr. Stanley’s parents. Although she never met Fr. Stanley, Horne said she remembered his parents coming to visit. She was also able to make a pilgrimage to his mission in Guatemala on the 25th anniversary of his death. “Everyone down there loved him, and the churches were packed” for the occasion, she recalled. “He was so loved down there.”

“I don’t know how to put it into words, but it’s an honor. We pray to him all the time, and I’m just honored to be part of the family,” she said.

Cousins have always been an important part of life for Fr. Stanley Rother, who came from a German Catholic family. The first wedding he ever celebrated was that of his cousin Kay Rother and her husband. These days, Kay volunteers a lot at Holy Trinity parish in Okarche, Okla., where Fr. Stanley went to church and school. She said it’s probably a good thing Fr. Stanley wasn’t alive to witness all of his beatification happenings.

“With all this going on, he would not want it,” she said with a mixture of humor and bemusement, gesturing to the small crowd of journalists and distant relatives descending on the otherwise quiet parish grounds the day before the beatification Mass. Stanley was a humble, quiet person and would have loathed being the center of attention, Kay explained. “He wouldn’t like all the hubub,” she said. “He was very quiet and humble, and he didn’t brag on what he did.”

Besides being a cousin and the celebrant of her wedding, Fr. Stanley is dear to Kay for another important



*When Fr. Stanley was killed in 1981, his heart remained interned at the altar in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. His body was flown back to Okarche, where it was buried in Holy Trinity’s cemetery until just a few months ago, when his remains were moved to a temporary resting place in the archdiocese, pending the completion of a shrine in his honor.*

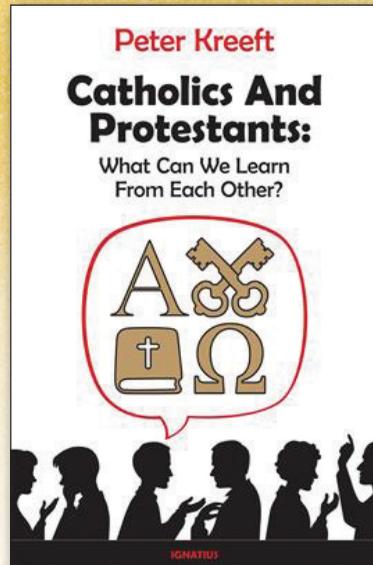
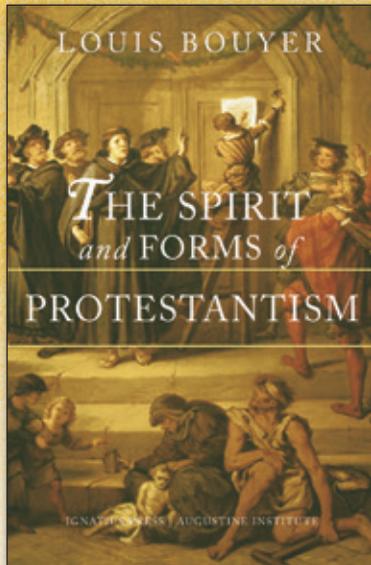
reason: she credits his intercession for saving the life of her daughter, Amber. Several years ago, when Amber was just in her early twenties, she had a brain aneurysm rupture. The first hospital said there was nothing to be done except to take her upstairs and harvest her organs. Another hospital said if Amber lived, she’d spend her life in a vegetative state. That’s when Kay’s husband called on Stan.

“My husband said don’t worry about it, I’m going to the cemetery. So he went to the cemetery and said ‘okay Stan, time for you to work.’ And three days later she opened her eyes, and today you’d never know it,” Kay said. Amber is healthy, and happily married, with one child. Fr. Stan is a big reason she’s spent the past 30 years volunteering at the parish. Even in the midst of the beatification chaos, Kay was trying to fix the air conditioning in the church that had stopped working “today of all days. I just felt like I owed it to him. It’s the least I can do,” Kay said, doing her best to hold back the tears.

When Fr. Stanley was killed in 1981, his heart remained interned at the altar in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. His body was flown back to Okarche, where it was buried in Holy Trinity’s cemetery until just a few months ago, when his remains were moved to a temporary resting place in the archdiocese, pending the completion of a shrine in his honor. But his headstone still marks the original plot in the Holy Trinity Cemetery. “Padre A’plas”, it reads, the name for Father Francis in the native Guatemalan language of Tzutuhil, which he had learned to speak fluently.

*(see Blessed Stanley Rother, page 17)*

# THE REFORMATION AT 500 YEARS



## ◆ THE SPIRIT AND FORMS OF PROTESTANTISM — Louis Bouyer

Acclaimed theologian Bouyer examines the underlying principles and teachings of the 16th century Protestant reformers. The topics include Scripture alone as source of Christian belief, justification by faith alone, God's free gift of unmerited salvation, the sovereignty of God, and the Christian responsibility toward good works. He also presents certain problematic areas of Protestant thought, such as the denial of the efficacy of the sacraments, a conflict between various interpretations of Scripture and the Tradition of the Church, and the rejection of Church authority. He then shows how these same principles gradually weakened the various forms of Protestantism, while, at the same time, provided impetus for later reforms and renewals. Bouyer challenges Catholics and Protestants to better understand the issues that both separate and unite them.

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## ◆ CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS

*What Can We Learn from Each Other?* — Peter Kreeft

The widely read author and philosopher Kreeft presents a unique book about the important beliefs that Catholics and Protestants share in common. Inspired by Christ's prayer for unity in the Gospel of John and St. John Paul II's encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, Kreeft demonstrates that Christian reunification is possible. While acknowledging there are still significant differences, he emphasizes that they agree on the single most important issue: justification.

"No one has taught me more about what healthy ecumenism looks like than the brilliant and eloquent Peter Kreeft. He is a peerless apologist for truth and has been an inspiration to me on the happy and vital connections between serious Catholic and evangelical faith."

— Eric Metaxas, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author, *Bonhoeffer*

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## ◆ CHARACTERS OF THE REFORMATION — Hilaire Belloc

In one of his most fascinating books, Anglo-French writer Belloc presents in bold colors the twenty-three principal characters of the Protestant Reformation. He focuses on those figures who changed the course of English history, analyzing their strengths, mistakes, motives and deeds. Belloc vividly paints the portraits of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I, Thomas More, Mary Tudor, Thomas Cromwell, Mary Stuart and many others. He illustrates how the motives of Protestant leaders were rarely religious in nature, but usually political or economic.

"Hearing the stories of those who played instrumental roles in the divisions caused by the Reformation can open us to a better understanding of why these divisions occurred and how the unity that our Lord prayed for can be reestablished."

— Marcus Grodi, EWTN Host; from the Foreword

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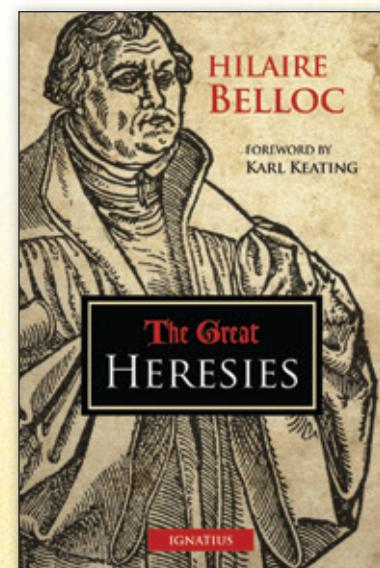
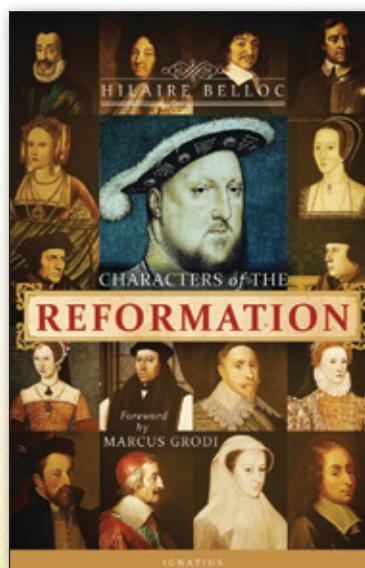
## ◆ THE GREAT HERESIES — Hilaire Belloc

The great Catholic apologist and historian examines the five most destructive heretical movements in Christianity: Arianism, Mohammedanism (Islam), Albigensianism, Protestantism, and Modernism. Belloc describes how these movements began, how they spread, how they continue to influence the world and are still with us today. He accurately predicted the re-emergence of militant Islam and its violent aggression against Western civilization.

"Heresy is a perennial problem. 'All men desire to know', said Aristotle, but many are incapable of knowing well or of thinking clearly. The result is religious error. To deal with it, we must learn its origin and history. There seldom has been a better teacher than Belloc."

— Karl Keating, from the Foreword; Author, *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*

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# Why Witchcraft Can Never Be Used to Accomplish Good

by Mary Rezac

Washington D.C., Sep 27 (CNA/EWTN News) - Shortly after Donald Trump assumed the office of President of the United States, witches across the country began large-scale efforts to cast binding spells on him.

Amanda Yates Garcia, a self-identified witch known as the “Oracle of Los Angeles,” told Tucker Carlson of FOX News last week that the binding spells are not intended to harm Trump, but rather are intended to prevent him from causing any harm to others.

“Binding spells are a symbolic action used to harness the powers of the imagination and achieve a tangible result, eventually,” she said.

“I desire that Trump stop harming people that I care about and instituting policies that also harming me or people that I care about. My ultimate aim is that we protect the people that we love from having harm done to them,” she added.

But can witchcraft ever be used to accomplish something good?

Catholic theologian Dr. Anthony Lilles told CNA that even though the end result of witchcraft, magic or a spell may be some perceived good, these means are always an evil and are always below the dignity of the human person.

“Whether or not they’ve made a right judgment in the evil they want to prevent is one thing, but in Catholic moral tradition, we believe that you should never do evil that good might come from it,” he said.

“The way the logic of magic works, you attempt to control elements either above human nature or below human nature, and in your effort to manipulate or control these things, you always end up controlled by them. Whatever you give your heart to, that’s what has control over you,” Lilles said.

“As Christians we give our heart to God, and because he is completely above us, he is able to lift us up. When you give your heart to anything else, you always lower yourself, and so it’s very bad for the person who practices magic, because it always diminishes their own dignity,” he added.

Another problem with magic and spells is that they operate on the level of imagination, rather than in the world of reality and truth, Lilles said.

“Reason orients us to discern things according to the truth, to respond to situations such as they really truly are,” Lilles said.

With magic, “it’s trying to stand with your human dignity on something a little bit more whimsical, something that can’t support it. A fantasy can’t support the dignity and greatness of what it means to be a human being, only God can be that foundation. Only the truth is firm enough ground for the greatness of who each one of us is as a human being.”

