

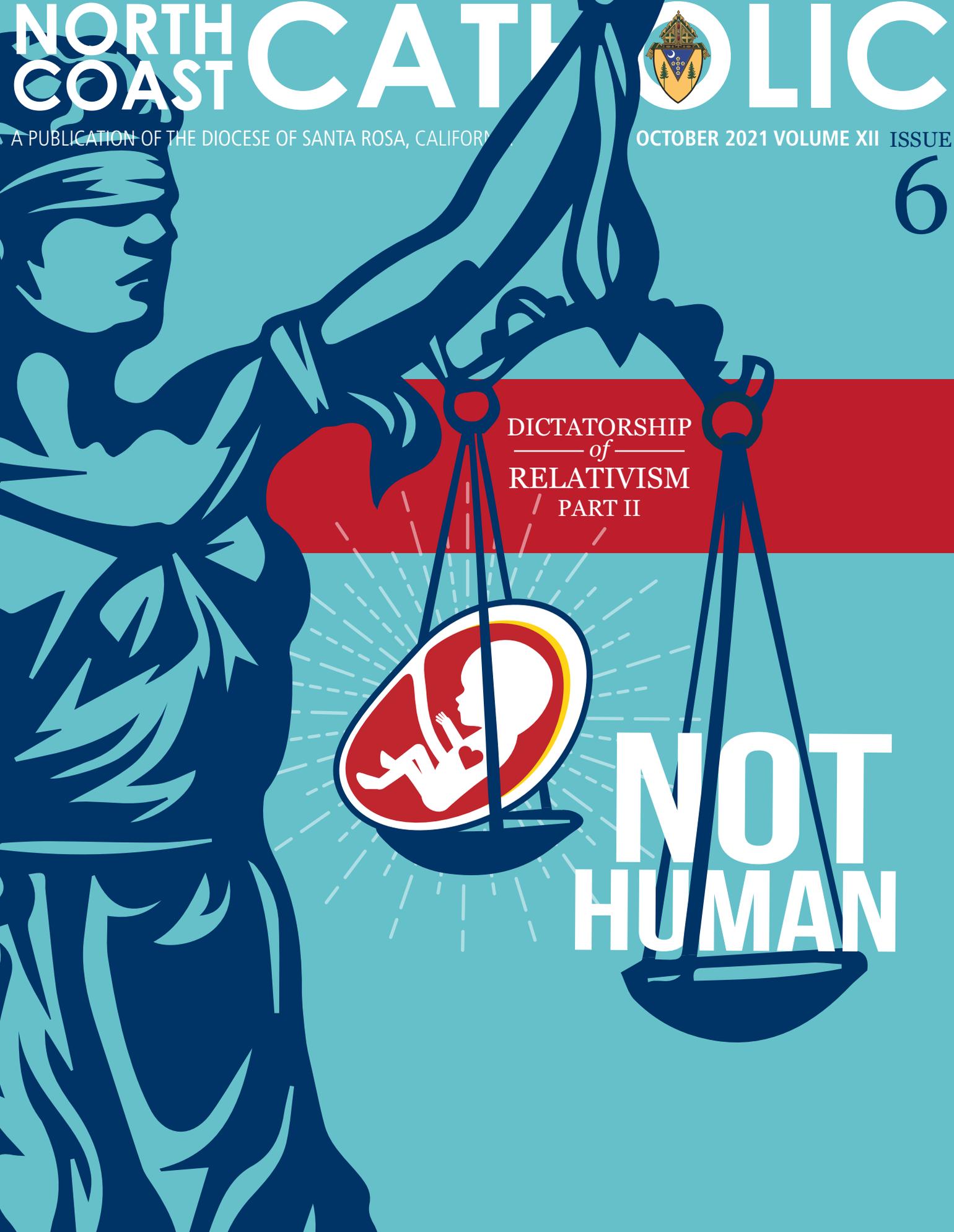
NORTH COAST CATHOLIC



A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 2021 VOLUME XII ISSUE

6



DICTATORSHIP
of
RELATIVISM
PART II

NOT
HUMAN



3 DICTATORSHIP OF RELATIVISM PART II

BRIGHT RESOURCEFULNESS

5 ⁶² million dead

6 COLORS FOR FALL/AROUND THE DIOCESE



7 DEMON STUFF



9 TROJAN HORSE

11 SYNO-DALITY

13 NCC EN ESPAÑOL

15 COLORADO VANDALISM

PELOSI PRAYERS16

FROM PINES TO POPE17

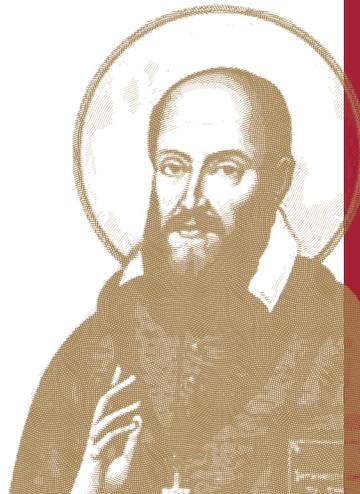
HONORING CLERGY/GREETING.18

PRO LIFE ESSAY CONTEST19

SAINTS OF THE MONTH20

AND NOW WHAT?21

Cover Concept/Design Illustration by:
Arthur Waligora www.arthurmadeit.com



NORTH COAST CATHOLIC
THE NEWSPAPER OF
THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA

MOST REV. ROBERT F. VASA
Publisher

CHRISTOPHER LYFORD
Editor

ARTHUR WALIGORA
Creative Director/Graphic Designer
www.arthurmadeit.com

OCTOBER 2021
Volume 12: Issue 6

(USPS 1880)
P.O. Box 1297
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
P: 707.566.3302
F: 707.542.9702
www.srdioocese.org/NCC

North Coast Catholic is a membership publication of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, CA
Published 8 times a year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE FREE

Send all subscription information and address changes to:

North Coast Catholic, Diocese of Santa Rosa,
P.O. Box 1297
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
Call: 707.566.3302 or Email:
srcharitasmari@srdioocese.org

Periodicals postage pending at Santa Rosa, CA or additional offices.

©2021 North Coast Catholic, Diocese of Santa Rosa.



*St. Francis de Sales,
pray for us!*



PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!



Greetings to our Diocese of Santa Rosa family;

Blessings and peace be with you! The month of October is one of our favorites. The harvesting of the many vegetables and fruits from our summer garden is wrapping up as we experience shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures. It gives us an opportunity to be thankful to God for the bounty of our garden and jars of peaches, peppers, and pickles in our pantry!

October is also special for us as we recall, on October 13th, the sixth and last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to the three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. And it was that day as well that 70,000 people gathered in that small valley, Cova de Iria, witnessed the miracle of the sun. If you don't know the story of Our Lady of Fatima, do some research. It is quite amazing! There are many books available as well as on-line resources.

This date, October 13th, is special for us as a few years ago we were part of a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance there. Praying and celebrating Mass along with other pilgrims at the very site of Our Lady's appearance, walking the route and visiting the nearby village where the children lived, and learning the specific details of this most extraordinary occurrence, has left a very memorable impression on us.

Utmost for us was understanding Our Lady's message to the three children, Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia, of the importance to pray, pray, pray! Our Lady also stressed to the children the need to offer penance and reparations as well, but the message to pray was first and foremost. And this message is directed to all of us as well!

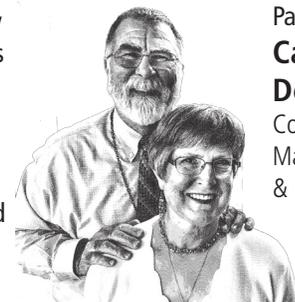
So how is prayer a part of your daily life? Hopefully prayer is a part of your daily life! There are many different ways to pray of course, but the one tried-and-true method

for us Catholics is the rosary. "Pray the rosary every day" Our Lady instructed the three children at Fatima. And while on pilgrimage at Fatima, it was so spiritually uplifting to be with people from all over the world in praying the rosary together, all in our own language. Our Lady encouraged the children to offer their prayers for peace in the world and there was such a hope for peace that we experienced when we were among so many others praying the rosary together.

Our Marriage and Family Life Office is a part of the "Family Support Network," a collaboration of four different diocesan ministries (Youth, Religious Education, Catholic Schools, and us). We work together to focus on helping families live their Catholic faith. We have produced a couple of "rack" cards that give parents some ideas on how to incorporate the Catholic faith into their homes. Two of the cards, "Faith in the Home" and "7 Habits for Catholic Parents" (both in English and Spanish) stress the importance of praying as a family. And of course, praying the rosary together is highly suggested! All of the parishes were given these cards, but if you didn't get one, let us know.

So we want to carry this message on to all of you to pray, pray, pray, especially in this month of October, dedicated as the month of the Holy Rosary in the Church. With all that is going on in the world, in our country, in our own communities, and especially in our own families, we encourage you to make prayer time a part of your daily life if it isn't already.

Blessings to you all!



Pax Christi,
Carlin and Deacon Dave Gould
Co-Directors of the Marriage & Family Life Office



FROM *the* BISHOP

Dictatorship *of* Relativism

PART II

A

ny claim that a pre-born child is not a human being raises questions about when a child becomes a human being. A number of relativistic theories have been posed over the years but none of them sufficiently answers the vital question: What does it mean to be a human being or a human person. Attempts have been made to make 'personhood' the criteria by which to judge when a human being is afforded rights in law. Yet, who bestows 'personhood'? It would appear that somehow the mother alone has the right to declare the personhood or not of her child but this is entirely subjective. If the mother determines personhood, then, perhaps, she can also declare for non-personhood. The law has, oddly, made the complete exit from the birth canal the criterium for legal status as a human being or person and so a woman can choose to have her child killed just before complete birth. This amounts to a unilateral declaration that the child, who is clearly human, is not human after all unless fully born. This is pure relativism.

