

NORTH COAST CATHOLIC



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NORTH COAST CATHOLIC
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*St. Francis de Sales,
pray for us!*



FROM *The* BISHOP

The Legacy of Religious Men



My Dear People of
the Diocese of Santa Rosa:

I pray that you all had a grace-filled Lent and a most Blessed Easter. Encouraged by the hope that the threat of COVID will continue to be diminished we can celebrate the news of the Resurrection with greater joy and festivity than we could last year. While the joy of the Resurrection fills us, we must remember that we are still living in a 'vale of tears' and so must continue to take the necessary precautions to help assure that another wave of virus does not afflict us.

In January, I wrote about the many wonderful contributions which Religious Women have made to the spread and support of faith in the Diocese of Santa Rosa. This month I want to recall for you those Religious Men, both Brothers and Priests, who have served the pastoral and spiritual needs in our Diocese from decades ago and into the present. I also want to mention the international nature of our Diocese.

While it will be impossible for me to list all the Religious Orders of Men which have supplied pastoral care to our area over the decades, I will try to give you a sense of just how much we have relied upon and how much we presently rely on the presence and service of these men.

I begin with the Carmelites (OCD), both Priests and Brothers, who make their home at Oakville. This Community does not manage any particular parish but have been and continue to be a great spiritual powerhouse for the Diocese. The other stable group of Religious are the Religious Brothers of the Christian Schools (FSC) who manage Justin Sienna High School and have a house outside of Napa. Another group of men who were

associated with schools in the Diocese are the Precious Blood Fathers (CSSP). This group managed Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa at its beginning but have no presence in the Diocese today. There are other Religious Orders which were represented in the Diocese in the past such as the Jesuits, Franciscans and Dominicans which I will try to list from our records in the 90s. I want to mention a Religious connection which many will recall. Father Eric Freed, who was killed in Eureka on January 1, 2014, came to the Diocese of Santa Rosa as a Salesian priest. There have been and continue to be priests of Religious Orders who come to serve here temporarily and then choose to make a permanent commitment to the Diocese. These men bring the richness of their particular Orders, the spirituality of the founders of their Orders and a distinct charism or set of gifts which benefits us in the Diocese.

Over the years, for instance in 1994 alone, we find a listing of the Orders of Religious Priests serving here. These include: Augustinians (OSA), Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance (OCSO), Society of Divine Word (SVD), Order of Preachers (OP - Dominicans), Franciscan Friars (OFM), Priests of the Congregation of the Holy Cross (CSC), Holy Ghost Fathers (CSSp), Jesuit Fathers (SJ), Marist Fathers (SM), Maryknoll (MM), Canons Regular of Premontre (O.Praem - Norbertines), Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), Oblates of the Virgin Mary (OMV), Redemptorist Fathers (CSSR). In 2020 the list is shorter but nonetheless significant. Carthusian Order (O.Cart), Missionaries of

Faith (MF), Missionaries of the Poor (MOP), Society of Saint Francis Xavier (SFX). In addition to members of Religious Orders, there are priests from a variety of Countries who serve here, either temporarily or permanently. We have priests whose native land (birthplace) is Ireland, Mexico, Poland, Ghana, Philippines, Kenya, Nigeria, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, El Salvador, Venezuela. The priests of the Diocese thus represent a significant, multi-cultural, international diversity. Undoubtedly, the diversity of priestly formation and cultural heritage has the possibility of enriching our local Church. At the same time, this diversity means that consistent exposure to priests from the same culture may not be possible. Thus, many parishes experience a different culture every time a pastor is changed. This is part of what it means, even in our well-developed Diocese, to be considered a Mission Diocese. As a Mission Diocese we rely greatly upon the presence of many Religious Priests and Brothers as well as our great variety of international priests.

Where would we be without them? May the names of these devoted communities be a cause for you to give thanks to God for their service here and may remembrance of them bring you much hope, joy and gratitude.