For these reasons, witchcraft, magic and superstition have always been condemned practices in the Judeo-Christian tradition, which teaches that human beings must rely humbly and completely on the will of God, Lilles said.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church categorizes witchcraft and magic particularly as offenses against



*“Witchcraft, magic and divination always stem from a desire to control and manipulate reality and situations in our lives, rather than humbly making our requests known to an all-powerful and all-loving God.”*

the First Commandment, which is: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.”

Witchcraft, magic and divination always stem from a desire to control and manipulate reality and situations in our lives, rather than humbly making our requests known to an all-powerful and all-loving God, Lilles said.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, in paragraph 2115, that while God may choose to reveal future events to human being through the prophets or the saints, a right Christian attitude is “putting oneself confidently into the hands of Providence for whatever concerns the future, and giving up all unhealthy curiosity about it.”

The Catechism also notes that all forms of divination, magic and sorcery are to be rejected.

Anything “by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one’s service and have a supernatural power over others—even if this were for the sake of restoring their health—are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion. These practices are even more to be condemned when accompanied by the intention of harming someone, or when they have recourse to the intervention of demons.” (CCC 2117)

Witchcraft can be attractive because of its grasp at power and control, especially in a culture that has forgotten God, Lilles noted.

“In a culture that no longer knows God, that has forgotten to pray, that doesn’t have confidence in humility before the creator and redeemer of the world, there will be a spiritual vacuum, and nature

abhors vacuums,” he said.

“So turning to the occult, turning to magic, turning to all kinds of practices that are beneath our dignity is something that we will see people more and more inclined to do as they attempt to fill that vacuum, a vacuum that only God can fulfill in a satisfactory way.”

But that shouldn’t overly worry Christians with a proper understanding of magic and divination. Lilles said that Christians should not dismiss the practices of magic or divination as fantasy or as having no power, but at the same time, they can rest in knowing that their God is more powerful than any of these practices.

“The access to the very heart of God, which is ours by faith, far exceeds any magical power that someone might have,” he said.

“The creator of heaven and earth has implicated himself in our lives and in our own personal plights, and he is able to accomplish so much more than any power or force or element in this world below. All we have to do is make a humble cry and he is there, and that’s the truth we stand by.”

Father Vincent Lampert, an exorcist for the archdiocese of Indianapolis, told the National Catholic Register in February that the best antidote to magic and spells for Catholics is frequenting the sacraments.

“You can’t stop someone from placing a curse, but as a Christian, if you are you praying to God and going to him, the curse will have no power,” Father Lampert said.

Dr. Lilles echoed his sentiments.

“We don’t need to grasp at control or try to manipulate things, whether by magic or other means. What we need today is trust in God, and if we trust in him, everything is going to be ok. That’s why prayer is so important. Prayer is the school of trusting God.” ❖

# News Briefs

## Diocesan

### Marian Sisters Visit St Francis Solano and Other Schools

On Friday, September 22, the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa visit St. Francis Solano School. The Sisters visited classrooms and played with students during recess.

#### *Here is the schedule of the MSSR School visits:*

St. Vincent Elementary, Friday 9/8, 10/6, 11/3 9:30 – Noon Sr. Margaret Mary and Sr. Mary Emmanuel.  
St. Helena Elementary, Friday 9/15, 10/13, 11/10 9:30 – Noon Sr. Mary Victoria and Sr. Rose Janae  
St. Francis Solano Elementary, Friday 9/22, 10/20, 11/17 9:30 – Noon Sr. Michelle Marie and Sr. Mary Catherine  
St. Apollinaris Elementary Friday 9/29, 10/27, 12/1 9:30 – Noon Sr. Margaret Mary and Sr. Katie

## International

### Mexico City archdiocese offers free medical care for earthquake victims

Mexico City, Mexico, Sep 26 (CNA/EWTN News) - In the wake of last week's devastating earthquake, the Archdiocese of Mexico City has announced that anyone needing medical care can go to the Catholic Church's clinics and hospitals even if they are unable to pay.

On Sept. 19, a 7.1-magnitude earthquake devastated Mexico City and surrounding areas, killing more than 300 and leaving thousands homeless.

Health care law in Mexico requires that medical services are provided on a sliding scale, considering the ability of patients to pay. In light of the current situation, the archdiocese has announced that it will provide medical services "even if you can't pay on the sliding scale."

To help defray their costs, donations of any kind are also being requested, especially "bandages, toiletries, antiseptics, gauze or medications in good condition, not used or expired."

Fr. Pedro Velasquez, director of the Pastoral Commission on Health Care for the Archdiocese of Mexico, noted that this service is being provided thanks to volunteers from Catholic universities, especially from Anahuac University's north and south campuses.

Cardinal Rivera also shared his appreciation for all the youthful volunteers during a recent homily at the Guadalupe Basilica: "What a moving lesson it has been to see so many young people, day and night, helping those affected, distributing food supplies, removing rubble, going up and down the streets anxiously looking for someone to help! Just for the joy of seeing someone being reborn out of the rubble!"

Fr. Velasquez described the first moments after the quake struck. "Initially people cut with flying glass came in, or with various kinds of trauma; we've treated fractures, bruises, those are the things we normally treat when there's an emergency," the priest said.

"We also give medications to people with chronic problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure or even a nervous breakdown," he added.

Finally, Fr. Velasquez encouraged Mexicans to keep their faith, and to see that despite the suffering brought by the quake, "natural catastrophes are an opportunity God gives us to show our support for one another and to use our personal talents to serve others."

### Pope And Peruvian President Discuss Venezuela, Upcoming Papal Visit

by Elise Harris

Vatican City, Sep 24 (CNA/EWTN News) - Pope Francis met with Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski Friday to discuss the country's fight against poverty, the crisis in Venezuela and the Pope's upcoming visit, among other topics.

President Kuczynski, described the meeting to journalists at a Sept. 23 news briefing, saying "what we spoke about is what is happening in Peru, how little by little we are eliminating poverty in Peru (and) what is happening in the Peruvian government."

"We also spoke, naturally, about the visit of the Holy Father to Peru," he said, drawing attention to the trip Pope Francis will make to Peru and Chile in January 2018.

The president said preparations for the visit are going well, and that "almost everything is ready." Authorities are still deciding where the Pope's final Mass on the last day of the visit will be held, but "everything else in the trip is already organized."

The visit, announced in June, will take the Pope to Chile from January 15 to 18 and Peru from January 18 to 21, 2018. It will mark Francis' fourth official tour of Latin America since his election, after Brazil in 2013; Bolivia, Paraguay and Ecuador in 2015 and his recent visit to Colombia earlier this month.

In Chile the Pope will visit the capital of Santiago, and the cities of Temuco and Iquique. In Peru, he will visit the capital city of Lima, as well as Puerto Maldonado and Trujillo.

In his comments to journalists, President Kuczynski described his conversation with the Pope as "very friendly." The Pope offered several "proverbs" known in the Spanish language, he said, adding that "he is a man very knowledgeable in literature."

He and Francis also discussed the situation of former presidents of Peru, some of whom are currently in prison. The latest ex-president to be put behind bars is Ollanta Humal, who was jailed in July amid a corruption scandal that continues to unfold in the country.

Corruption was also naturally a part of the discussion, specifically "how the fight against corruption is going," Kuczynski said.

He explained that in his meeting with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin that followed his conversation with the Pope, Peruvian leaders, after consulting with other governments, are planning to make a proposal to establish an "Inter-American Court against corruption" during the 2018 Summit of the Americas, set to take place in Lima.

The president also touched on Peru's complicated past, in many ways still shrouded by the violence of the guerrilla group "the Shining Path,"

largely active in the 1980-90s, and the need for reconciliation.

"In Latin America, in all countries, we need reconciliation, and the visit of the Pope without doubt will immensely help this," Kuczynski said, noting that Peru itself "has been successful enough in reconciliation after the period of terrorism and hyperinflation that we had."

Another topic that has somewhat overshadowed the Church in Peru for the past two years is the scandal surrounding Luis Fernando Figari, a consecrated layman who founded the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, a society of apostolic life, in 1971 in Peru. It was granted pontifical recognition in 1997, and is one of the most well-known communities in Peru.

It came into the international spotlight when in 2015 accusations of physical, sexual and psychological abuse were raised against Figari, which were proved to be true. Figari, who had been transferred to Rome, was then barred from any contact with the community as the result of an investigation carried out by Peruvian civil authorities.

Although the case is likely to come up at some point during the Pope's visit, President Kuczynski said the issue was not raised in his discussion with the Pope, as it is being handled "through other channels."

The president said his discussion with Cardinal Parolin also touched on the crisis in Venezuela, with both agreeing that "humanitarian aid must be allowed into Venezuela because there are many people who are sick, there are no medicines."

"The current government, for reasons of pride, is opposed to this," he said. Another mutual interest, then, is "to look for a dialogue so that there is a transitional system of government."

"We are all worried, we want to help," he said. "We think that a country that has the largest petroleum reserves in the world deserves a better destiny for their inhabitants."

*Miguel Perez, Rome correspondent for CNA's Spanish-language sister agency ACI Prensa, contributed to this article.*

### SSPX bishop signs letter claiming Pope Francis enables error

Rome, Italy, Sep 23 (CNA) - A letter presenting itself as a filial correction of Pope Francis for reputed errors and heresies has been signed by over 60 Catholic clergy and scholars, including most prominently Bishop Bernard Fellay, the superior general of the breakaway traditionalist Society of St. Pius X group.

The letter to the Pope, dated July 16, says it concerns "the propagation of heresies effected by the apostolic exhortation *'Amoris Laetitia'* and by other words, deeds and omissions of Your Holiness." It claims the publication of the exhortation and other acts of the Pope has given "scandal concerning faith and morals" to the Church and to the world,

"While professing their obedience to his legitimate commands and teachings, they maintain that Francis has upheld and propagated heretical opinions by various direct or indirect means," a press release accompanying the letter said of the signers. It added that the signers do not believe the Pope has propagated these opinions as dogmatic Church teachings and make no judgment about the Pope's culpability.

The letter was delivered to Pope Francis on Aug. 11, the press release said.

Bishop Fellay reportedly learned of the document only after its delivery. The district superior of the

*(see News Briefs, page 16)*

(News Briefs, cont. from page 15)

Society of Pius X, Father Robert Brucciani, is also a signatory. The society's leader in 1988 ordained four bishops without papal permission in 1988 and all five prelates were excommunicated. Pope Benedict XVI lifted the excommunications in 2009 and there have been continuing talks seeking to reconcile the society with the Church.

The letter to Pope Francis cites differences among the Catholic bishops and cardinals concerning the reception of Holy Communion by the divorced and remarried. It objects to the Pope's silence in the face of the "dubia" submitted to the Pope by four cardinals seeking clarification of "*Amoris Laetitia*," in September 2016.