The fiction being foisted on America is that the pre-born human being does not achieve a sufficient degree of humanness to be entitled to legal protections until the mother arbitrarily declares her child to be human by allowing him or her to be born. The child, in an objective reality, possesses humanity on its own. The child's humanity does not depend on the mother's will or intention to determine that humanity, biology does that. Just law demands that every human being has the protection of the law. The law does not create the rights which a human being enjoys, the law is supposed to recognize and protect those rights.

The moment humanity or personhood is seen as something determined by a third party then we are all at risk and every right attached to humanity or personhood is at risk as well. If a court can decree that a preborn child is not human, that is, not a fit candidate for legal protection, then it could just as arbitrarily decree that a human being over the age of 90 is no longer a candidate for legal protection. The Church speaks often and clearly about the dignity of the human person. This value, worth, dignity is not determined or declared by any law, it is simply recognized. The founding fathers

of the US recognized this and included the concept in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The use of the word 'men' was common and refers not to males but to human beings. Thus, all human beings are recognized as "created equal". They are not 'made equal' by law but recognized as such in the law. Unfortunately, those 'men' who are not yet free of maternal dependence are excluded from the inclusive category of "all".

Pope emeritus Benedict XVI also used the word 'dictatorship'. He thus referred to a 'dictatorship of relativism'. This is seen in our present society. Anyone who questions or even asks a question about human life in the womb is roundly dismissed. The rejection of science and any discussion of what it means to be a human being takes the form of a dictatorship. The 'accepted' view, however erroneous or relativistic it may be, is held up as the absolute truth against which no one dare contend. In terms of abortion, the Supreme Court's June 1992 5-4 decision in *Planned Parenthood v Casey*, upholding the right to abortion [said]: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life." Nonsense! While I may be able to define my own concept of existence or non-existence, I cannot impose (dictatorship) that concept on another living human being under the guise of exercising the freedom to define and act upon my own subjective view of the mystery of life.

In California parents are prevented from helping their children navigate the increasingly difficult waters of gender identity. The present 'dictatorship' presses for puberty arresting drugs despite concerns of doctors about severe medical complications associated with this use of medications. The call for these drugs is not based on any science, in fact, it contradicts science and studies but the 'gender ideology' holds that the use of these drugs is warranted in order to delay the onset of puberty so that a gender confused human being can have more time to discern which sex he/she desires to be. This, despite the science

that 80% of those who experience gender identity confusion 'self-resolve' in favor of their biological sex a few years later. If one were more suspicious, it could be speculated that the goal of these puberty suppressing drugs is precisely to delay the onset of puberty so that the confusion lasts longer and the person might be more inclined to choose against their biological sex. In the past, the resolution of gender identity confusion in favor of the biological sex would have been noted as a success. Now such a determination is viewed with suspicion and as a 'failure'. The only 'true' or acceptable success now is a determination to choose the sex that is not consistent with one's chromosomal, biological sex.

The degree to which these relativistic theories impact the lives of real persons is deeply disconcerting. Undoubtedly, there are struggles associated with pregnancy for which abortion 'seems' to be the complete answer. Such an answer, however, is chosen at the expense of the life of a human being. Gender identity has always been challenging but at least there was a foundation from which to begin, namely, biology and physical science. Undoubtedly, there are struggles for which surgical or chemical transgender modification 'claims' to be the complete answer. Such an answer, however, is chosen at the expense of a male/female biological reality.

Lewis Carroll (the pseudonym of Charles Dodgson) wrote in *Through the Looking Glass*: "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master — that's all." Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*

Pray for me as I promise to pray for you. -



Bishop Robert F. Vasa



Bright Resourcefulness

Question: What is a resource?

Answer: A source to which you can return.



By Chris Lyford
Editor, North Coast Catholic

Make me a channel of your peace!" These words of St. Francis have helped form our collective spirituality over the last half a century as the Saint from Assisi has accompanied our global pilgrimage into this most decisive era. Over 100 years ago Our Lady of Fatima, on the first day of her 'church approved' apparitions said: 'Pray the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.' These words still ring true today as we advance through the fog of this global war called a 'pandemic' because its effects are on "all-the-people."

Never in our lifetime have we encountered something that has had an effect on literally the whole world.

In describing the hoped-for objective of the upcoming synod on synodality, Pope Francis describes a "bright resourcefulness" where the whole church is strengthened and encouraged by the enlightening of our minds. We ourselves are not the source of the light of truth that enlightens our minds, but like St. Francis can be instruments, channels, or mirrors that reflect that light to a world filled with shadows. May we keep ourselves spiritually and intellectually pure during this process by embracing the Franciscan practice of humility, honesty, and charity. That way we can be a continuous source of hope to which others may return again and again to receive light, encouragement, and strength!

St. Francis also said: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words."

How can we preach the gospel, the good-news of salvation if we are broken vessels? The answer is that being 'broken vessels' makes us all the more qualified to preach the gospel since what we preach is the cross of Jesus Christ, the sign of forgiveness of sins

“over the last **60** years in the violation of the **5th Commandment. **62 million** of our brothers and sisters have been killed with the permission of our government.”**

and eternal life. That's the point. So where are we supposed to go? Answer: 'the whole world'. That means literally in every place and in every institution, even in the halls of political engagement. In fact, we are especially called to bring the gospel into our representative government in the way St. Francis indicated, if necessary, using words, precisely because 'God' has been disinvited officially by our government over the last 60 years to the tune of over one million times per year in the violation of the 5th Commandment. 62 million of our brothers and sisters have been killed with the permission of our government.

Even one is too much. I remember the visceral grief pouring out of my heart and spirit as I held my deceased child in the palm of my hand. We had been expecting with joy our 5th child who, having been conceived in deep love, was taken directly to heaven due to a miscarriage. The tears were more profound than I had ever experienced. I know some of you know this deep grief. May we revere, especially during this 'Respect Life' month, every single life from conception to natural death. Especially let us remember the forgotten, neglected, abused, mistreated. This month is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In this issue Madeleine Keegan O'Connell shares her personal testimony about how she has responded to this cause. Also in this issue, information about the Respect Life Essay Contest, an Artists inspiration to create a life size bronze of Pope Francis (does your parish or institution need one?), how to renew your October consecration to Jesus through Mary by consecrating all your 'stuff' to her protection, and the outline of the upcoming Synod on Synodality.



Another Palette for the Colors of Fall



By
Madeleine Keegan O'Connell

CEO of YWCA Sonoma County

Pink and purple, purple and pink; you may have noticed fall has a different color palette these days. As children, we associated orange, brown and even gold with the arrival of falling leaves, Halloween and a fresh chill in the air. Today, the arrival of fall is punctuated with the national awareness campaigns for breast cancer (pink) and domestic violence (purple).

A few summers ago, when I discovered a lump in my own breast, I assumed it was a benign mass, which is what it turns out to be in 80 percent of cases. Unfortunately, I was

in the other 20 percent. And so began my journey toward healing and recovery from stage two breast cancer. One of the toughest challenges was sharing the news with my two young boys, family, friends and business associates.

Months later, as I recovered from breast surgery and endured changes to my appearance from the effects of my treatment, I thought about how different the conversations would have been had I told my friends I was suffering from the effects of domestic violence. Why is that? We talk a lot about the pink ribbon, but not the purple one. The CDC estimates 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes. That's more than breast, ovarian and lung cancer in women combined.

I realize the staggering impact of this statement and, even as a breast cancer survivor, I'm astonished by the pervasiveness of domestic violence. Nationally, 4.8 million women will be physically abused by their intimate partner each year. Considering the 20 percent chance of my cancer mass being malignant, I quickly realized that, for the one in four families affected by domestic violence, the odds are nearly the same—but the treatment and recovery are very different.

For the victims of domestic violence, my primary concern is to help them find a

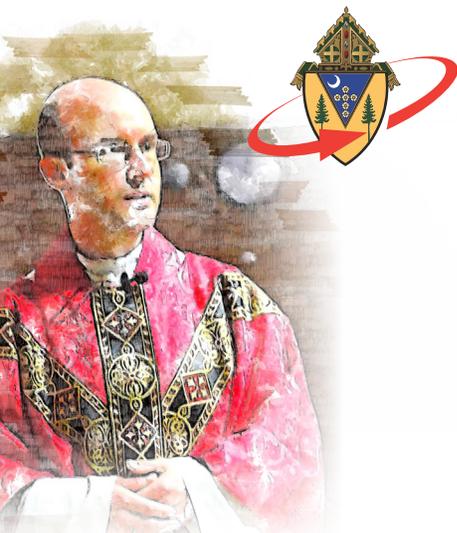
response to their own version of cancer—a social disease that, for just as many complex and inexplicable reasons, develops in their lives the way cancer did in mine. Since 1975, YWCA Sonoma County has answered the call from local families impacted by violence in the place we should all feel the most safe; inside our own homes. Exacerbated by the pandemic, calls to YWCA's 24/7 Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline (546-1234), the only one in Sonoma County, are on the rise. Safety planning and strategies to ensure relief are at the forefront of every call we receive. YWCA operates the County's only confidential Safe House shelter and the County's only therapeutic preschool for 3 – 5 year old children who have suffered trauma. Our therapy program delivers trauma informed care through one on one counseling and support groups. Today, YWCA's vital and singular role in our community has never been more evident.

Community support is crucial to our efforts. Together, we can provide a future without violence for every family in need. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, learn more at ywcasc.org.