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

Bishop Robert F. Vasa



Fathers Pay Attention: The Year of St. Joseph is About You!

Greetings Family,

May and June are the months when we traditionally celebrate mothers with Mother's Day and fathers with Father's Day, whether they be our parents, godparents, or spiritual mothers and fathers.

Mary is the model for all mothers. She said "yes" to God and dedicated herself to the raising of God's only son, Jesus. She shows us how to put God first in our lives.

But have you ever considered St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse, who helped her in the parenting of Jesus? In this declared Year of St. Joseph, it is amazing what St. Joseph can teach us about being a father without his ever speaking a word in the holy scriptures! We have all heard the saying "Actions speak louder than words." Joseph was that kind of guy.

In today's culture, and too common in TV and movies, dads are frequently portrayed as incompetent bumbler whose disobedient children talk back to them. The truth is a high percentage of dads are totally absent from the family: approximately 33% of children in the US live without their biological father present (fathers.com). It varies by race, but suffice to say, way too many children grow up without their father in their life. Unfortunately, lots of men just don't know how to be good men, good spouses, or good fathers.

So we say let St. Joseph guide men to responsible parenthood. All men can learn from him in his actions in protecting and caring for Mary and Jesus. When praying the Litany of St. Joseph, we learn what kind of man he was by some of his titles. He was the chaste guardian of the Virgin, head of the Holy Family, prudent, courageous, obedient, faithful, mirror of patience, model of workmen, glory of domestic life, pillar of families, terror of demons (our favorite!), and because he was all these things he was made "Protector of the Holy Church." Ladies, who among you would not want the men in your life to be like St. Joseph? And gentlemen, don't you want yourself and your friends to be men of virtue too?

So, go to St. Joseph. Learn about him and, as an individual (both men and women) or family, we recommend you do the 33-day consecration to St. Joseph. We used Fr. Donald Calloway's book "Consecration to St. Joseph" and learned so much about him and want to emulate his love of God and love of family. He has become our spiritual father and we hope he becomes yours too!

Blessings to you all
and pray for us St. Joseph!

**Carlin and
Deacon Dave Gould**

Co-Directors of the Marriage
& Family Life Office





All About Moms and Dads



By Julie Sparacio

In anticipation of Mother's Day and Father's Day, I have been thinking about the important role that each parent plays in the healthy development of their children. As a Mom, I, of course, want to say it's all about the Moms, but in all fairness, I have to give credit to the Dads as well. At any given time, either my husband or I may have taken on a stronger role, but that regularly switched back and forth. The truth is, we were a team. That scripture quote that is said at almost every wedding about the two shall become one – that really was us. So, while one of us cooked dinner and the other did the dishes, one packed lunches and the other supervised baths, we always stood together with and in support of our children. I don't think either of us did that consciously, I don't think we were smart enough to know what we were doing. I think we had been lucky in the way we were parented, had similar backgrounds, so it all kind of flowed. That unity is critical in letting your children know, on an emotional level, that their world is safe and at least at home, predictable. Mom won't give a different answer than Dad and vice versa. Think how scary that must be for children on some level, if parents don't agree? If Mom says one thing and Dad says another, who can they count on to enforce boundaries and rules – the very things that make a child secure?

Today I heard a story from a young woman. Her neighbor down the street called and asked her to meet her outside. The young woman went outside to see her neighbor carrying a young girl in her arms with another young girl walking beside her. When the young woman approached and chatted with the children, she found that one was age 4 and one was age 2. The children were in their pajamas, barefoot, with serious bedhead. The