It charges that the Pope's actions have allowed Holy Communion to be received sacrilegiously by divorced people now living as husband and wife with someone not their spouse.

The letter claims the Pope has voiced "unprecedented sympathy" for Martin Luther and suggested there is an affinity between Luther's ideas and the ideas of "*Amoris Laetitia*." It also blames theological modernism for provoking a crisis within the Church.

Other signers include Dr. Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, past president of the Institution of Religious Works and an ethics professor at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, as well Msgr. Antonio Livi, dean emeritus of the Pontifical Lateran University.

Some U.S.-based signers include Dr. Philip Blosser, a philosophy professor at the Detroit archdiocese's Sacred Heart Major Seminary; Christopher Ferrara, president of the American Catholic Lawyers' Association and a columnist in the hardline traditionalist Catholic newspaper *The Remnant*; and Dr. John Rao, a history professor at St. John's University in New York City who directs the Roman Forum.

### **Pope's Trip to Burma Comes Amid 'Textbook Example of Ethnic Cleansing'**

September 28 (CNA/EWTN News)

When Pope Francis visits Burma, also known as Myanmar, this November, his visit will come at one of the most contentious periods of the country's history.

Over the past month, state-supported violence against Burma's Rohingya Muslim community—an ethnic and religious minority—has reached staggering levels, causing the United Nations to declare the situation "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

"The scope of the humanitarian crisis is enormous and it's ongoing," said Daniel Mark, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, in an interview with CNA. "Once again we unfortunately have another terrible crisis that's focusing people's attention on something that's already a terrible situation."

"This is a deep and longstanding problem that we've been trying to call attention to for a long time, but it's going to need an extremely long and concerted effort to address," Mark told CNA. "Even addressing the immediate humanitarian crisis is not going to solve this profound underlying issue of the Rohingya Muslims in Burma."

For years, the Rohingya, an ethnic group whose main religion is Islam, have faced grave persecution in the Burmese state of Rakhine, where the majority of them live. An estimated 1.1 million Rohingya live within the majority-Buddhist country. Members of the group have been denied citizenship since the foundation of Burma in 1948, and have suffered violence, and the freedom to move or access clean water

since a military coup d'état in 1962.

After a different military regime took control in 1988, with even harsher military crackdowns throughout the country, the country has been referred to as Myanmar.

Pope Francis will visit the country in November, following stories of horrifying human rights abuses and a mass exodus of Rohingya civilians from Burma.

The most recent wave of violence began on Aug. 25, 2017, after which the Burmese military and local Buddhist vigilantes enacted a campaign of burning Rohingya villages and massacring the civilians within them. It is still unclear exactly how many people have been killed in the violence, but Bangladeshi Foreign Affairs minister Minister of Foreign Affairs has estimated that at least 3,000 have died so far. As many as 400,000 people have been displaced within the past month. Neighboring Bangladesh has accepted the majority of those refugees, and more people have been internally displaced within the country.

The military claims the violence is a response to attacks by a small group of Rohingya against border agents in the Rakhine province, which left 12 officers dead. However, the violence—which includes arson, sexual violence, and internal displacement – long precedes those attacks, and other demonstrations within Rohingya communities, said Olivia Enos, a policy analyst in the Asian Studies Center at The Heritage Foundation, who specializes in human rights.

"Maybe some individual Rohingya are acting out in self-defense, but to place blame on Rohingya is misleading," Enos said.

"The military has a long, long history of burning homes and villages, raping women and children. The track record is so long that to place the blame on any kind of radical agents within the Rohingya would be really inaccurate."

While violence and discrimination against the Rohingya people at the hands of Burmese authorities has been ongoing since the 1960s, with increases in persecution in 2012 and 2015, the current crisis is of particular concern, Enos said. She explained that the high levels of displacement and increased incidents of violence and destruction set this conflict apart from the ones that have come before.

Also concerning, she said, is the fact this conflict is occurring after democratic reforms which took place between 2011-2015. While the nation is becoming more democratic, she said, military still maintains significant control within Burma. Furthermore, the country's leader—Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi—has remained silent when asked about the persecution of the group within her country.

To add to the worries, Enos fears that by focusing on the ethnic element of the conflict, Western leaders may overlook its religious aspect. "The vast majority of people in Burma are Buddhist and they view the Muslim minority group Rohingya as a threat to the native Burman society," she said. "It's a religious conflict."

Mark stated that the religious element of the conflict has been a concern of the Commission since its founding in 1998. "As a result of this, we've been following this very, very carefully and for a long time," he said. "We've recommended Burma be designated as a Country of Particular Concern every year," a recommendation the U.S. Department of State has followed each year it's made such designations.

The long history of the conflict means that while there are immediate steps that need to be taken to address the humanitarian situation, work to end

the conflict will need to look at long-term solution. "This is all a result of the systematic exclusion of these people from Burmese society, he explained. "All the things we're saying now about the treatment of Rohingya Muslims going forward are things that we have been saying all along," Mark continued.

"It's been a tinderbox and that needs to be addressed."

In the short term, Mark advocated for immediate humanitarian aid and assurance that humanitarian goods will get to those in need of them. He also called for accountability for human rights violations and a cessation of violence. He also noted the need for the international community to help support Bangladesh as it takes in tens of thousands of people a day, so a secondary crisis is not created there.

"Attacks need to stop and aid needs to start."

## **National**

### **Faithful Martyr and Missionary Father Stanley Rother Beatified in Oklahoma**

Oklahoma City, Okla., Sep 23 (CNA/EWTN News) - Father Stanley Rother, an Oklahoma priest martyred in Guatemala, was beatified Saturday during a Mass in Oklahoma City attended by over 20,000 people. Pope Francis named him blessed in a letter that cited his "deeply rooted faith," his "profound union with God," and his "arduous duty to spread the word of God in missionary lands, faithfully living his priestly and missionary service until his martyrdom." His feast day is set for the anniversary of his death, July 28, 1981, which the papal letter described as "the day of his heavenly birth." Blessed Stanley Rother served indigenous people of his Guatemala parish at a time of civil war. He returned to his home state of Oklahoma after a death threat, then returned knowing the dangers. Before his last Christmas, the priest wrote to a parish in Oklahoma about the dangers in Guatemala: "The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger," he said. Armed men broke into his rectory, intending to abduct him.

He resisted and struggled, but did not call for help, so others at the mission would not be endangered. He was shot twice and killed. At a time of great social and political turbulence, the priest lived as a disciple of Christ, "doing good and spreading peace and reconciliation among the people," Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect for the Congregation of Saints, said in his homily. "Unfortunately, this immediate recompense on this earth was persecution and a bloody death, in accord with the Words of Jesus: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit," said the cardinal, citing the words of the Gospel. Celebrating the Mass with Cardinal Amato were Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul Coakley, dozens of bishops, scores of priests and thousands of laity, including some from Guatemala.

The Mass took place at Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center. Family of Fr. Rother were also in attendance. Sister Marita Rother read the first reading, from the Book of Sirach. Though Blessed Stanley faced difficulties in his seminary studies, he showed great dedication to the manual labor he was familiar with from his youth on his family farm near Okarche, Okla. After volunteering for the Guatemala mission Santiago Atitlan, the priest learned Spanish. He even the local language of the Tz'utujil Mayan Indians so well that he could use it in his preaching. He would spend 13 years of his life there, diligent in visiting

(see News Briefs, page 17)

(News Briefs, cont. from page 16)

newlyweds and baptizing and catechizing their children. He was vigorous in both religious and social formation, drawing on his experience to work the fields and repair broken trucks while also building a farmer's co-op, a school, a hospital and the area's first Catholic radio station. Blessed Stanley even took action after a major earthquake in 1976. "With courage he climbed the ravines in order to help the very poor, pulling the wounded out of the ruins and carrying them to safety on his shoulders," Cardinal Amato said. Cardinal Amato recounted the civil conflict in Guatemala.

From 1971 to 1981, there were numerous killings of journalists, farmers, catechists and priests, all accused falsely of communism. "This was a real and true time of bloody persecution of the Church," the cardinal said. "Fr. Rother, aware of the imminent danger to his life, prepared himself for martyrdom, asking the Lord for the strength to face it without fear." "He continued, however, to preach the gospel of love and non-violence." Both the priest's mission and the aid he gave to the victims of violence were seen as subversive, explained the cardinal, who added: "a good shepherd cannot abandon his flock." "In the face of kidnappings and violence Fr. Rother felt helpless because he did not succeed in changing the situation of reconciliation and forgiveness," Cardinal Amato continued. "He often cried in silence to a Carmelite nun who asked what to do if he were killed." "Fr. Rother responded: 'Raise the standard of Christ Risen.'" Others spoke about Blessed Stanley. Oklahoma City Archbishop emeritus Eusebius Beltran voiced gratitude to God for the beatification of the first native-born priest and martyr of the United States. "His death was a tragedy for Oklahoma and for Guatemala.

However, through his death, his saintly life has become known well beyond the boundaries of Guatemala and Oklahoma and the faith of all those who are now familiar with his life is greatly strengthened, and the Church continues to flourish," Archbishop Beltran said. Archbishop Coakley said that the priest "chose to remain with his people" and "gave his life in solidarity." "Pray that Church will experience a new Pentecost and abundant vocations, aided by the intercession of Bl. Stanley Rother," he said. The Mass was multi-lingual, incorporating Spanish, Comanche and the Mayan language of the indigenous people Fr. Rother served. The offertory was dedicated to the Guatemalan parishes where Blessed Stanley Rother served, in order to help meet their needs and sustain the faith there. The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is managing donations through the webpage <http://stanleyrother.org/mass>

### Pope mourns victims of 'senseless' Las Vegas shooting

by Elise Harris

Vatican City, Oct 2 (CNA/EWTN News) - On Monday, Pope Francis offered his condolences and spiritual support to victims of a deadly shooting in Las Vegas that left at least 50 people dead and hundreds more wounded when a gunman opened fire at a country music festival.

"Deeply saddened to learn of the shooting in Las Vegas, Pope Francis sends the assurance of his spiritual closeness to all those affected by this senseless tragedy," read an Oct. 2 telegram signed by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

Addressed to Las Vegas Bishop Joseph Anthony Pepe, the telegram offered the Pope's encouragement for the efforts of police and emergency service per-



sonnel. Francis also assured of his prayers "for the injured and for all who have died, entrusting them to the merciful love of Almighty God."

In what has become deadliest the mass shooting in U.S. history, more than 50 people were killed and 500 hospitalized when a shooter opened fire on the last of the three-day Route 91 Harvest festival in Las Vegas, Nevada just after 10 p.m. Sunday night, BBC News reports.

According to the Las Vegas Police department, and more than 500 people have been hospitalized after the incident.