St. Rose parishioner, Madeleine Keegan O'Connell is CEO of YWCA Sonoma County. Contact her at 303-8400 or at moconnell@ywcasc.org.

Around the DIOCESE

With Fr. Moses Brown



OCTOBER 2021 APPOINTMENTS + CHANGES

Rev. Krzysztof Lewandowski – Was learning Spanish in Mexico
Appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Rose of Lima parish, Santa Rosa

Rev. Andrew Pacheco – Was Parochial Vicar of St. Vincent de Paul, Petaluma
Appointed as Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, Fort Bragg and in charge of San Jose Sanchez Del Rio Catholic School

Rev. Andres Querijero – Was Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Fort Bragg
Appointed as Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Calistoga

Rev. Thomas Stuart – Was Parochial Vicar of Cathedral of St. Eugene
Appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Vincent de Paul parish with duties at the St. Vincent Elementary and High Schools

Rev. Angelito Peries – Retiring. Was Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Calistoga (Moving into: Hynes House, 7985 Covert Lane, Sebastopol, CA 95472)

NOTE: In July 2021

Rev. Adam Kotas left Diocese of Santa Rosa and the Roman Catholic Church



Don't Let Demons Attack Your Stuff!

An Exorcist's Consecration to Our Lady All Catholics Need

by Fr. Gabriel Lickteig

Jan 26, 2021



Illustration By ©Arthur Waligora

The devil is the one who loves to steal our joy.

We are told to be vigilant against his attacks, snares and temptations. One of the particular attacks he launches against us is something called "diabolical oppression".

This involves more of an exterior attack from the evil one: "diabolical oppression involves those things that affect a person's life from the outside." (Charles D. Fraune)

Renowned exorcist Fr. Chad Ripperger states that "diabolical oppression can appear as inexplicable financial difficulties, such as the inability to obtain employment despite being highly qualified and applying for multiple jobs, or being fired all of a sudden.

"Oppression can manifest and cause a person's possessions to chronically break down, despite reasonable efforts to keep

them in good order." (Fraune)

Other effects that exorcists have noted are marital discord, illness with no natural explanation, the breaking up of friendships, etc, with the purpose of leaving the person isolated.

It has been noted that even though diabolical oppression is indeed an attack that the devil launches against us, it is usually indicative of good things:

"experiences in the category of oppression are typically a positive sign. It indicates that God is protecting the person from other forms of demonic attacks.

"As a result of that protection, the demons, since they cannot get to the person in the way they want, come after them in these forms." (Fraune)

In other words, since the devil can't get to you from the inside, in the sanctuary of the soul, he seeks to attack you from the outside, in hopes of weakening you and making you more susceptible to his interior attacks.

He indeed prowls about as a lion, as Scripture notes, but he is a cowardly lion who loves to attack us when we are in a weakened state.

My dear friends, does any of this sound eerily similar to things that are going on in your life?

Whether you pick up on strange supernatural things happening around your work, finances and relationships or not, there is someone we can go to for both protection and to counter these attacks.

We were once encouraged that if there was something strange in our neighborhood to call the ghostbusters. My friends, I'm not talking about calling the ghostbusters, I'm talking about calling the Woman who is called the "Tower of David," who is called "Virgin Most Powerful", I'm talking about the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother.

In the course of his ministry as exorcist, Fr. Ripperger explained that in one case he "was seeking to cast a demon away from a person's property, which had become infested, he was able to get the demon to reveal that they only have permission to mess with the property, but they have no rights over it.

"The demon revealed that the person has to clearly state his authority over the property to help break the hold of the demon. Further, the demon told Father that consecrating the property to Our Lady completely blocks the demons from acting on it.

"As a result, a prayer was written, based on the famous prayer of St. Louis De Montfort for those making a total consecration of themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"Father says he has seen much good fruit from people using this prayer." (Fraune)

The prayer that Fr. Ripperger composed is entitled "Consecration of One's Exterior Goods to the Blessed Virgin Mary."

It is a beautiful prayer in which one gives and entrusts the protection of one's exterior goods, including health, finances, relationships, possessions, property, and career over to Our Blessed Mother's care and disposal.

One also asks Our Lady's protection over one's exterior goods against the evil one so that "he cannot touch them."

Even if you don't perceive signs of diabolical oppression in your life, I humbly ask and strongly encourage you to pray the prayer that Fr. Ripperger has composed. Our Blessed Mother can see things we can't.

Our enemy is subtle as a serpent, and she wants to protect us from him by stepping on his head in our lives.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, what a joy and consolation it is to put our lives—all aspects of them—under the care of Our Beautiful and Perfect Spiritual Mother, who loves us, as St. Alphonsus Liguori states, more than all of the angels and saints combined!

I encourage you to take some time to pray through the Consecration of Your Exterior Goods to Our Lady (full text below). I myself have seen amazing things happen in the lives of those who entrust themselves to the Mother of God through this prayer.

May Our Lady and her most chaste spouse, St. Joseph, protect you, your families and all of your exterior goods from the wicked fiend!

If you would like to know more about defending yourself from the attacks of the evil one, I also strongly recommend picking up a copy of the book, "Slaying Dragons: What Exorcists See & What We Should Know" by Charles D. Fraune.

It is an excellent resource in learning how to sniff out and defend yourself against the snares of our common enemy, but even more important than that, it teaches you how to get closer to Our Father who cherishes us as His beloved sons and daughters!

May Our Lady watch over you and yours always!

CONSECRATION OF EXTERIOR GOODS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

"I, (Name), a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in thy hands the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever satan, his pomps and works; and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before.

In the presence of all the heavenly court, I choose thee, O Mary, this day for my Mother and Mistress.

Knowing that I have received rights over all my exterior goods, past, present and future; I relinquish into thy hands, my Heavenly Mother, all rights over my exterior goods, including my health, finances, relationships, possessions, property, my job and my earthly success, and I retain for myself no right of disposing the goods that come to me but leave to thee the entire and full right of disposing of all that belongs to me, without exception, according to thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God in time and in eternity.

As I now interiorly relinquish what belongs to me exteriorly into thy hands, I entrust to thee the protection of those exterior goods against the evil one, so that, knowing that they now belong to thee, he cannot touch them.

Receive, O good and pious Virgin, this little offering of what little is, in honor of, and in union with, that subjection which the Eternal Wisdom deigned to have to thy maternity; in homage to the power which both of you have over this poor sinner, and in thanksgiving for the privileges with which the Holy Trinity has favored thee.

Trusting in the providential care of God the Father and thy maternal care, I have full confidence that thou whilst take care of me as to the necessities of this life and will not leave me forsaken.

God the Father, increase my trust in Thy Son's Mother; Our Lady of Fair Love, give me perfect confidence in the providence of Thy Son.

Amen."



THE DEVIL'S TROJAN HORSE

By Conor Gallagher

Father of 15 and president of TAN books

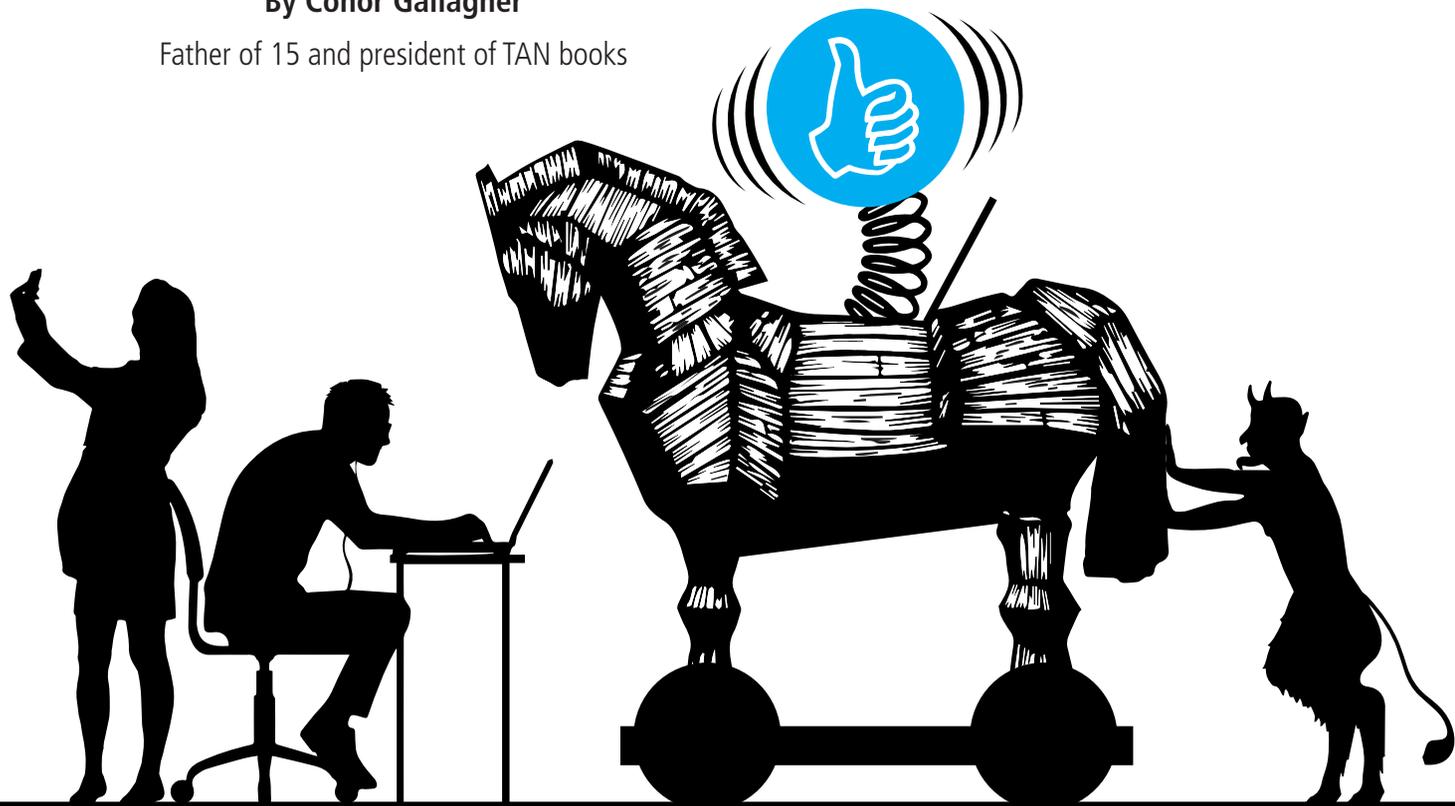


Illustration By ©Arthur Waligora

The Father of Lies tempted our first mother with the beguiling notion of progress. He told her that if she ate of the fruit, her eyes would be opened and that she would be as gods (Gen. 3:5). Eve was tempted by progress. She believed that there was something more to be had than God had already given her - for apparently "dominion over the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the air, and the beasts, and the whole earth, and every creeping creature that moveth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:16) was not enough. No, she wanted to have more, to perceive more, to be more than God intended for her.