neighbor had pulled up to her house to see these two girls standing in the middle of the street, looking over at the park on the other side. This was the 4th time she had seen these young children outside, with, apparently, no adult nearby, so she decided to find out where they lived and take them home. The 4-year-old knew how to get there, so the young woman accompanied the neighbor and the children down the block and around the corner to their home. When they knocked on the door, the father answered- showered, dressed, clean shaven. He did not appear upset, simply asked the girls if they had been at the park, then explained to the young woman and the neighbor that the wife was upstairs painting. The two 'rescuers' left, dumbfounded. As the young woman explained to me, the father did not appear to be in the least bit concerned that his very young children had been outside, in their pajamas, barefoot, by themselves! I heard another story today about a young teen who recently earned her drivers permit. Her parents have signed her up for behind the wheel instruction in a town about 30 minutes away. When asked why they went way over there instead of more locally, the answer was that they did not want their 15-year-old alone in a car with a man. Two opposite sides of the spectrum!!! As you can imagine, I have strong opinions about both of these examples. In both cases, the parents appear united in their approach to parenting and the safety and well being of their children. One set of parents appears very well informed about the dangers that exist in our world. The other appears woefully ignorant. I don't know the whole story, so am not in a position to accurately judge, but I have thoughts about teaching our children independence. The two young girls are obviously learning to be very independent and fend for themselves. Both necessary skills to

survive in this world, but it appears they are being taught these things well before they would be developmentally able to handle it. I have genuine fear for those children and have advised the young woman to tell the neighbor that the next time she sees them at the park alone, to call the local police department and let them handle it. It seems clear to me that someone needs to intervene, perhaps assist that family in some way, before serious harm comes to those sweet girls. As for the 15-year-old, my opinion is that she is ready for that independence, that opportunity to learn to read situations, to keep herself safe. Not completely – and her parents have an obligation to thoroughly vet any driving instructor, to read reviews, to check with others who have used the same driving school, to meet the instructor and check them out for themselves, etc. But to refuse to allow her to have a male instructor may, and I carefully say may, be transferring their fears onto a situation inappropriately.

Parenting is a tough gig! Kudos to all of you who are doing it with love and joy. My best advice for keeping your children safe? Approach parenting prayerfully, as a united team, giving your child developmentally appropriate freedom to learn and grow, while you stand ready with the safety net. Then trust that you are doing the best you can at any given moment, that God is right there in the midst of your family and having just celebrated Easter, we all know how this story ends. Alleluia

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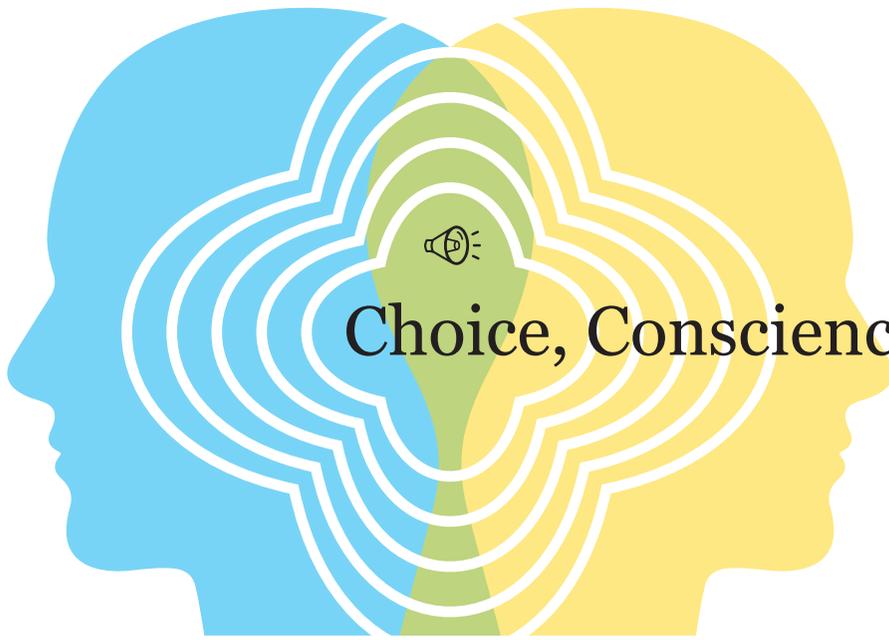