The death toll, which police say is only preliminary, tops last year's massacre at a nightclub in Orlando, which left 49 dead. It was also reminiscent of a deadly shooting in Paris in November 2015 that killed 89 people as part of a coordinated attack by the Islamic State that left a total of 130 people dead.

The festival, which took place along the Las Vegas Strip, was sold out, and had drawn thousands of participants to see top performers such as Eric Church, Sam Hunt, and Jason Aldean.

Identified as Stephen Paddock, 64, the shooter opened fire from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel, raining bullets on the open-air music festival happening below. Although the local sheriff department has not given an exact number of casualties, two of the at least 50 killed were off-duty officers.

The Associated Press reports that Paddock shot and killed himself as police tried to enter his room. Officers believe he acted alone, but are unsure of his motive. They are also currently pursuing a female Asian companion, reported to be Paddock's roommate, as a "person of interest" in the incident.

In a tweet sent this morning, U.S. President Donald Trump offered his "warmest condolences and sympathies" to victims and families affected by "the terrible Las Vegas shooting."

Various other global leaders have also voiced support and condolences, including representatives from the UK, Australia and Sweden.

In separate tweets, Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston also offered his support to victims, their families and emergency workers, asking that "God grant strength and faith to families affected by last night's violence; Lord welcome the dead into your loving embrace."

Grant strength and faith to families affected by last night's violence; Lord welcome the dead into your loving embrace #LasVegasShooting—Cardinal Seán (@CardinalSean) October 2, 2017

He also prayed that God would bless all first responders "as they care for the victims of last night's violence."

Bishop Edward Burns of Dallas, Texas, also tweeted-out support, saying "Our prayers and concerns are with all those affected by the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas. May God, the giver of all life, sustain us." ❖

(Blessed Stanley Rother, cont. from page 12)

Lee Rother and his family visited the cemetery the Friday before the beatification Mass, to honor Fr. Stanley, as well as the other Rother relatives buried there. As he walked through the grounds, Lee recalled fond memories of the people whose gravestones he passed. He must have known at least half of the people buried there.

Lee himself has settled in Minnesota, along with many of the other Rother relatives. He told CNA that he has given talks on Fr. Stanley, his third cousin, and is inspired by his faith. "How he lived, how he served God and his people—he had a tremendous, deep faith in him," he said. This was something Fr. Stanley passed on to the Guatemalans he served. "That parish flourished after he died, because he gave them a faith that they could lean on in the midst of their oppression," he said, his excitement about his cousin palpable. "It's a tremendous thrill, it's so exhilarating to have a relative who's being beatified by the Catholic Church," he said. "The best thing that's ever happened to the Rother family."

Kathy Rother is a cousin of Father Stanley's who knew him growing up. Her family lived just a few miles down the road, and she went to school with Stanley and his siblings. Kathy fondly remembered Stanley as a kind, brotherly figure, someone who once stopped the bullies on the bus from picking on her. "The big boys would like to pick on the little kids because they were bored. They'd pull their hair or take your lunchbox," Kathy said.

"I remember one time I was the butt of the jokes... and I remember looking around for one of my older brothers to rescue me, and they didn't, but there was Stan sitting there and he patted the empty seat next to him, and I sat there and they left me alone, the boys just backed off," she said.

"it wasn't like Stan was a sissy, he was very self-contained, he knew what was right, and it wasn't right to be picking on little kids," she said. "He was very much looked up to."

Kathy still remembers getting the news of her cousin's untimely death. "That cut me to the heart," she remembered, her eyes tearing up. But then, look what came of it, she added, smiling. And he's still there for her, though this time its through his prayers in heaven, rather than rescuing her from bus bullies. "Many times I've called on Stan (in prayer)," Kathy said. "And he comes through." ❖



October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary

# Reconociendo El Milagro del Sol

El 13 de Octubre, el día del milagro prometido, personas de todo el país, contadas en más de 70 mil, llegaron a Cova de Iria. El área cercana fue impactada por una variedad de tormentas y a la media mañana una fuerte lluvia comenzó a caer en Fátima. Los niños llegaron al lugar alrededor del mediodía y, como en las anteriores, la aparición de María fue precedida por un destello de luz. En esta ocasión el mensaje de María fue similar a la de los meses anteriores. Lucía reporta las palabras de María: "Quiero que se construya una capilla aquí en mi honor. Yo soy la Señora del Rosario. Continúa siempre rezando el Rosario todos los días. La Guerra va a terminar, y los soldados regresarán pronto a sus hogares." En respuesta de la petición de Lucía por curaciones, conversiones y otras cosas más, Nuestra Señora le dijo: "Algunos sí, pero otros no. Ellos deben cambiar sus vidas y pedir perdón por sus pecados." María continúa: "No ofendan más a Dios, porque El ya ha sido ofendido demasiado." Entonces, habiendo sus manos, hizo que sus manos reflejarán el sol, y al ir ascendiendo, el reflejo de su propia luz fue proyectado en el sol.

El gran evento, el Milagro del Sol, comenzó cuando María desaparecía. Fueron testigos más de 70,000 almas. Muchos testigos describen la misma secuencia de eventos. La lluvia se detuvo y la gente estaba en pie en el lodo. El sol estaba 'pálido' y no

maltrataba los ojos de quienes lo miraban. De pronto el sol parecía bajar a la tierra y en forma de zig-zag parecía mecerse en la tierra. Otros dicen que el sol comenzó a dar vueltas con muchos reflejos de colores radiantes que salían del sol como juegos artificiales. El evento tomó aproximadamente 10 minutos. Seguido por el evento, la ropa de las personas estaba

seca a pesar de que la lluvia había cesado recientemente. El milagro fue observado por incluso personas que estaban a 25 millas del lugar. Tal vez el testimonio más convincente fue el reportero del periódico secular, *O Seculo*, Avelino de Almeida, quien era el mayor crítico de las apariciones. El escribió un artículo satírico sobre el Milagro del Sol, pero después reportó afirmativamente, y mantuvo su historia, la verdad ocurrida a pesar de las duras críticas de sus compañeros.

El Día que el Sol Bailó, como es algunas veces identificado, fue un evento público visto por miles. Puede

haber muy poca duda sobre la autenticidad de los reportes. Aunque no somos testigos del evento, no tenemos razón para dudar que sí sucedió como ha sido reportado. Es siempre posible cuestionar la autenticidad de un testigo particular pero es mucho más difícil cuestionar a miles de personas. Especialmente es difícil dudar de los hechos relatados por personas que estaban allí sólo y únicamente para comprobar y desaprobar la naturaleza supernatural de

las apariciones en Fátima. Los reportes de los eventos, así de espectaculares que son, nos dejan una elección y una decisión por tomar. Podemos rechazar la precisión de los testimonios y somos libres de aceptarlos también. Aceptarlos, habiendo suficiente evidencia para hacerlo, todavía requiere un acto de fé. Esta es la alternativa: creer o no creer. Esta alternativa nos llevará a tomar una decisión. La alternativa de creer que es un milagro necesita ir acompañado de decidir si el creer me conduce a vivir o actuar de una manera diferente. Aceptar el Milagro del Sol significa aceptar los mensajes de María dados a Lucía y a sus santos primos; y significa también decidir si esos mensajes tendrán un lugar en nuestra propia vida espiritual.

Reconocer el Milagro del Sol tiene grandes implicaciones para nosotros. ¡Significa que debemos tomar en serio y a conciencia los mensajes de Fátima! El mensaje repetido consistentemente es que recemos el Rosario. "Orar, orar mucho y hacer sacrificios por los pecadores, porque muchas almas se van al infierno porque no hay quien ore y haga sacrificios y por ellos." En este año del Centenario de Fátima tenemos la oportunidad de pedir por una gracia en particular. Me gustaría proponerles que la gracia que busquemos sea la de incrementar fielmente la petición de Nuestra Señora de rezar el Rosario todos los días.

"Pero ¿qué será del que escuche estas palabras y no las pone en práctica? Le compararé a un hombre insensato, que edificó su casa sobre la arena; y descendió lluvia, y vinieron ríos, y soplaron vientos, y dierón con ímpetu contra aquella casa; y cayó, y fue grande su ruina." (Mateo 7:26-27) ❖



Desde el Obispo

Mons. Robert F. Vasa es el sexto obispo de la Diócesis de Santa Rosa en California.

## ¿En Que Consiste El Rito Del Exorcismo Catolico?

### Preguntas al Diácono Mario Zúniga

**Pregunta:** Lorena de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Loreto en Marín.

El tema del Exorcismo es un tópico que a menudo se ve envuelto en misterio e información errada, y esto se debe en gran parte a la percepción común de la naturaleza y aplicación del exorcismo, a que estamos expuestos por los guiones exagerados de la industria cinematográfica y los programas de televisión.

Podemos decir que el exorcismo es una forma específica de oración que la Iglesia usa contra el poder del demonio. Es una manera más, en que la Iglesia atiende al cuidado pastoral de las almas.

La Iglesia pide pública y autoritativamente en el nombre de Jesucristo la protección y liberación de una persona poseída por el demonio.

Algunas citas bíblicas que contienen el criterio para hacer un exorcismo se encuentran en: Marcos 1:34,39; Lucas 4:35; Mateo 17:18.

Queda claro, que el Señor Jesús involucro a los discípulos en su misión y al ser enviados continuaron la obra de exorcizar que comenzó Jesús (Mateo 10:8; Marcos 3:14-15; 6:13,16-17; Lucas 9:1,10-17)

No fue algo que los discípulos hicieron en su propio nombre, sino en nombre de aquel que les había conferido tal poder.

Así que el ministerio del exorcismo continúa en la vida de la Iglesia como parte del cuidado pastoral de las almas.

Los exorcismos están divididos en dos clases o formas: Exorcismo menor y mayor.

La forma de Exorcismo menor lo reciben aquellos

que se preparan para recibir el sacramento del bautismo, durante el Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (RICA) y el rito del bautismo de niños los cuales ambos contienen exorcismos menores.

La segunda clase de exorcismo es la solemne o el "Exorcismo mayor," cuyo rito Solo puede hacerlo un obispo o un sacerdote; este último ha de tener un permiso especial y expreso del ordinario local (código del derecho canónico #1172)

Esta forma de exorcismo está dirigida a la expulsión de demonios o a liberar a una persona de la posesión demoniaca (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica #1673)

En general todas las diócesis tienen un protocolo a fin de poder responder a las indagaciones o consultas de los fieles que aseguran estar poseídos demonia-

(vea *Exorcismo Catholico*, pagina 20)



# Noticias en Español

## Noticias

### Vaticano Acoge Nueva Iniciativa De Cáritas “Compartiendo El Viaje”

VATICANO (ACI) - Cáritas internacional presentó en el Vaticano la campaña “Compartiendo el viaje” con la que durante dos años pretenden sensibilizar a la sociedad y a las comunidades católicas del drama de la inmigración.