Yes, the Father of Lies tempted our first parents with the notion of progress, and he continues to do so with us today. As a

father of 15 kids (and as master of bees, goats, chickens, dogs, cats, and crops), I am deeply aware of this pernicious but subtle battle against the family. Today, the fruits we desire are automation, speed, ease, and excessive access to everything. The Evil One promises us a life of luxury if we would but taste this fruit. Satan's mastery of technology has slowly taken our own dominion over the earth and given technology dominion over us. We have become hamsters on the wheel of progress, cogs in the wheel of automation, and worse, victims of spiritual genocide.

Frankly, I just want to be left the hell alone. With every passing year, I say NO more and more to such technological progress because I much prefer spiritual

progress for myself and my family. In fact, whenever I go out among men those who are secularly minded I return home less of one. I am with withdrawing from the world.

But my kids ...

I must teach my children how to be in the world, but never of it. And thus, I must teach them the dangers of our digital era; I must show them the wicked strategy of Satan in his use of technology.

Automation is putting our humanity at stake, for the very things that make us human cannot be automated. Discussion between friends is being replaced by posts between "followers." "Smart" phones are remembering for us all those things worth remembering, such as phone numbers of friends and birthdates of family. The

Internet has slaughtered the rich experience of taking little children to the library. TV and Netflix have made the notion of reading as a family a nerdy activity.

We are losing our humanity by the digital minute.

Throughout the centuries, the Evil One has had his weapons of choice. He does not wield any old tool for the job of destroying souls. Like a master craftsman, he picks his instrument carefully and uses it with precision. And at first glance, it may appear that his weapon for the modern age is lust. But I think not. I think it is sloth, and that the mentally disturbed versions of lust today are byproducts of sloth.

Progress, you see, keeps the modern man so busy, so focused on improvement, so bossed with cramming more meaningless stuff into a 24-hour day...so intent on raising his children to be honor roll students, athletes, musicians, and of course community organizers, that the love of God has no place to fit.

Indeed, the Devil's stratagem harkens the mind back to the Trojan Horse that was wheeled into the City of Troy as a magnificent gift. Under the cover of night, the bloodthirsty Greek warriors descended from the belly of the horse and slaughtered the Trojans in wicked and ruthless and even sacrilegious fashion.

Lucifer's Trojan Horse for the modern world is progress. As a master strategist, he puts into motion the famous words of Sun Tzu, "All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive."

The average man or woman in the pew today (or watching Mass on TV in our post-covid world) envisions a slothful man as a couch potato, stuffing his face with Cheetos.

But the Devil is more deceptive than that. The slothful man is rather one who wears himself out with work, fitness, social activities, consumption of news and the downloading of the newest productivity app. The strung-out mother is a victim of

sloth when she feels she must respond to this text and that post; she must register the kids for this activity and that one... and that one... and that one; she feels she must work out to keep her figure and must get her hair and nails done just to keep her sanity; she feels that another baby would ruin everything ... And the sweet little voice at knee level, trying to tug on the yoga pants while saying, "Mommy, mommy, mommy" is no longer a sweet sound to the mother's ear, but an annoyance -- an interruption to her work on the smartphone ... whatever the urgent matter may be at that particular moment.

As I look around at so many well-intentioned people (particularly parents), I see everyone is exhausted with needless activity. How is it that we live in a world of nearly magical automation and yet we are more exhausted than previous generations who labored manually? We are exhausted because nature and grace are the nourishment for our humanity. And we are malnourished. We are filling our spiritual bellies with the addictive and artificial sweetness of productivity and efficiency, but lacking the life-giving nutrients of silence, stillness, prayer, friendship, beauty, and leisure.

The Angelic Doctor, St. Thomas Aquinas, defines sloth as "sorrow for spiritual goods" and "sluggishness of the mind which neglects to begin good" (Summa II-II, Q. 35, Art. 1). It is our obsession with becoming more and more, just as Eve desired in the Garden, that drains us of the spiritual energy to desire God -- or even to desire humanity for ourselves.

The proper use of technology must be to accomplish our own end. Just as an ax has the "end" of cutting wood, our "end" is to know, love, and serve God in this life so as to be happy with Him in the next. This is what it means to be a good human. Our perfection is not in becoming a component in the matrix of the digital world. Our happiness lies only in perfecting our human nature. If I treat a goat like a dog, the goat will only be frustrated along with me. If I treat an ax like a butter knife, I will only make a mess. And if I treat my own human

nature as something other than that which is made to know, love, and serve God, it will only lead me to anger, sorrow, and eventual damnation. I am not made to be a cybernetic creature, plugged into a digital network exercising dominion over me. No! I am called to have dominion over my garden, to exercise my own free will in pursuit of my family's salvation, which leads me to the following story.

A while back, my sixteen-year-old had become too attached to his smart phone. Thanks be to God, he was not using it for impure means. But the device was becoming a source of conflict. I was having to micromanage how many milliseconds he was using it. More and more frustration arose... you know the story.

When I broached the subject of him going to a flip phone (as I had done), that nasty teenage, arrogant attitude appeared. And so, I walked with him out to the barn... told him to lay the smart phone on the ground... handed him an ax... and instructed him to shatter the cursed device with all his might. And he did so.

"If your eye causes you to sin, son," I said, "pluck it out. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. And if this device is causing a rift between us, then take an ax to it. I will destroy anything- ANYTHING - that comes between us. And so should you. I love you unconditionally.

Now, clean up the chards of glass before your siblings cut up their little feet."

And thus, as a father, I have a moral duty to see every new form of technology with skepticism - as a fruit that may bring life but may also bring death. I must ask two questions about every digital intruder into the garden in which my family takes abode. How can this aid in my family's pursuit of salvation? And how can the Evil One use this for my family's damnation?

Only then can I properly, productively, and effectively utilize the God-given ability of innovation. Only then can I exercise true dominion over my garden and walk with God in paradise.



Vatican Releases Synod on Synodality Preparatory Documents

Vatican City, Sep 7, 2021 / 03:30 am (CNA)

The Vatican released Tuesday a preparatory document and handbook for the 2023 synod on synodality to be reviewed by all Catholic dioceses in the world over the next six months. "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium," the new document states, quoting Pope Francis. "This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's 'renewal' proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task."

The Vatican published on Sept. 7 the 22-page preparatory document, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," and the 42-page vademecum, or handbook, for the diocesan phase of the synod.

The preparatory document has been released for a period of "pre-synodal discernment" that will influence a second draft of the text to be published before June 2023.

The handbook includes prayers, a description of synodality, the objectives of the synodal process, and the main questions to which the local Catholic communities are asked to give feedback. It underlines that dioceses should focus on "maximum inclusion and participation" among baptized Catholics in the diocesan synod process.

According to the Vatican, the preparatory document is "a tool to facilitate the first phase of listening to and consulting the People of God in the particular Churches" for the diocesan phase of the synod.

THE DIOCESAN PHASE

During the diocesan phase, each bishop is asked to undertake a consultation process with the local Church from Oct. 17, 2021, to April 2022.

It recommends that multiple parishes come together for these "synodal consultation meetings" so that "a range of people from different socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities, age groups" take part.

unions, and federations of consecrated life, international lay movements, and Catholic universities during this phase.

The handbook says that dioceses should organize local gatherings for "synodal consultation," and also enable individuals to give their feedback directly to the diocese.

The preparatory document, handbook, and questionnaire are to be reviewed by dioceses, as well as superior generals,

The diocesan synod process should "tap into the richness of the lived experience of the Church in their local context," the handbook says



MAIN QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

Questions are included at the end of handbook, which says that the “fundamental question” to be considered by the dioceses and the bishops over this multi-year process is as follows:

“A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, ‘journeys together.’ How is this ‘journeying together’ happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together?’”

In considering this, dioceses will receive and report feedback on the following:

- **What are difficulties, obstacles, and wounds in the local Church?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit asking of us?**
- **In our local Church, who are those who “walk together”?**
Who are those who seem further apart?
- **How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore? How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people? What facilitates or inhibits our listening?**
- **How does the relationship with the local media work (not only Catholic media)? Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?**
- **How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?**
- **What hinders the baptized from being active in mission? What areas of mission are we neglecting?**
- **To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue? What are the places and means of dialogue within our local Church?**
- **How are divergences of vision, or conflicts and difficulties addressed? What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to?**
- **What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?**
- **How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?**
How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church?
- **How do we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures? Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole People of God?**

WHAT IS SYNODALITY?