Illustration Concept/Design By ©Arthur Waligora

Choice, Conscience, and the Effects



By Chris Lyford
Editor, North Coast Catholic

There is a distinction people make between one's individual choice, based on conscience, and the resultant effect of that choice on society. A true dichotomy, but not a simple one with a simple answer. For example there are those who make the choice not to take the COVID 19 vaccine on the grounds that it is still an experimental gene immunotherapy without long term human testing results, resulting in the risk of contraction of a virus that has a 99% recovery rate. Or their choice might be on the grounds that there was a distant connection to an aborted baby, even though the Vatican has declared that the distance removes all moral culpability. The truth is that their choice is their own, regardless of how well informed, or how ill-informed that choice is, and the Vatican and the USCCB have affirmed that choice as such, though has always defined the 'informed' conscience as the definition of conscience; not just the ability to choose, but to make that choice in the full light of divine revelation.

The practical effect on the common good of this choice not to vaccinate is negligible, while the subjective effect could be a highly emotional and fearful response in someone who is afraid of contracting the virus, or afraid of the remote possibility of the individual causing the death of another. In the extreme this view holds that choosing not to take the vaccine makes one a killer. This current conversation is inexorably

connected to our Catholic moral life, as it relates to the dignity of life itself, and our Faith's declaration from all eternity that human life is sanctified from conception until natural death. Morality is about choosing between right and wrong, the definition of which is given by the 10 Commandments, and all the other truths of revelation (not the book; the content of things we would not have known unless God revealed it to us).

When that person believes strongly against an action that another has chosen, they might become susceptible to allowing heightened passions and emotions to blur reasonable dialogue.

People who chose to terminate a pregnancy are exercising their constitutional right, as well as their God given free will. Others who disagree strongly with their choice, can allow their emotions and passions to blur reasonable dialogue, thus making it very unlikely the person making the choice will even consider the viewpoint on the basis that the one communicating it has lost credibility because of the unrestrained emotion.

It can be hard to show understanding when listening to someone who is speaking from an emotional logic. But when you listen from the heart, and a predisposition to appreciate the person's unique identity and perspective, it makes dialogue not only possible, but true

communication and perhaps, communion, probable.

But just because people can share differing opinions and divergent perspectives with each other while showing understanding and empathy, that doesn't mean they are automatically in line with what God's opinion is. That is why the challenge of the Christian in this world is to show charity by showing clarity; to speak the truth by speaking with the voice of God and His Church however convenient or inconvenient. Animosity, condemnation, and pressure are not hallmarks of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Monks and cloistered nuns chose to leave society and live the rest of their lives after their vows in sacrificial intercessory prayer for the rest of the world. Society may not miss them, but will most definitely be affected by them (their intercessory prayers may be holding this world together by a heavenly thread). Monasteries have had more to do with the survival of civilization than we realize. There are many who have chosen this path of life precisely because it will afford them the most profound effect on the world they can see.

May we spend this Eastertide in deep contemplation amidst the miracle of creation, so we can spread faith, hope and charity to each of our fellow travelers.



Update from Around the Diocese

Fr. Moses Brown

The bad news is that we are still in the midst of a pandemic. The novel coronavirus continues to spread and cause significant health care problems. Though it is easy to focus on the negative aspects of life, we

do need to look at our blessings. The good news is that this virus is not the end of us. Though death, decay, and suffering are the natural consequences of sin, there is also the antidote brought about by Christ's Death and Resurrection which we celebrate during this season of Easter. In the midst of all the pain in the world, we continue to rejoice in Our Lord. On the practical side, for the Diocese, we are still here. Our churches are open and functioning albeit with modifications and the People of God have not let us down. It is true that donations could be higher, it is also true that they could be lower. Overall, the Diocese of Santa Rosa continues to do well even in the midst of this pandemic and God has shown us many blessings, as He always does.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As you may or may not know we have a number of openings in our Catholic schools. We are currently looking for teachers, substitutes, and even a principal. We love our Catholic school educators and need more of them! If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them get in touch with the Diocese of Santa Rosa Human Resource Director.