La iniciativa quiere promover oportunidades y espacios de encuentro entre los migrantes y sus comunidades, para que puedan reunirse y compartir sus experiencias de vida, con el objetivo de fortalecer vínculos sociales y fraternales entre todos.

“Durante dos años tendremos la oportunidad de profundizar en la realidad de las personas que vienen de otros lugares del mundo y con las que convivimos en nuestras ciudades y barrios”, explica Cáritas en un comunicado.

De esta manera, “podremos visibilizar la acción de Cáritas a través de la campaña” e “incidiremos en el ámbito político estatal y mundial para que el respeto y la protección de los derechos de las personas migrantes y refugiadas sea una realidad”.

La campaña contará con varias acciones, para lo que los responsables de Cáritas piden la colaboración de todos. Por ejemplo, proponen “realizar un evento, una reunión en la parroquia o comunidad en la que se invite a una persona migrante o refugiada a compartir su historia”. También se invita a “hacerse fotos con el gesto simbólico de los brazos abiertos para ir al encuentro del otro”.

Por otro lado, hacen una invitación especial “a que se involucren los Obispos y se hagan la foto con los brazos abiertos para acoger y tocar al otro, de manera que sirva de inspiración en sus comunidades”.

Las redes sociales jugarán un papel fundamental en “Compartiendo el viaje”, por lo que ya ha comenzado a funcionar el hastag o etiqueta #sharejourney.

En la rueda de prensa en la Oficina de Prensa de la Santa Sede, participaron el Cardenal Luis Antonio Tagle, Presidente de Caritas Internationalis, así como el director de Caritas Ambrosiana, Luciano Gualzetti, quien asistió con 50 refugiados acogidos en las parroquias de la diócesis de Milán.

“Invito a todos—dijo el Cardenal—a recordar quien ha sido un migrante en vuestra familia o comunidad; a pensar quienes son las personas que vienen de lejos y que están ante vuestros ojos”, dijo el purpurado durante la presentación.

### Arquidiócesis De Los Ángeles Dará Asesoría Legal Gratuita Sobre DACA

LOS ÁNGELES (ACI) - La Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles, en Estados Unidos, ha lanzado una serie de talleres donde brindará asesoría legal gratuita a todos los jóvenes que califican para renovar su inscripción al programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA, por sus siglas en inglés).

En un mensaje difundido a través de Facebook, el Arzobispo José Gómez, indicó que esta iniciativa es parte de la nueva campaña de Cáritas “Compartiendo el Viaje”. Fue lanzada el 27 de septiembre a nivel

mundial por el Papa Francisco en Roma y su objetivo es dar asistencia a los refugiados y migrantes.

Al respecto, el Arzobispo de Los Ángeles indicó que “aquí en los Estados Unidos, millones de inmigrantes han estado viviendo en las sombras debido a la falta de una reforma migratoria. Y ahora con el fin de DACA, más de 800 mil jóvenes que habían encontrado esperanza bajo DACA corren el riesgo de ser deportados del único hogar que han conocido”.

“Es por eso que a partir del 27 de septiembre comenzaremos la campaña ‘Comparte el Camino’ en la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles con una serie de talleres para ayudar a aquellos que califiquen para la renovación de DACA antes de la fecha límite del 5 de octubre”, expresó.

Ya se realizaron dos talleres en los días 26 y 27 de septiembre. Habrá uno nuevo este sábado 30 de 10:00 a.m. a 02:00 p.m. en la iglesia de St. Mary, ubicada en la calle Chicago. Los interesados en participar deben llamar al teléfono +1 (213) 251- 3529 o enviar un correo electrónico a cflores@ccharities.org.

Ese día los jóvenes deben llevar una copia de las aplicaciones anteriores al DACA, la notificación de aprobación más reciente (Aviso I-797), el número/tarjeta de Seguro Social, la tarjeta de identificación del estado de California, un certificado de antecedentes penales y el pago de 495 dólares al Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de Estados Unidos (USCIS por sus siglas en inglés) para someter la solicitud.

¿Qué es el DACA y quienes pueden renovarlo?

El DACA es una orden ejecutiva firmada por el Expresidente Barack Obama que entró en vigor el 15 de junio de 2012. Su objetivo es proteger a los inmigrantes indocumentados que llegaron Estados Unidos antes de cumplir 16 años y que han permanecido por más de cinco años en el país.

Aunque no es una ley ni proporciona un estatus legal, el DACA protege a estos jóvenes de la deportación y da acceso al Permiso de Trabajo con el que ellos pueden laborar.

A través de un comunicado, los Obispos de Estados Unidos consideraron “inaceptable” la resolución tomada el 5 de septiembre por el presidente Donald Trump de poner fin al programa.

Según informó el USCIS, se rechazarán todas las solicitudes hechas al DACA desde el 5 de septiembre. Los beneficiarios cuyos permisos vencen entre el 5 de septiembre de 2017 y el 5 de marzo de 2018 podrán renovar su DACA. Estas solicitudes se recibirán hasta el 5 de octubre.

El DACA otorga sus beneficios por un plazo de dos años. Las personas que tienen estos permisos vigentes podrán utilizarlos hasta que venzan.

### ¿Sismos En México Son Castigo De Dios? Arzobispo Responde

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (ACI) - En un mensaje publicado en el sitio web de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano (CEM), Mons. Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel, Obispo de San Cristóbal de Las Casas en el estado de Chiapas, señaló que los recientes sismos que han afectado el centro y sur de México no son un castigo de Dios.

Mons. Arizmendi Esquivel lamentó que “con ocasión de los recientes terremotos en varias partes del país, no faltan quienes afirman que esto sucedió porque Dios quiere castigarnos. Que así como destruyó a Sodoma y Gomorra, así está enojado por tanta corrupción, por los crímenes del narcotráfico, por las leyes que favorecen el aborto y las uniones

entre personas del mismo sexo, por los pecados clericales, por los abusos contra la madre tierra, etc.”.

En las últimas semanas fuertes sismos han afectado México. El 7 de septiembre, un terremoto de 8.1 grados en el Tehuantepec, frente a las costas del estado mexicano de Chiapas, causó casi un centenar de muertes y más de 300 heridos.

El 19 de septiembre otro sismo, esta vez de 7.1 grados afectó los estados de Morelos, Puebla, Estado de México, Guerrero y Oaxaca, así como la capital del país, Ciudad de México. Se estima que al menos 330 personas fallecieron.

Mons. Arizmendi Esquivel subrayó que “desde luego que Dios no está de acuerdo con los pecados, y en Sodoma no había ni diez personas buenas. Pero aquí pereció mucha gente honrada; murieron o perdieron todo personas pacíficas, creyentes, trabajadoras y de buen corazón”.

“¡No! No es castigo de Dios. Sería injusto su proceder, y Él es la justicia misma”, aseguró.

El Arzobispo mexicano explicó que “los terremotos, al igual que los huracanes y la erupción de volcanes, son fenómenos naturales, previstos por el mismo Dios al crear nuestro mundo, y en particular nuestro planeta”.

El Prelado indicó que “estos movimientos telúricos no son algo que se le haya escapado a Dios al formar la tierra; que se haya distraído y no los hubiera previsto. Todo está planeado. Siempre ha habido terremotos; los hay y los seguirá habiendo, con mayor o menor intensidad”.

Lo importante ante estos desastres naturales, dijo, “es conocerlos, estar prevenidos y saber convivir con ellos, construyendo mejor las casas y los edificios, las iglesias y escuelas”.

El Arzobispo de San Cristóbal de las Casas señaló que estas desgracias deben “hacernos reflexionar, recapacitar y enderezar la vida. Como un hijo que había renegado de su madre, diciéndole que no la reconocía como tal, que se alejó del hogar y la hizo sufrir mucho, pero a raíz del temblor, regresó a casa y abrazó a su mamá, pidiéndole perdón”.

“O como un esposo que dejó a su mujer, se fue a vivir con otra, pero el sismo lo hizo cambiar; volvió a casa y pidió perdón a su esposa; ahora están tratando de recomponer la vida familiar. Del mal, hay que sacar bien”, dijo.

“En los acontecimientos, podemos descubrir la voz de Dios. ¿Qué nos quiere decir con los terremotos? Que nuestra vida es frágil, que no somos dioses, eternos y todopoderosos; que hemos de enderezar lo que esté torcido en nuestras vidas”, añadió.

Mons. Arizmendi Esquivel destacó luego “la solidaridad de tantas personas, sobre todo de los jóvenes. Este es el México real; no el que presentan los noticieros, como si todo estuviera podrido”.

“Algunos, sí, son católicos practicantes, otros son católicos ‘al agua de rosas’—como decía mi abuela-, otros no saben si creen o no creen, pero esa inquietud los lleva a hacer algo por los demás, esa inquietud hace llenar los voluntariados de todo el mundo de rostros jóvenes”, indicó.

Al finalizar su mensaje, el Arzobispo mexicano exhortó a los fieles a que “enderezemos lo que tengamos que enderezar. Sigamos siendo solidarios con quienes más sufren. Y pongamos nuestras vidas en el corazón de Dios”.

La Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano publicó hoy en su cuenta en Twitter un mensaje alentando a seguir ayudando “a nuestros hermanos damnificados” en el país, pues “la emergencia en México continúa”. ❖

(Exorcismo Católico, cont. de página 18)

camente.

Como parte del protocolo hay una evaluación a fin de determinar el verdadero estado de la persona.

Solamente después de un examen médico, psicológico, y psiquiátrico meticuloso pudiera la persona ser enviada a un exorcista, que determinara finalmente si la persona esta poseída.

Que quede claro, que quien determina si un miembro de la comunidad de creyentes esta genuinamente poseído por el demonio es la Iglesia, a pesar de que la misma persona lo asegure por su propio diagnóstico o sicosis.

A través de los siglos la Iglesia ha sido muy cautelosa en evaluar los presuntos casos de posesiones demoniacas.

Los casos genuinos de posesión demoniaca aunque son raros, deben abordarse de una manera equilibrada y con un extremo cuidado a la persona afligida.

Antes de proceder con el rito de Exorcismo mayor, es provechoso que el exorcista tenga conocimiento de cualquier diferencia cultural, así como de influencias regionales que pudiesen haber hecho impacto en el estado actual de la persona afligida.

#### Ciertos instrumentos evaluativos pueden ayudar a iluminar tales categorías:

- 1) Los lugares que la persona haya podido visitar (curanderos, espiritistas o videntes);
- 2) Las prácticas en que la persona pudiera haber estado involucrada (limpiezas, religión de la Nueva Era, prácticas como el Reiki, que en japonés significa: "energía universal", que consiste en "canalizar energía con la manos que curan"); y
- 3) Maneras en que la persona pudiera haberse abierto ella misma y directamente al dominio del diablo (magias, brujería, culto satánico).