The preparatory document describes synodality as “the form, the style, and the structure of the Church.”

“The Synodal Process is first and foremost a spiritual process. It is not a mechanical data-gathering exercise or a series of meetings and debates. Synodal listening is oriented towards discernment,” the handbook says. The handbook describes the synodal journey as an experience of “authentic listening and discernment on the path of becoming the Church that God calls us to be.”

The synod on synodality will open with a “diocesan phase” in October 2021 and conclude with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October 2023.

Pope Francis will “inaugurate the synodal path” over the weekend of Oct. 9-10 with an opening session and a Mass. All dioceses are invited also to offer an opening Mass on Sunday, Oct. 17.

One objective of the synod on synodality, according to the preparatory document, is to

examine “how responsibility and power are lived in the Church as well as the structures by which they are managed, bringing to light and trying to convert prejudices and distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel.”

“The purpose of the first phase of the synodal journey is to foster a broad consultation process in order to gather the wealth of the experiences of lived synodality, in its different articulations and facets, involving the pastors and the faithful of the particular

Churches at all the different levels,” the preparatory document says.

“We recall that the purpose of the synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but ‘to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give

strength to our hands,’” it says, quoting from Pope Francis’ address at the opening of the youth synod in October 2018.

The Vatican held a press conference on Sept. 7 to discuss the newly released documents.

Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general of Synod of Bishops, spoke on a panel, along with undersecretaries Sr. Nathalie Becquart and Bishop Luis Marín de San Martín. Myriam Wijlens and Fr. Dario Vitali, consultants for the synod, also answered questions as part of the panel.

At the press conference, Grech said that synodality is “the mature fruit” of the Second Vatican Council.

“The synod is not a parliament,” the cardinal said.

“A synod is an experience of everyone listening to the Holy Spirit,” he added.



DEL OBISPO Dictadura del Relativismo

PARTE II



Cualquier afirmación de que un niño antes de nacer no es un ser humano, plantea preguntas sobre ¿cuándo un niño se convierte o es considerado ser humano? Se han planteado varias teorías relativistas a lo largo de los años, pero ninguna de ellas responde plenamente a la pregunta vital: ¿Qué significa ser un ser humano o una persona humana? Se ha intentado establecer que la "identidad como persona" sea el criterio para juzgar cuándo se otorgan los derechos a un ser humano en virtud de la ley. Sin embargo, ¿quién determina la "identidad de persona"? Parecería que de alguna manera solo la madre tiene derecho a declarar la identidad de persona de su hijo o no, pero esto es completamente subjetivo. Si la madre determina la condición de persona, entonces, quizás, también puede declarar la no condición de persona. Lastimosamente, la ley ha declarado que al salir completamente del canal de parto el niño adquiere el estatus legal como ser humano o persona, por lo que una mujer puede optar por que maten a su hijo justo antes del nacimiento. Esto equivale a una declaración unilateral de que el niño, que es claramente humano, no es humano después de todo, al menos que haya nacido completamente. Esto es relativismo puro.

La falacia que se está imponiendo en los Estados Unidos es que el ser humano no nacido no alcanza un grado suficiente de humanidad para tener derecho a protecciones legales hasta que la madre declara arbitrariamente que su hijo es humano al permitirle nacer. El niño, en una realidad objetiva, posee la humanidad por sí misma. La humanidad del niño no depende de la voluntad o intención de la madre de determinar esa humanidad, la biología lo hace. La ley justa exige que

todo ser humano tenga la protección de la ley. La ley no crea los derechos de los que disfruta un ser humano, se supone que la ley reconoce y protege esos derechos.

En el momento en que la humanidad o la condición de persona se determina por un tercero, todos estamos en riesgo y todos los derechos vinculados a la humanidad o la condición de persona también lo están. Si un tribunal puede decretar que un niño no nacido no es humano, es decir, que no es un candidato apto para la protección legal, entonces podría decretar de manera igualmente arbitraria que un ser humano mayor de 90 años ya no es un candidato para la protección legal. La Iglesia habla a menudo y con claridad sobre la dignidad de la persona humana. Este valor, mérito y dignidad no está determinado ni declarado por ninguna ley, simplemente se reconoce. Los padres fundadores de los Estados Unidos reconocieron esto e incluyeron el concepto en la Declaración de Independencia: "Sostenemos que estas verdades son evidentes por sí mismas, que todos los hombres son creados iguales, que están dotados por su Creador de ciertos Derechos inalienables, que entre estos son la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad". El uso de la palabra "hombres" era común y no se refiere a los hombres sino a los seres humanos. Así, todos los seres humanos son reconocidos como "creados iguales". No están "igualados" por la ley, sino reconocidos como tales por la ley. Lamentablemente, los "hombres" que aún no están fuera de la dependencia materna, están excluidos de la categoría inclusiva de "todos".

El Papa emérito Benedicto XVI también usó la palabra "dictadura". Se refirió así a una "dictadura del relativismo". Esto se ve en nuestra sociedad actual. Cualquiera

que cuestione o incluso haga una pregunta sobre la vida humana en el útero es descartado rotundamente. El rechazo a la ciencia y cualquier discusión sobre lo que significa ser un ser humano toma la forma de una dictadura. La opinión "aceptada", por errónea o relativista que sea, se sostiene como la verdad absoluta contra la que nadie se atreve a luchar. En cuanto al aborto, la decisión de la Corte Suprema 1992 5-4 sobre *Planned Parenthood v Casey*, que defiende el derecho al aborto [dice]: "En el corazón de la libertad está el derecho a definir el propio concepto de existencia, del universo, y del misterio de la vida humana". ¡Esto es un sinsentido! Si bien puedo definir mi propio concepto de existencia o no existencia, no puedo imponer (dictadura) ese concepto a otro ser humano vivo con el pretexto de ejercer la libertad de definir y actuar sobre mi propia visión subjetiva del misterio de la vida.

En California, los padres son limitados y obstaculizados para ayudar a sus hijos a navegar por las aguas cada vez más difíciles de la identidad de género. La actual "dictadura" presiona y promueve el uso de drogas supresoras especialmente en la pubertad, a pesar de las preocupaciones de los doctores sobre las graves complicaciones médicas asociadas con este tipo de medicamentos. La promoción a estos medicamentos no se basa en ninguna ciencia; de hecho, contradice la ciencia y los estudios, pero la 'ideología de género' sostiene que el uso de dichos medicamentos está justificado para retrasar el inicio de la pubertad de modo que un ser humano confundido en su género, puede tener más tiempo para discernir qué sexo desea ser. Esto, a pesar de que la ciencia confirma que el 80% de quienes experimentan confusión de identidad de

género “se resuelven a sí mismos” a favor de su sexo biológico unos años más tarde. Si uno fuera más suspicaz, se podría especular que el objetivo de estos fármacos supresores de la pubertad es precisamente retrasar el inicio de la pubertad para que la confusión dure más y la persona pueda estar más inclinada a optar en contra de su sexo biológico. En el pasado, la resolución de la confusión de la identidad de género a favor del sexo biológico se habría señalado como un éxito. Ahora tal determinación se ve con sospecha y como un “fracaso”. Hoy, el único éxito “verdadero” o aceptable es la determinación de elegir el sexo que no es coherente con el sexo biológico cromosómico.

El grado en que estas teorías relativistas impactan la vida de personas reales es profundamente desconcertante. Sin duda, existen luchas asociadas con el embarazo para las cuales el aborto “parece” ser la respuesta completa. Sin embargo, esta respuesta se elige a expensas de la vida de un ser humano. La identidad de género siempre ha sido un desafío, pero al menos había una base desde donde empezar, a saber, la biología y la ciencia física. Sin duda, hay luchas para las que la modificación transgénero quirúrgica o química “afirma” ser la respuesta completa. Sin embargo, esta respuesta se elige a expensas de una realidad biológica masculina / femenina.

Lewis Carroll (con el seudónimo de Charles Dodgson) escribió en *Through the Looking Glass*: “Cuando uso una palabra”, dijo Humpty Dumpty en un tono bastante desdeñoso, “significa exactamente lo que yo elijo que signifique, ni más ni menos”. “La pregunta es”, dijo Alicia, “si puedes hacer que las palabras signifiquen tantas cosas diferentes”. “La pregunta es”, dijo Humpty Dumpty, “cuál es el maestro?, eso es todo”. Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*.

Ore por mí como prometo orar por usted. -
Obispo Robert F. Vasa



Reverendísimo Robert F. Vasa
Obispo de Santa Rosa



Arzobispo Pide a Católicos Unirse a Campaña “Una Rosa y Un Rosario” Por Nancy Pelosi

(ACI Prensa)



Mons. Salvatore Cordileone, Arzobispo de San Francisco, alentó a los fieles católicos a unirse a la campaña de ayuno y oración titulada “Una Rosa y un Rosario” por Nancy Pelosi, la presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos, quien pese a ser una madre católica apoya y promueve públicamente el aborto.

“Al ver la posible aprobación en la Cámara de Representantes del proyecto HR3755, que impondría el aborto a pedido en toda la nación en cualquier momento del embarazo, se hace necesaria una conversión de corazón de la mayoría de nuestros representantes, comenzando por la líder de la Cámara, la presidenta Nancy Pelosi”, indicó el Arzobispo en una declaración este 29 de septiembre.