Se recomienda enfáticamente que deban de estar presentes otros miembros de la comunidad de creyentes cuando se hace un exorcismo.

La práctica de hacer un exorcismo a solas se debe disuadir a todo costo.

Para el exorcismo mayor, si se estima conveniente, los miembros laicos de la comunidad pudieran estar presentes durante el rito, apoyando de esta manera el trabajo del exorcista con sus oraciones, ya sea orando en silencio o según lo instruya el rito.

No obstante, el texto advierte que los fieles laicos No deben decir ninguna de las oraciones reservadas al exorcista, no solo porque esas oraciones están reservadas a los ordenados que actúan en la persona de Cristo cabeza, sino también a fin de proteger a los fieles contra un posible daño espiritual.

Cuando el miembro afligido de la comunidad de creyentes es una mujer debe estar presente al menos otra mujer, por razón de decoro y discreción.

En ningún momento el exorcista ha de estar solo con el miembro de la comunidad afligido, ni durante la consulta, ni durante la celebración del rito.

El exorcismo se realiza de tal manera que manifieste la fe de la Iglesia y que por nadie pueda ser considerado como una acción mágica o supersticiosa.

Debe cuidarse que el rito no se convierta en un espectáculo para los presentes.

De ningún modo se permite acceso a los medios de comunicación social mientras se realiza un exorcismo; tampoco se debe divulgar la noticia del exorcismo antes o después de realizado, pues debe guardarse la debida discreción.

El Rito del exorcismo contiene dos fórmulas: Las formulas deprecativas y la formula imperativa.

Las fórmulas deprecativas son oraciones exorcísticas dirigidas a Dios, que piden la liberación de la persona afligida.

Las fórmulas imperativas son dirigidas directamente al espíritu demoníaco que ha hecho residencia en la persona, a fin de ordenarle que salga en nombre de Jesucristo.

#### El Rito del exorcismo en general incluye las siguientes partes:

- (a) El rito comienza con la aspersion del agua bendita, con la cual se recuerda la purificación bautismal y el atormentado se defiende de las insidias del enemigo.
- (b) Siguen las letanías a los Santos, con la cual se implora la intercesión de todos los santos sobre el atormentado.
- (c) Después, de las letanías, el exorcista puede recitar uno o varios salmos que imploran la protección del Altísimo y proclaman la victoria de Cristo sobre el maligno. Los salmos pueden decirse de modo corrido o responsorial. Terminado cada salmo, el exorcista puede añadir una oración sálmica
- (d) Luego se proclama el Evangelio, como signo de la presencia de Cristo quien, por su propia palabra en la proclamación de la Iglesia cura las enfermedades de los seres humanos.
- (e) A continuación el exorcista impone las manos sobre el atormentado, con lo cual se invoca el poder del Espíritu Santo, para que el diablo salga de aquel que por el Bautismo fue hecho templo de Dios. Al mismo tiempo puede soplar sobre el rostro del atormentado.
- (f) Se recita, entonces, el símbolo de la fe (el Credo), o bien se renueva la promesa de fe bautismal con la abjuración previa a Satanás. Sigue la oración dominical (el Padre Nuestro), con la cual se implora al Dios y padre nuestro que nos libre de todo mal.
- (g) Terminados los ritos precedentes, el exorcista muestra al atormentado el crucifijo que es fuente de toda bendición y gracia, y se hace la señal de la cruz sobre el atormentado, señalando así la potestad de Cristo sobre el diablo.
- (h) Finalmente dice la formula deprecativa, con la cual se ruega a Dios, así como a la formula imperativa, con la que el diablo, en nombre de Cristo, es conjurado directamente para que salga del atormentado.

No debe utilizarse la formula imperativa sino precedió la formula deprecativa.

Todos los pasos del rito indicado pueden repetirse cuantas veces sean necesarias tanto en la misma celebración como en otro momento, hasta que el atormentado sea liberado totalmente.

El rito concluye con un canto de acción de gracias, con la oración final y la bendición.

El Apéndice II del Ritual de los Exorcismos, contiene Suplicas que pueden ser empleadas privadamente por los fieles en la lucha contra las potestades de las tinieblas, a fin de combatir las tentaciones de pecado y los ataques espirituales por parte del diablo.

Dentro de estas suplicas tenemos: Invocaciones a nuestro Señor Jesucristo, a la Santísima Trinidad, a la Virgen Maria, a San Miguel Arcángel, etc.

#### Como ejemplo, tenemos:

*Oración a la Santa Cruz.*

(Cuando nombra a la cruz, el fiel puede signarse).  
Sálvame, Cristo Salvador, por el poder de la Cruz X tú que salvaste a Pedro en el mar, ten misericordia de mí.

Por la señal de la Cruz X líbranos de nuestros enemigos, Dios nuestro.

Por tu Cruz X sálvanos, Cristo redentor, tú que muriendo destruiste nuestra muerte y resucitando restableciste la vida.

Tu Cruz X adoramos, Señor, tu gloriosa Pasión recordamos, ten compasión, tú que padeciste por nosotros.

Te adoramos, Cristo, y te bendecimos porque por tu Cruz X redimiste al mundo. *Amén!*

*Invocaciones a la Virgen María*

Bajo tu amparo, nos refugiamos santa Madre de Dios, no desprecies las oraciones que te dirigimos en nuestras necesidades.

Antes bien, líbranos de todos los males, Virgen gloriosa y bendita.

Consuelo de los afligidos, ruega por nosotros.

Auxilio de los cristianos, ruega por nosotros.

Hazme digno de alabarte, Virgen santa; dame poder contra tus enemigos.

*Madre mía, confianza mía*

Virgen Madre de Dios, María, ruega a Cristo por mí.

Dignísima Reina del mundo, siempre Virgen María, intercede por nuestra paz y salvación tú que engendraste a Cristo Señor, Salvador de todos.

María, Madre de gracia, Madre de misericordia, protégenos del enemigo y recíbenos en la hora de la muerte.

Socórreme, piadosísima Virgen María, en todas mis tribulaciones, angustias y necesidades y alcánzame de tu amado Hijo la liberación de todos los males y de los peligros del alma y del cuerpo.

Recuerda, piadosa Virgen María, que no se ha oído en el mundo que alguien que ha recurrido a tu apoyo, que haya implorado tu auxilio, que haya pedido tu ayuda, haya sido abandonado.

Yo animado por tal confianza corro hacia ti, Madre, Virgen de las vírgenes y como un pecador que llora sus culpas comparezco ante ti.

No quieras desdeñar mis palabras, Madre de Dios, sino que óyelas bondadosamente y recíbelas. *Amén!* ❖

*Zúñiga es Diácono de Misión Dolores en San Francisco*



October 15: St. Teresa of Avila

# St. Mary's School — Where the Whole Child is Educated

by Mary Leittem-Thomas, Ukiah, CA

Ukiah, CA – St. Mary of the Angels Catholic School provides an atmosphere that combines structure with creativity, and fosters an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. In keeping with their mission of educating the whole child, St. Mary's focuses on strong academics, spiritual growth and physical development. Students grow to understand the responsibility of being a global citizen while developing skills they will use to make a difference in their communities and professions.

A strong STEM curriculum contributes to students' continuing academic success, and the school has invested in upgrading the computer labs and science labs with iPads, interactive white boards, science camps, and a strong science fair program. St. Mary's students' projects consistently qualify for the California state science fair.

Graduates are well prepared for high school. St. Mary's offers students in grades 6-8 five levels of math, including Geometry and Algebra II. The Junior High Spanish program offers 7th and 8th graders an optional period of advanced Spanish instruction, which allows graduates to take Spanish II as high school freshmen.

St. Mary's has an extensive music program and

a faculty that believes in the power music has to enhance personal growth and academic performance. All students K-8 receive choral instruction and have the opportunity to learn a variety of musical instruments including keyboards, drums, guitars, ukuleles, and hand chimes.

St. Mary's School fosters in its students the spirit of community service and social responsibility. Graduating 8th graders are required to perform 40 hours of service to the sick, poor, and convalescent in our community. Learn more about our Student Learning Expectations at <http://www.stmarysukiah.org/academics/student-learning-expectations/>.

Thoughtful attention to technology upgrades allow students and parents to receive homework, progress reports and school notifications via the cloud-based My Students Progress. Other facility upgrades resulted in a UPD officer describing St. Mary's School as "one of the safest campuses in Ukiah". Hot lunches are prepared daily



St. Mary's science lab encourages students to develop the STEM skills so highly sought after in the workplace of today. Sixty percent of U.S. employers are having difficulties finding qualified workers in these areas. St. Mary's School and its students are poised to meet this need.

and our Kid's Club offers extended-day programs. Interested families are welcome to call the office at 462-3888 and schedule a time to tour the school. Applications, Fact Sheet and tuition assistance information are available in the school office or online at [www.stmarysukiah.org](http://www.stmarysukiah.org) ❖

(About IT, cont. from page 4)

It strives to critically examine assumptions, offers a dynamic vision and a set of vital outcomes for all leaders, and encourages conversation for new patterns of ministry. The Joy of Adolescent Catechesis is a writing project by the Partnership for Adolescent Catechesis (PAC), a collaboration between three USCCB national organizations that serve young people.

**NCEA:** National Catholic Educational Association  
**NCCL:** National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

**NFCYM:** National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

**NFCYM:** Region XI Diocesan Directors Network

The USCCB is divided into regions, Santa Rosa falls into Region XI along with the rest of California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam. Directors of Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Faith Formation, and Evangelization meet in person, virtually, and at conferences throughout the year. Best practices, resource sharing, program development, and organization of larger events like World Youth Day or NCYC (National Catholic Youth Convention) occur around the clock.

## National Dialogue

Sanctioned by the USCCB in collaboration with NFCYM and LaRED (National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana) designed to help the Church

in the United States have a macro-level conversation about pastoral ministries to youth and young adults that will intentionally intersect with and include the insights and processes of both the Synod and Encuentro. Partner organizations sponsoring the National Dialogue want to aid the Church to implement the insights and conclusions from both the XV Ordinary Synod and the V Encuentro through shared dialogue, resources, and commitments.

## V. Encuentro

Convened by the USCCB, in the context of the New Evangelization and emphasized the importance of involving young, second and third generation Hispanics/Latinos. Bishops Arturo Cepeda, Gerald Barnes, Nelson Pérez and Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller were elected by the Subcommittee to lead the Encuentro process. The spirituality of encuentro and accompaniment as an illustration of the Bible passage of The Road to Emmaus, which ends with the Disciples joyfully walking toward Jerusalem.

## XV. Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: Youth, Faith, Vocational Discernment

Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary Synod specifically to the youth, and will be held in Rome, October 2018. Pope Francis noted: "The theme is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the post-Synodal apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. Its aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey

to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society."

Youth are not our future, they are our present, and presently they are not involved in our parish programs. A flood of the Holy Spirit will shift that trend. Please pray and continue to dialogue. For more information on any of these organizations and projects, or if you'd like to continue the conversation, contact our Youth and Young Adult Office.



Stephen M. Morris is Director of the Office of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Stephen has spent a lifetime working with youth as a mentor, coach, teacher, and program director. His leadership and vision have contributed to success as an academic and executive.

After his first child was born, he left the corporate world and converted his volunteering into a career serving the church, starting as a high school theology teacher. In 2014 Bishop Robert F. Vasa named Stephen as director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry office. ❖

# CALENDAR

## September 27th - Nov 5th

### "40 Days for Life" Santa Rosa

The "40 Days for Life" Fall Campaign starts Wednesday, Sept. 27 and ends on Sunday, Nov. 5. Join us as we kick-off the campaign on Tuesday, September 26, beginning with Holy (Latin) Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a pot-luck dinner. The dinner will take place in the PLC. Our opening prayer on September 27 will take place at 11:00 am at the Planned Parenthood located at 1140 Sonoma Ave. in Santa Rosa. For more information contact Judy @ 707-579-2941, Spanish - Kay @ 707-540-3193 or Debbie @ 707-579-4030.

## October 2nd -February 15th

### Knights of Columbus Bible Study, St. Eugene

The Bible Timeline is a Catholic Bible study that takes you on a journey through the entire Bible so that you can discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. The study will include a series of 24 videos presented by Jeff Cavins. The study begins on Monday, Oct. 2nd in the Parish Life Center, Hope room. The class is from 6:30 to 8:30 pm every Monday evening through February 15th. The work-books are \$35 each. For more information, please contact Greg De Gennaro at 707-494-5969 or by e-mail [gregoryd@sonic.net](mailto:gregoryd@sonic.net)

## October 4th

### 21st Catholic Cursillo Fellowship Gathering

Want a Catholic friend? Come join us. Develop friendships, enjoy singing and fellowship, hear how other Catholics are living their life of holiness and pray as a group before the Blessed Sacrament. Fellowship gatherings of Catholics are held twice a month. Catholic Cursillo is a movement within the Catholic Church based on friendship. We would love to be your friend.

Join us on October 4 from 6-8 pm at St. Eugene's in Santa Rosa.

Join us on October 21 from 2-4 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park.

For further information call Debbie Simonson in Petaluma at 904-463-1070 or Priscilla Silvey in Napa at 707-567-7957 Our website is:

[www.catholiccursillomovementofsantarosa.com/](http://www.catholiccursillomovementofsantarosa.com/)

## October 7th

### Respect Life Brunch & Lecture, St. Eugene

The St. Eugene's Respect Life Committee presents a special Respect Life Month lecture by retreat master, John Galten, on Saturday, October 7th, after the 8:00am Mass, in the Parish Life Center. Brunch will be served preceding the talk. Mr. Galten will tell us about, "Fatima and the Culture of Death." He will address the question: "Is a Civilization of Love Possible?" Please put the date on your calendar and join us!

## October 7th

### The 12th Annual Napa Valley Catholic Men's Conference

*100th Anniversary of the Final Fatima Apparition.* Saturday, October 7th 8:00am - 5:00pm. St Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 6404 Washington St, Yountville, CA. Confirmed Speakers: Fr Edward Looney Fr. Edward has responded to a special mission he believes he has received from Our Lady to spread the message she gave to Adele Brise in 1859. Fr. Edward is an associate member of the Mariological Society of America and a member of the International Thomas Merton Society. He has published extensively, including five books (two for children, three Marian-general interest books), journal articles, and he is a columnist for Ignitum Today; Fr. John Zuhlsdorf, or simply "Father Z", is convert from Lutheranism. He was first drawn to the Church by the beauty of traditional Catholic liturgy. After studying Classical languages at the University of Minnesota he entered the seminary and completed his formation in

Rome at the Pontifical Lateran University. In 1991 he was ordained to the priesthood by Saint Pope John Paul II. He worked as a collaborator in the Vatican's Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei", and did post-graduate work in Patristic Theology, on the Fathers of the Church, at the Augustinianum in Rome; Fr. David Jenuwine Parochial Vicar, St Apollinaris Parish, Napa. Fr. Jenuwine is the former spiritual director of the Blue Army Fatima apostolate in Saginaw, MI. Before his ordination he was an airborne cryptologist in Japan for the U.S. Navy. Registration opens at 7:15am Conference is 8:15am-4:30pm. For more information, call 707-227-7299 \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door. Spouses, Fiancés, girlfriends welcome. Lunch, Mass, and Confessions.

## October 11th

### Rediscovering the Latin Mass at St. Mary's, Arcata

Rediscovering the Latin Mass: Beginning Wednesday night, Oct 11, at 7pm in the Kelly Room, Fr. Pacheco will offer the first of several classes on the Traditional Latin Mass. For both newcomers and regulars alike, these classes are an opportunity to learn more about the rich traditions of the Roman Rite as well as how to enter into a full, conscious, and active participation at the Latin Mass. Time will be set aside for questions and answers. All are welcome! Fr. Pacheco will be celebrating Latin Masses every Sunday. The first Sunday of the month will be at 6:30am, and all the following Sundays of the month will be at 1:30pm.

## October 12th - 15th

### Our Lady of Fatima Celebration St. Mary's Arcata

The Portuguese Community will be celebrating their traditional Feast in honor of Our Lady of Fatima the weekend of October 14th and 15th. Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Thursday & Friday, October 12th & 13th, at the Portuguese Hall in Arcata at 6:30pm. On Saturday, October 14th, the celebration will begin at St. Mary's Church, with Mass at 7:00pm, followed by a candlelight procession from the Church to the Portuguese Hall. Once at the hall, the celebration will continue with the traditional "Arrial" and dancing. On Sunday, October 15th, the devotion will continue with another Mass at 11:00am, and again returning to the Portuguese Hall for a traditional lunch of "Sopas", dancing, calf auction and "Arrial". Everyone is invited. Anyone interested in receiving Sopas, please arrange to have someone at the Portuguese Hall to pick them up Sunday around 9:00am. Any questions, please call Vera Alves at 834-8370.

## October 13th

### Candlelight Living Rosary, St. Eugene

You are invited to attend the 32nd Annual "Candlelight Light Rosary for Life" on Friday, October 13th. We will have a procession into the Cathedral, starting at the Becker Center, at 7:00pm. The rosary has always been a prayer for peace and a meditation on Jesus and Mary as they appear in the Gospels. This is an opportunity to pray the rosary in a group, in a beautiful candle-lit setting here in the Cathedral. Each Our Father and Hail Mary is represented by a candle placed in the pews around the church, making a living candlelight rosary. What will make this year so special is that we will be meeting on the exact date of the miracle of the sun at Fatima, 100 years ago. This year we will be supporting mothers and babies at Catholic Charities. Please bring an item to donate. An ice cream social with ice cream will follow the event. Please join us!

## October 14th

### Woman of the Year Celebration St. Apollinaris

The SRDCCW invites all women and all women's organizations to join us in our annual "Women of the Year" celebration to be held on Saturday, October 14 2017. St. Apollinaris Church 3700 Lassen Street Napa,

CA 94558. 9:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast. 10:00 -10:45 am Business Meeting. 11:00 am Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa. Cost is \$24.00 per person for lunch. Checks and reservations are due by September 22nd, 2017. (Reservations are required in advance; checks are to be payable to SRDCCW.) Please mail to: Connie Lynch Sorensen, 421 Zimpher Drive, Sebastopol, CA 95472. No one will be admitted without paid reservation.

## October 15th

### St. Vincent de Paul High School Open House

We are excited to invite you to the St. Vincent de Paul High School Open House on October 15, 1-3pm in Petaluma. SVHS is a Catholic coeducational college preparatory high school, celebrating 100 years. For the past 10 years more than 95% of our graduating class has matriculated to college. The class of 2017 earned over \$ 3.2 million in scholarships and grants. On average, 70% of our students participate in sports at least once in their high school career. The WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) visiting team reported St. Vincent as the "Friendliest School in America." Please visit <https://www.svhs-pet.org/admissions/open-house/> or call 763-1032, ext. 113 for more information.

## October 21st - 22nd

### Second Collection for World Mission Sunday

## October 21st

### Is God Calling You?

Please contact the Cloistered Dominican Nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery in Menlo Park, CA, Sr. Joseph Marie, O.P., at [vocations@nunsmenlo.org](mailto:vocations@nunsmenlo.org), or visit their website at <http://nunsmenlo.org/discernment-days/> to learn more about upcoming Come and See Days: Sat, Oct 21; &/or Sat, Jan 20, 2018. The events will be from 8:00am to 5:30pm and are free.

## October 28th

### St. Mary's Arcata Oktoberfest!

The Knights of Columbus invite all to attend the Oktoberfest Bratwurst Dinner on Saturday, October 28th from 5:00-8:00pm. All proceeds will benefit the Leavey Hall Flooring Project. Adults: \$10, Child: \$7. Tickets will go on sale next weekend. Come join the fun! Phone: 707-822-7696

## November 1st, 18th

### Catholic Cursillo fellowship gathering

Want a Catholic friend? Come join us. Develop friendships, enjoy singing and fellowship, hear how other Catholics are living their life of holiness and pray as a group before the Blessed Sacrament. Fellowship gatherings of Catholics are held twice a month. Catholic Cursillo is a movement within the Catholic Church based on friendship. We would love to be your friend.

Join us on November 1 from 6-8pm at St. Eugene's in Santa Rosa.

Join us on November 18 from 2-4pm at St. Elizabeth Seton in Rohnert Park.

Our 2018 weekends are scheduled: June 7-10 Men's Cursillo Weekend, Angela Center, Santa Rosa. August 2-5 Women's Cursillo Weekend, Angela Center, Santa Rosa. For further information call Debbie Simonson in Petaluma at 904-463-1070 or Priscilla Silvey in Napa at 707-567-7957. Our website is: [www.catholiccursillomovementofsantarosa.com/](http://www.catholiccursillomovementofsantarosa.com/)

## November 5th

### St Rose of Lima Catholic Church Blood Donation Drive

A BLOOD DONATION drive is being sponsored by St Rose of Lima Catholic Church and the Blood Centers

of the Pacific on November 5th, Sunday from 8:00 to 11:00 in the morning. Help save a life! Donors are invited for screening and donation of blood at St Rose Parish Hall at 322 10th St, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Blood Centers of the Pacific supply blood to 50 hospitals in Northern CA, including all hospitals in Sonoma County. Appointments highly encouraged. To schedule your life-saving appointment: visit [www.bloodheroes.com](http://www.bloodheroes.com), click "Donate Blood" and enter the sponsor code: St Rose; or contact Ian Kanewski, Donor Recruitment Representative at 707-239-6424 or for more information, may contact Belinda Bischoch at 415- 994-4224.