“Por ello invito a todos los católicos a unirse masiva y visiblemente a la campaña de ayuno y oración por la presidenta Pelosi: comprométanse a rezar un rosario por semana y a ayunar los viernes por su conversión de corazón”, exhortó el Prelado.

“Por favor únanse a la campaña ‘Una rosa y un Rosario por Nancy’ en el sitio web <https://benedictinstitute.org/rose-and-a-rosary/> y una rosa le será enviada a ella como símbolo de

su oración y ayuno”, continuó Mons. Cordileone.

El Arzobispo de San Francisco resaltó que Nancy Pelosi “habla hondamente de sus hijos. Claramente tiene un corazón maternal. El Papa Francisco ha dicho que el aborto es un asesinato, el equivalente a contratar a un sicario para solucionar un problema. La solución a la crisis de una mujer embarazada no es la violencia sino el amor”.

“Por favor únanse a mí en el rezo del Rosario y el ayuno por la conversión del corazón maternal de la presidenta Pelosi, para que abrace la bondad y la dignidad de la vida humana, no solo después del nacimiento sino desde el vientre”, animó Mons. Cordileone.

El Arzobispo indicó también que la idea de las rosas y el Rosario se relaciona con Santa Teresita de Lisieux o Santa Teresita del Niño Jesús, cuya fiesta la Iglesia celebra este viernes 1 de octubre.

El Prelado dijo que “Santa Teresita de Lisieux, ‘la Florecilla’, cuya fiesta celebramos este viernes, es recordada por estas famosas y queridas palabras: ‘Después de mi muerte, dejaré caer una lluvia de rosas. Pasaré al Cielo haciendo el bien en la tierra. Levantaré una gran

continuada p.15

continuada Pelosi

es hacer amar a Dios'. Y después de su muerte, las rosas comenzaron a llover del cielo".

El Arzobispo explicó que a las rosas "se les ha llamado la 'firma' de Santa Teresa, una señal de que se ha escuchado la oración del peticionario".

"La rosa es también un símbolo de nuestra Madre, la Santísima Virgen María, la 'rosa mística'. En este momento particular de la historia de nuestra nación, necesitamos más que nunca su intercesión, la de Santa Teresa, y la de todos los demás santos que nos han mostrado el camino de la vida", precisó.

De hecho, "la reacción provocada por la aprobación de la ley del latido del corazón en Texas demuestra cuán desesperadamente nuestro país, y muchos de nuestros líderes políticos, necesitan una conversión de corazón para dejar el camino de la muerte y reclamar una cultura de la vida".

La ley de "latidos del corazón" de Texas entró en vigor el 1 de septiembre e impide los abortos una vez que se detectan los latidos del corazón del feto, que puede ser incluso a las seis semanas de embarazo.

La norma ha sido fuertemente criticada por los grupos abortistas y por líderes del gobierno, como la vicepresidenta de Estados Unidos, Kamala Harris, que la consideró "inconstitucional"; y por el mismo presidente Joe Biden, quien dijo que la ley constituye un "asalto sin precedentes" a los derechos de las mujeres, y que ha ofrecido luchar contra ella con todo lo que tiene el gobierno a su disposición.

Sobre la campaña de oración por Pelosi, la directora ejecutiva del Instituto Benedicto XVI, Maggie Gallagher, recordó que este es el "Año de los indigentes" y que "nuestro apoyo a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en las calles de San Francisco y nuestro apoyo a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el vientre materno tiene las mismas profundas raíces".

Gallagher precisó que estas raíces están en "nuestra fe en la igual dignidad de todo ser humano. Importamos no porque seamos ricos o poderosos, o útiles, por lo bellos que podamos ser, sino porque somos todos hijos amados de Dios".

Puede unirse a la campaña "Una rosa y un Rosario por Nancy" en este enlace.

Colorado Parish Church Vandalized with Pro-Abortion Graffiti

Denver, Colo., Sep 29 (CNA)



A Catholic parish in Boulder, Colorado, with a memorial to aborted babies on its front lawn was desecrated with pro-abortion graffiti in the early hours of Sept. 29.

Sacred Heart of Mary Parish was tagged with numerous spray-painted slogans including "Jesus [Loves] Abortion," "Bans off our bodies," "No Wire Hangers Ever," and a symbol combining an "A" signifying "anarchy" and the traditional symbol for "female."

Mark Evevard, Youth Director and Social Communications Director for the parish, told CNA that the police believe it was a group of unidentified assailants who hit the church, and that police are currently investigating.

The parish had a display of 4,000 small white crosses in its front lawn, each one representing a baby aborted each day in the United States. The vandals trampled and desecrated at least half of the crosses.

They also painted over signs facing the roadway advertising the memorial, and covered the lenses of the lights that shine on the church building with red paint.

"My Body My Choice" was scrawled in bright red spray paint on a white pickup truck outside the church, and at least one of the truck's tires appears to have been deflated.

The vandals also used a rock or hammer to attempt to break the church's stained glass windows, but

only managed to break the safety glass on the outside. They also threw eggs at several doors.

Although the church had a functioning security camera system, the images captured of the assailants are little more than "shadows," Evevard said, and have not proven helpful. The assailants purposely avoided being captured on video in an identifiable way, he said.

Evevard said the pastor, Fr. Jonathan Dellinger, has been encouraging parishioners to "put those folks at the top of your prayer list, and pray for their conversion." Evevard said several passersby, including a few people not affiliated with the parish, have stopped to express condolences and help to clean up some of the mess.

St. Louis Parish in nearby Louisville was vandalized with similar pro-abortion graffiti recently, Evevard noted.

Boulder is home to one of the country's most prolific late-term abortionists, Warren Hern, who runs the Boulder Abortion Clinic, one of a handful of clinics in the U.S. that publicly accept patients seeking late-term abortions from anywhere in the world. Colorado remains one of only a handful of states that does not have some legislation on late-term abortion. As a result, abortions can take place in the state up until birth.

This story is developing.



Counter Pelosi's Abortion Stand With Roses and Rosaries, Archbishop Cordileone Says

Denver Newsroom, Sep 30 (CNA)



People should pray especially for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's change of heart on abortion, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco has said in an announcement of a prayer campaign for her.

"A conversion of heart of the majority of our Congressional representatives is needed on this issue, beginning with the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi," Cordileone said Sept. 29. "I am therefore inviting all Catholics to join in a massive and visible campaign of prayer and fasting for Speaker Pelosi: commit to praying one rosary a week and fasting on Fridays for her conversion of heart."

Cordileone invited Catholics and everyone of good will to sign up for the "Rose and Rosary for Nancy" campaign at the website of the Benedict XVI Institute (<https://benedictinstitute.org>). A rose will be sent to the Speaker "as a symbol of your prayer and fasting for her," he said.

The archbishop lamented the House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 3755, which he said would "impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy." The bill passed Sept. 24 in a largely party-line vote of 218 to 211. It was part of the reaction to a Texas heartbeat-based abortion bill, which the Supreme Court allowed to take effect.

The reaction to the Texas bill, Cordileone said, shows "how desperately our country, and many of our political leaders, need a conversion of heart to steer us away from the path to death and reclaim a culture of life."

Pelosi, a Democrat who is a longtime

supporter of legal abortion, represents a congressional district which covers most of the city of San Francisco. She has said she disagrees with Cordileone on legal abortion, arguing that God gave people "free will" to choose abortion, and that it was not the "business" of lawmakers to make that decision for them.

"I come to this as a Catholic mother of five (children) in six years and one week," she said last week on the House floor in support of the bill. "And the joy that all that meant to us. But with the recognition that my husband and I – it was our decision."

Cordileone's remarks appeared to respond directly to Pelosi.

"Speaker Pelosi speaks fondly of her children. She clearly has a maternal heart," he said. "Pope Francis has called abortion murder, the equivalent of hiring a hitman to solve a problem. The solution to a woman in a crisis pregnancy is not violence but love."

"Please join me in praying the rosary and fasting for a conversion of Speaker Pelosi's maternal heart to embracing the goodness and dignity of human life not only after birth, but in the womb as well," he said.

The archbishop noted that Oct. 1 marks the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, the French saint known as the "Little Flower" who is remembered for her words "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth. I will raise up a mighty host of little saints. My mission is to make God loved..."

"And after her death, the roses began to shower down from heaven. Roses have been

called St. Therese's 'signature,' a sign that the petitioner's prayer has been heard," said the archbishop.

"The rose is also a symbol of our Blessed Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the 'mystical rose,'" he added. "At this particular moment in the history of our nation, we need more than ever the intercession of our Blessed Mother, St. Therese, and all other saints who have shown us the path to life."

Cordileone launched the Benedict XVI Institute for Sacred Music and Divine Worship in 2014 to help provide practical resources to help parishes have more beautiful and reverent liturgies, and to promote a Catholic culture in the arts. Among its upcoming events are requiem Masses for the homeless and the unveiling of a painting of the patron saints of the homeless.

Maggie Gallagher, executive director of the Benedict XVI Institute, said support for the homeless and support for the unborn has the same roots: "our faith in the equal dignity of every human soul."

"We matter not because of how rich, or powerful, or useful, or beautiful we might be, but because of 'who we are': equally beloved children of God," Gallagher said.



FROM PINES TO POPE FRANCIS

By Darby Lee Patterson

It happened like this: I was sitting at a picnic table under a cedar tree in a national forest. In front of me, I had a lump of plasticine clay – the kind of clay that never dries and is favored by sculptors who cast in bronze. The weather was perfect. A crow swooped from a treetop and flew overhead. I heard the slow rush of its wings flapping, making music in the forest. It landed on a branch of a nearby cedar and settled in. It was then that an image of Pope Francis entered and occupied my imagination.