**Ongoing in North Diocese**  
**Christ the King Church Parish, McKinleyville**

Weekdays: Monday Mass 9:00am Tuesday Communion Service 9:00am. Friday Adoration 3:00pm followed by Mass 4:00pm  
 Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Mission, Hoopa: Sunday Mass 11:30am  
 HSU Newman Center, 700 Union St. Arcata: Sunday Mass 5:30pm followed by supper & learning about Catholicism.

**St. Mary's Arcata**

Fr. Pacheco will be celebrating Latin Masses every Sunday. The first Sunday of the month will be at 6:30am, and all the following Sundays of the month will be at 1:30pm

**Ongoing in South Diocese**

**Oakville House of Prayer (Carmelite Monastery)**  
 Morning of Recollection every first Saturday of the month; Spiritual Talk 9-10am; Confessions 10-11am; Mass 11:00 am. Bible Study Tuesdays with Father Michael Buckley, O.C. D. will no longer be offered as our dear Fr. Michael has gone to be with the Lord. Confessions (English) Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10-12pm, 3-5pm, 8-9pm Confessions (Spanish) Wednesday 10-12pm, 3-5pm, 8-9pm 20 Mount Carmel Drive, Oakville, CA 707-944-2454 oakvillecarmelites.org



**Napa**

**Series on the Fathers of the Church**

Who were the early Christians? What did they believe, teach, and often die for? Is our faith today the same as the faith they professed? These themes and more will be covered in a 10-part series on the Fathers of the Church given by Fr. Gary Sumpter. Church Fathers discussed include St. Clement, St. Justin, St. Cyril, St. Ignatius, St. Athanasius, St. Irenaeus and many more. It will be one Thursday a month from Sept thru June, beginning on Sept. 21, 7:30pm at Kolbe Academy & Trinity Prep, 2055 Redwood Rd., Napa. No charge. Donations gratefully accepted.

**To have your calendar event listed please email us!**  
[Srdioese1@gmail.com](mailto:Srdioese1@gmail.com)

# Youth and Young Adult Ministry Happenings

Catholic youth from across Northern California and Reno descended on 6-FlagVallejo to kick off the school year. Students were physically challenged with early morning wake ups by youth ministers and started their day in busses and carpools. Their day started with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Soto and joined by a few NorCal Brother Bishops as well as homilist Fr. Joe Espillat from the NYC. The rest of the day was littered with keynote talks specific for the girls, guys, Hispanic youth, young adults, and even a few break-outs for the chaperons.

Thrill seeking youth still found time to spill their guts (literally) as they were tossed through the air on roller coasters. The day concluded back on the stadium stage with powerful testimonies, praise and worship, and of course Eucharistic Adoration.

Many lined up throughout the day at the Confession tents available in the park... perhaps the greatest thrill ride of the day.

Fr. Joe came all the way from Manhattan where he has served very closely with Cardinal Dolan. His homily included a lesson on Greek, Latin, and New York Street slang while he challenged the students to be daring and counter cultural. Many left his talks scratching their heads saying, "I didn't know priests talked like that."

Fr. Joe provided a vivid description of our Catholic faith as a sling shot. Anchored by the pillar of LOVE and the pillar of MERCY, the Holy Spirit is the rubber band pulled taught between them and we sit there... ready to be flung into the world. Even though Fr. Joe wore prominent Christian Steph Cur-



Fr. Joe processes into the stadium followed by Bishop Vasa, Bishop Blaire (Stockton), Bishop Garcia (Monterey), and celebrant Bishop Soto (Sacramento). 2 St. John's youth group from Napa helped MC Joe Melendez crank up the energy and cut through the early morning fog as they cheerfully played the roles of greeter and usher at the opening Mass. 3. 3,500+ young people filled the stadium bright and early to kick off their day with Mass. The largest group came all the way from Reno, six bus loads caravanned through the Sierras well before the sun came up.



ry's sneakers, he quoted NBA all-star Duane Wade's tweet, "the powerful potential we all have to give of ourselves" which paralleled the Gospel message of the day—Luke 6:45 "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good... for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." ❖

## Sisters Return to St. Vincent School after 31 Years

June 15, 1986, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) left St. Vincent's Elementary school after having taught at SVES for over 90 years.

On September 8th, the day the Church celebrates the Birth of the Virgin Mary, The Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa began regular instructional visits to the Petaluma school.

From Mrs. Stacy Rawson, Development Director: St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School in Petaluma was honored to host the Marian sisters on September 8th in celebration of the Feast of the birth of Mary. Sister Maria Magdalena and Sister Mary Emmanuel were introduced by Mother Teresa



Sister Maria Magdalena and Sister Mary Emmanuel.

Christe in the office and then they proceeded to visit classrooms, varying their message for the age of their audience. All classes (K - 8th) shared the Hail Mary prayer while the younger students also sang "Happy Birthday" to Mary and the older students learned about vocations and asked lots of questions! ❖

# St. Michael's Protection

Deacon Guadalupe Rodriguez (ATX Catholic.com)

September 29th is the Feast Day of the Archangels. With the evil and cataclysmic events occurring in the world, surely it is time for St. Michael the Archangel to arise... "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a TIME OF DISTRESS such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people... will be delivered." (Dan. 12:1)

In this article I share my true life experiences in law enforcement, under the protection and care of St. Michael the Archangel, so that people everywhere may discover him in these turbulent times. My experiences with "St. Michael and his angels" (Rev. 12:7) are strictly in the darkness of faith through feelings, signs, and dreams. I have never seen or heard him, but as St. Faustina writes in her diary about what St. Michael said, "The Lord has ordered me to take special care of you. Know that you are hated by evil; but do not fear—'Who is like God!' And he disappeared. But I feel his presence and assistance." [706]

## Powerful Image:

As a police officer, I felt so protected and had such a devotion to St. Michael that I would wear his pin on my uniform. One time I felt divinely inspired to enlarge an image of him from a holy card to a 4' X 6' poster. It took 6 trips to the print shop and the frame store traveling 180 miles round trip to finally get it done. It was as if, "the evil one," (1Jn. 5:19) was causing the computer, printer, and the frame to malfunction (tear, crinkle the new image, form air bubbles, etc.).

When it was finished, I got our priest to privately bless it, and hung it in our home so that I could ask for his intercession since it was dangerous work. With St. Michael's assistance, millions of dollars' worth of drugs were taken off the street, but there was also the spiritual warfare component as drugs are often ritually cursed against anyone who gets in the way of their destination.

## Demonic Prophecy:

One day I sat and had coffee with a group of 5 or 6 law enforcement officers from different agencies. One of them had turned to the dark side and surprisingly inquired with a witch about the next local election. He notified us that the witch didn't really know who would win but that it would be a close race; however, the witch did tell him, "There is an officer with you all who has a giant picture of St. Michael. No one can touch him. He is under the protection of St. Michael."

They knew nothing about the picture so I quickly got up and left praying to St. Michael since the foretelling was like when St. Paul encounters, "a slave girl who had an evil spirit of divination..." (Act. 16:16)

## Angelic Dreams:

An example of St. Michael's protection is a dream that I had in which I am in a police car chase at high speed. All of a sudden something breaks in the front wheel area, and I lose control rolling over many times to my death. The dream was so vivid that I went to a mechanic and asked him if he believed in dreams. He said, "You bet." I tell him about my dream, and he looks underneath my car.

He looks at me in disbelief, and he tells me that several important pieces are broken and that only by a miracle the whole front end has not fallen off at a major bump or when I travel at high speed. I truly believe this life-saving dream was like when, "the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream," (Matt. 2:13) to save the child's life from Herod.

## Visions of Angels:

Another example of St. Michael's dramatic intervention was a traffic stop on a dully pickup pulling a long flatbed trailer. This vehicle was traveling with other vehicles in front and behind it. It was a convoy, and the other vehicles are known as decoys as their job is to attract attention by speeding up or driving erratically. On this day it was the easiest traffic stop and arrest as the decoy vehicles never engaged and all went very smooth. Surprisingly, the drug load was worth over 2 million dollars.

When the man was taken in for questioning the investigator asked why he didn't make a run for it as many do. He responded that he was surrounded by cops. "They were all over!" "Where would I go if I ran?" The investigator looked at me and asked who was there. I responded, "There were no cops. I was 30 miles away from backup." The man became angry thinking that I was lying and blurted out, "We were all surrounded. I am serious! There was nowhere to go!"

What did the man and the decoy vehicles see that day? I believe they saw "St. Michael and his angels" (Rev. 12:7) dressed as policemen as when, "Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord so that he may see'... then he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire [angels] all around Elisha." (2Kings 6:17)

## Confusing The Enemy:

A fourth example is when I arrested three men that carried ½ a million worth of drugs every week, and they went jail for many years. When the leader was about to be released, there were pending charges in another county, and I was asked to transport him. When I placed him in my police car, he said, "You are the best and worst thing that has happened to me. The worst thing because I had to do a lot of time in jail, and the best thing because I found the Lord in jail. On the day you caught us, my men were ready to kill you. We had done this before, and we never hesitate because we are professionals. On that day, I hesitated, I got confused,... something didn't let me do it plus fear entered me. I gave the order to my men not to kill you because you might be a great marksman."

I am convinced that St. Michael acted, for angels can place a thought or image as when scripture says, "I will send My fear ahead of you and throw into confusion... all your enemies," (Ex. 23:27) as the nearest officer was 25 minutes away.

## Angelic Inspiration:

There are many other examples where St. Michael and his angels warned me in dreams to the point of showing me faces and events ahead of time. Other times they divinely inspired me on what to do, as when two inmates escaped from prison in another county. The inmates stole a car, and when they were stopped by an officer, they shot him and fled the scene. An alert



"What did the man and the decoy vehicles see that day? I believe they saw "St. Michael and his angels" (Rev. 12:7) dressed as policemen..."

went out and thirty minutes later I ran into them in their car, but I sensed in my heart someone [St. Michael] saying to wait for backup until a roadblock was set up, as when scripture says, "Behold I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared." (Ex. 23:20) At the roadblock seeing all the officers and the helicopter, the inmates peacefully gave up their weapons, and they were arrested.

## Michael's Cave:

Finally, God is a faithful Father to all His children, and He is ready to send His angels most especially when one goes to daily mass and adoration to ask for His protection, "For He will give His angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways." (Ps. 91:11) As for the miraculous picture of St. Michael, it hangs in a hidden cave dedicated to St. Michael where mass is celebrated. It was my way of thanking and honoring St. Michael for saving my life many times, or as Pope Francis explains, "St. Michael defends the People of God from their enemies and above all from the arch-enemy par excellence the devil." ❖



October 23: St. John Capistrano