I saw him smiling, softly, and compassionately. I thought of how much I like him – a man not caught up in the pomp and prestige of the papacy. Francis was stepping out on his own terms. It was the first time I could relate to someone anointed with (or burdened by) the title, Holy Father.

Without reason or a plan, I started sculpting. By the end of the afternoon, my Pope's head looked very much like a

Neanderthal – which is where most of us started out anyway. The work progressed, and little by little, Francis began to emerge from the clay. And as the sculpture grew in size and detail, I started to again wonder why I was there pouring my efforts into one impulsive moment under a pine tree.

Through many months of sculpting, building the mold, pouring, and working on the wax figure, thoughts of him and the church floated through my mind. Finally, as I drove the finished wax sculpture to the foundry and sent him forward to emerge in bronze, I considered my investment of time (more than a year) and money (thousands before the casting). But it was not until I had the 235 pounds of bronze Pope finished and home with me that I got it.

Pope Francis, for me, transcends a single faith. He embodies virtues that so many of us value most in humanity – kindness, compassion, joy, and courage – qualities I tried to capture in his likeness.

He speaks out, sometimes in opposition

to firmly held dictates of the Vatican, and offers hope to those left behind by the church. He honors women and has advanced policies to uplift them in the hierarchy of church practices. I believe there are other embedded dictates he would, if he reasonably could, change.

But he is a realistic and dedicated man who does the most good he can in the extraordinary circumstances with which he was blessed.

Little did I know, as a young and rebellious teenage girl questioning everything, that I would one day, late in life, discover my small gift for sculpting and express my Catholic upbringing in this way. It's been a journey of work and creativity and one of reflection. It makes me feel good to think that, despite my adolescent doubts about my church, Pope Francis would still approve of the person I've become.



Greetings!

My name is Fatima Jimenez, and I am the new Director for the Child and Youth Protection office for the Diocese of Santa Rosa. For the past 9 ½ years, I have held the Religious Education Director and Safe Environment Coordinator position for two different parishes. From 2012 -2018 I worked for Saint Helena Catholic Church in Saint Helena, then in October of 2018, I transferred to the Saint Apollinaris Catholic Church in Napa.

I officially started working for the Saint Helena Catholic Church in July 2012. After being a volunteer translator for their monthly Parish Council meetings. As I am sure many of you can relate, this was supposed to be a one-time meeting that resulted in a long-term appointment. After about three months of translating for the council, two of their part-time employees announced that they were stepping back from their roles. One was the Director of religious education, and the other was the Director of ministries. Instead of hiring two people, the pastor decided to combine both roles into one full-time position. To make a long story short, I was encouraged to apply and got the job. I was thrilled to start this

new journey. I had always wanted a job that would positively impact children, and what better way than teaching children about God and our church.

After a few weeks, I was asked if I would be willing to shift my role. I would no longer be in charge of coordinating the parish ministries but rather be the Safe Environment coordinator. I agreed and regretted it soon after, and not because I couldn't do the job but rather because of the amount of responsibility that came with it. I was responsible for telling people they could not volunteer unless they got fingerprinted and trained, and aside from that, I had to make sure all of our policies and procedures were followed and understood. My new role did not sit well with many people, and I quickly became the fingerprint police. I must admit it took me a long time to feel comfortable in this new role. I remember the pastor often told me, "Fatima, you need to be New York tough," and that was his kind way of saying I needed to toughen up and not be offended by comments made by others. It wasn't until the second or third year that I fully embraced my role as the Safe Environment Coordinator and realized that my job wasn't to make people happy but rather to make sure that the children and youth under our care were protected and safe. I certainly was not "New York tough," but I was getting closer.

In October of 2018, I transferred to

the Saint Apollinaris Catholic Church in Napa. My first year at Saint Apollinaris flew by, with a fantastic group of catechists and supportive staff. Summer came and went, and I was ready to kick off another wonderful year. Little did I know the many challenges we would all face in the months to come. I will not detail the struggles Covid imposed on us because we all know them and are still living them now. Instead, I want to share one of the things that it highlighted for me: sometimes, as hard as we try, we can't always protect the ones we love from everything, but that does not mean we shouldn't do what we can.

For me, this meant taking this new role with everything it entitles, the good, the bad, and the ugly, and continuing the great job that this office has done. I am committed to our Safe environment policies and the people we serve. I am grateful for the safe environment coordinators at every parish and school within our diocese, and my goal is to meet you all personally soon. I know it is not easy but remember you are "New York tough."



Blessings,
Fatima Jimenez



PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

- Rev. Donald Kinney, OCD
- Rev. Sean Rogers
- Rev. Andres Querijero
- Rev. Ron Serban
- Rev. Alvin Villaruel
- Rev. Jeffrey Keyes



Thank You

The Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa
extend thanks for
your prayers and support

*May God bless you,
and Mary keep you!*

2021 SONOMA COUNTY PRO-LIFE ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST



WHO MAY ENTER?

Any student in Sonoma County in grades 3 to 12 may enter. Entries will be judged separately by age group, as follows: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, High School, Grades 9-12

CASH PRIZES!!!

Grades 3-5: First Prize, \$50, Second Prize, \$25
Grades 6-8: First Prize, \$75, Second Prize, \$50
Grades 9-12: First Prize, \$100, Second Prize, \$75

HOW TO ENTER:

Submissions should be submitted by e-mail to sonomaprolife@zoho.com.

FORMAT: Please submit essay AND name, school grade, address, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the e-mail (not attachment). Contact information, except for school grade, will be separated from the essay itself before the essays are judged. Entries should be submitted double spaced and in print size 12 point or larger.

Entries must be received by November 29, 2021.

JUDGING:

Entries will be judged on the basis of factual accuracy, originality, clarity of expression, and conformity with guidelines as to format and length.

WINNERS:

First and Second Place winners in each grade group will be notified on or before January 4, 2022, and announced on the Sonoma County Pro-Life Website on or about January 5, and publicly at the Sonoma County Pro-Life Annual Pro-Life Rally.

PRIVACY:

Entry in this contest implies permission to publish the name and school of the winners in the Sonoma County ProLife Newsletter and on the Sonoma County ProLife Web Page. No other use of any information will be made without the express permission of the parent or guardian of the entrant.

ESSAY TOPICS AND LENGTH FOR EACH AGE GROUP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

GRADES 3-5:

Write an essay of 200-250 words on one of the following topics.

- 1: What can you and your parents do to show that you love babies, and to help their mothers take care of them.
- 2: Do you have grandparents, or older family friends who can no longer do some of the things you can? Do you know someone who is challenged in some other way -- who can't walk, or can't see, or hear, or speak well? What can you and your family do to include in your life someone "different", so they feel loved and needed?

GRADES 6-8:

Write an essay of 300 to 400 words on one of the following topics.

- 1: Everyone on earth begins life in his or her mother's womb. Being pro-life means supporting the right of each life to grow, thrive, and experience many good things. Why it important for people to be pro-life?
2. Some people are born with problems that make their lives difficult. Others become ill, or are injured. Also, as people get old they may not be able to take care of themselves. These people may feel that their lives don't matter How can you help them to feel wanted, and loved?

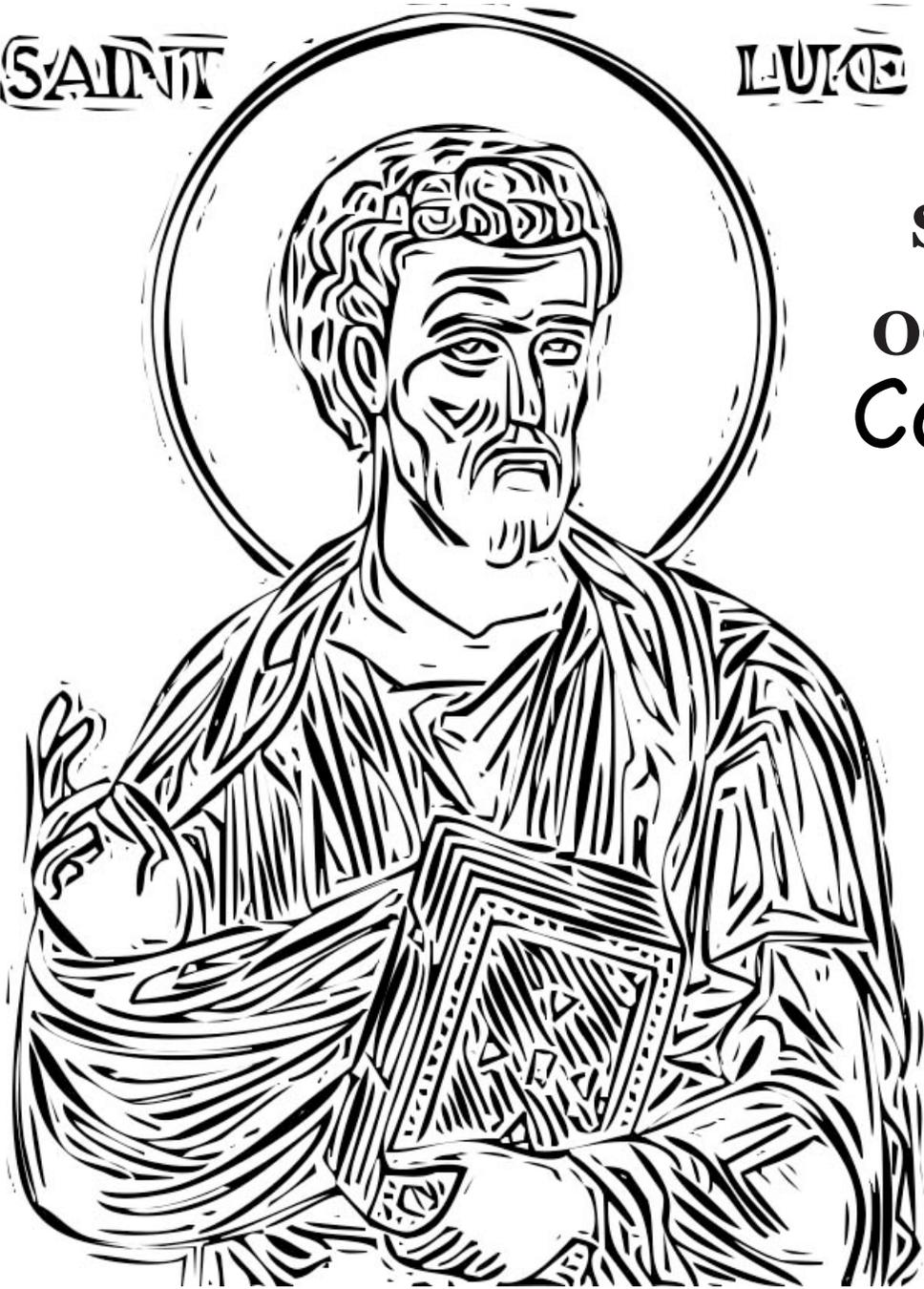
GRADES 9-12:

Write an essay of 400-500 words on one of the following topics.

1. Why are you pro-life? Share a personal story if you would like to, relating either to the life of the unborn or to the life of someone who is old, or physically or mentally challenged in some way.
2. Many people today are confused about what it means to be pro-life. How can you respectfully share your belief that the life of the unborn should be protected by law?

SAINT

LUKE



SAINTS *for* OCTOBER Coloring Page

1. October 01: St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
2. October 02: Guardian Angels
3. October 03: St. Gerard of Brogne
4. October 04: St. Francis of Assisi
5. October 05: St. Flora of Beaulieu
6. October 06: St. Bruno
7. October 07: Our Lady of the Rosary
8. October 08: St. Simeon
9. October 09: St. Denis and Companions
10. October 10: Eleven Martyrs of Almeria, Spain
11. October 11: St. Kenneth
12. October 12: St. Felix and St. Cyprian
13. October 13: St. Edward
14. October 14: St. Callistus I
15. October 15: St. Teresa of Avila
16. October 16: St. Margaret Mary
17. October 17: St. Ignatius of Antioch
18. October 18: St. Luke
19. October 19: St. Isaac Jogues, St. John De Brebeuf and companions
20. October 20: St. Paul of the Cross
21. October 21: St. Hilarion
22. October 22: Blessed Timothy Giaccardo
23. October 23: St. John Capistrano
24. October 24: St. Anthony Claret
25. October 25: Blessed Richard Gwyn
26. October 26: St. Evaristus
27. October 27: Blessed Contardo Ferrini
28. October 28: St. Simon and St. Jude
29. October 29: St. Narcissus
30. October 30: St. Alphonsus Rodriguez
31. October 31: St. Foillan

And Now What?

By Fr. Mario Valencia



We wonder about the increasingly uncertain future. Certainly, our ability to visualize what follows, seems to no longer depend on factors controllable by human will; for example, climate change, the evolution of the pandemic, economic situations, political decisions, transformation of values, children's education, vacations, secure jobs, etc., all seem to make us

like weathervanes that go with the flow. However, our faith moves us to raise our eyes to God as our Supreme Captain who guides our existence and sets the course for those of us who trust in Him, but in a more specific way.

Each century, each generation demands concrete responses to the historical events of the human family, but above all as part of the history of salvation of our souls. I firmly believe that today God is asking us for a more active participation in political, economic, and social life. As Christians we are called to incarnate and establish the kingdom of heaven today.

Let's contemplate for a moment the reality that raises even more questions in our minds: why with all of the advances we have achieved in the world, is there more evil? Why, if there are so many Christians who believe in love, power, and hatred, does the mob continue to rule? Why are the laws, even with so many technological advances, not seeking the good of the majority but only the benefit of some? Why have values

been exchanged in society even when we do not agree with it? Why has God been left out of the education of children?

I think the answer is very concrete, we have not been able to embody in the world the truth of the gospel that builds the Kingdom of love. As they say out there: it is not the evil that the bad do, but the good that the good do not do that allows us to experience directions contrary to our search for happiness; Or as the saying goes, "shrimp that sleeps, the current carries away" and if we do not wake up as active Christians in this world, the current will surely lead us to situations that are increasingly difficult to face.

Change implies will and that we carry our cross. Perhaps it means we no longer live in error, but love with greater intensity to transform the present into the truth and thus enjoy a better future without fear, because as Jesus promised: "I will be with you every day until the end of the world" (Mt. 28:20).



Support your local Catholic hospital through a Charitable Gift Annuity and put cash in your pocket!

- Attractive fixed rates. i.e. 6.5% for an 80 year old
- Large portion of annuity is tax-free
- Significant tax deduction
- Easy to set up

For more information and a confidential quote contact:

St. Joseph Hospital, Eureka / Redwood Memorial Hospital, Fortuna
Heather Setton, 707.269.4275 or heather.setton@stjoe.org

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital
Liz Tunney Williams, 707.547.4692 or liz.williams@stjoe.org

Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Napa
Damon Tinnon, CSPG, 707.257.4144 or damon.tinnon@providence.org

Reminder: If you are 70 ½ or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA. The gift(s) counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution and will not be included in your income. This is a very tax-savvy way to give.



St. Joseph Hospital
Redwood Memorial Hospital
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital
Queen of the Valley Medical Center

SPECIAL RATES
AVAILABLE

Where are you casting your net?

Faith and business go hand in hand,
only in business it's called risk.

40,000

HOMES
DISTRIBUTION*

96%

OF HOUSEHOLDS
HAVE A READER*

NORTH COAST CATHOLIC



Placement on the NEW Diocesan website
included in all packages!

The North Coast Catholic provides a quality, informative publication to **40,000** homes throughout the diocese of Santa Rosa comprising of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma counties.

Full Page No Bleed7.75in. x 10in.
Full Page Bleed8.5in. x 10.75in.
Half Page horizontal.....7.75in. x 4.75in.
Quarter Page vertical.....3.75in. x 4.75in.
Eighth Page horizontal3.75in. x 2.25in.

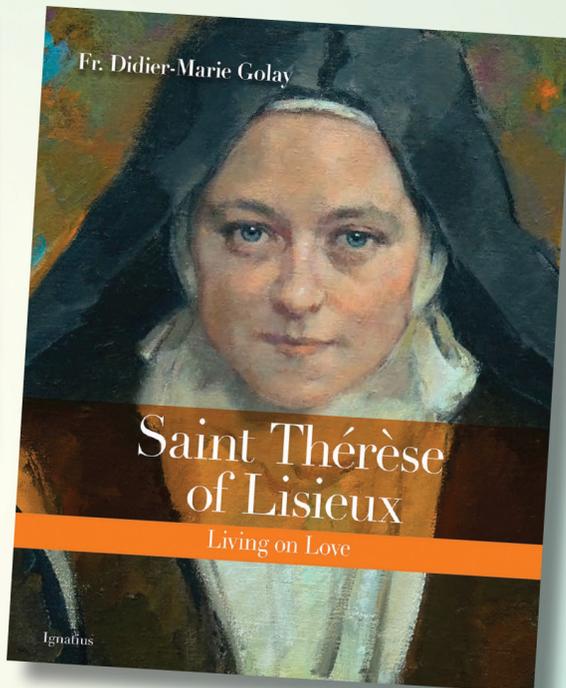
CONTACT US FOR PRICING / OFFERS

Patty Brooks: 714-323-9972 advertising@srdiocese.org

* Publishers Information Service

SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Living on Love



Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most popular saints in the world, but the details of her life and spirituality are still not widely known and are somewhat of a mystery even to her devoted followers.

With **over 150 stunning photographs**, profound text, and plentiful sidebars on history, geography, and spiritual themes, this gorgeous work by Fr. Didier-Marie Golay, O.C.D. helps us enter into the universe of "the greatest saint of modern times" to discover the simplicity, yet depth of her daily life and of her relationships, both human and spiritual.

Her whole life is encapsulated in her poem "Living on Love": a passionate love of Christ lived out in the everyday joys and trials of life, in inner and outer sufferings. Living on love is a spiritual program for life, but to live it requires a special grace for which we must ask, especially through the intercession of the "Little Flower" of Jesus – who is also a Doctor of the Church. This unique, stunning, and very beautiful work will inspire readers to desire to imitate St. Thérèse in "living on love". **Lavishly Illustrated—Color, B & W**

STLLH . . . 320 pages, 8.25 x 10.25 Hardcover, *Illustrated*, \$34.95



Other Inspiring Books on St. Thérèse

◆ **ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX**

Story of a Life

Guy Gaucher, O.C.D.

STSLP, Sewn Softcover, \$17.95

◆ **SPIRITUAL CHILDHOOD**

The Spirituality of St. Thérèse

Msgr. Vernon Johnson

SCSTP, Sewn Softcover, \$17.95

◆ **A FAMILY OF SAINTS**

The Martins of Lisieux

Fr. Stephane Piat, O.F.M.

SFAMP, Sewn Softcover, \$22.95

◆ **THE HIDDEN FACE**

A Study of St. Thérèse

Ida Friederike Goerres

HFSSTP, Sewn Softcover, \$19.95



ignatius press

P.O. Box 1339, Ft. Collins, CO 80522

www.ignatius.com

(800) 651-1531