(707) 566-3322

www.srdiocese.org

Napa Women's Center Welcomes New Director



By Julie Murillo

The mission of the Napa Women's Center is to provide life-affirming services to women and men facing reproductive choices and unplanned pregnancy while glorifying Jesus Christ and emulating His mercy and truth. Life is a precious gift and we offer education and alternatives to help people choose life for their unborn child and support them through birth and beyond. The Napa Women's Center is a Christian oriented center that empowers individuals to make positive and healthy life choices about sex, pregnancy and relationships.

The Napa Women's Center started over a year ago with a small group of people dedicated to helping women in need. The building next to Planned Parenthood was up for lease so they put a plan together to start a new pregnancy center. The goal was to help give women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, options. After many answered prayers, a building remodel and the participation of wonderful donors Napa Women's Center opened in January 2021. We are a 501c3 nonprofit and all of our services are free thanks to our donors.

Many women experiencing unplanned pregnancy feel like they have nowhere else to turn but to have an abortion. Napa Women's Center is here to provide other options. We have many resources to help women from our Max and Katie Boutique to online courses on subjects ranging from fetal development to parenting to healthy relationships. Our Client Advocates are one of our best resources. They walk with the women to help navigate the tornado that is their life.

The center provides a safe place for men and women to learn about their choices. All of our services are free and confidential. For women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy having a place to learn about their options with people that really care about helps them to see

that they are not alone. Our Client Advocates offer encouragement and resources to help our clients make a choice for life.

My husband and I moved with our three children from Southern California to Napa over 25 years ago. I have always had a passion for pro-life work and I have been involved volunteering in the Pro-life movement in many different ways over the years. I have volunteered on the Pro-Life committee at our parish, St Apollinaris, worked on the steering committee to start a pro-life medical pregnancy center in Napa and then volunteered at the clinic. My professional career has been in the hospitality industry. I worked for over 20 years in the hotel industry, starting as a food server and then working my way up to Banquet Manager. My husband and I were foster parents to 3 small children for a year. The last 8 years I have been working in the wine industry. My professional experience is not exactly what you would look for in an Executive Director for a women's center but God prepares us in many ways for the ministry that he has in mind for us.

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MARIAN SISTERS

MOVE TO NEW SANTA ROSA CONVENT

Adapted from: Catholic World Report February 5, 2021 Jim Graves

Catholicism first came to northern coastal California, in what today makes up the Diocese of Santa Rosa, both from missionary priests and the Ursuline Sisters of Ohio, who came to establish an all-girls school in the 1880s. Upon arrival, the sisters recognized that a more immediate need was to catechize the children of the pioneers who inhabited the region. After they began, the bishop of San Francisco, who oversaw the area at the time, recognized the crucial work of the sisters and began sending his priests to establish parishes where the sisters had been.

The Diocese of Santa Rosa would eventually be established in 1962, and today numbers 140,000 Catholics.

The Ursulines were the dominant women's religious community in the diocese for decades, but today, other than a few retirees living independently in the area, have withdrawn from the region.

Filling the void has been a new, rapidly growing community of nuns, the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, who view the first Santa Rosa Ursulines as their forebears and see their role as continuing the work of the Ursulines, related the Marian Sisters' superior, Reverend Mother Teresa Christe. In fact, the Marian Sisters regularly go to the Santa

Rosa gravesites of those first Ursulines to pray the Rosary and connect with them. Since their founding, the Marian

Sisters have gone from four members to 18, with several more slated to enter the community in August.

In the upcoming months the Marian Sisters will celebrate two milestones in the establishment of their community: **1)** in March, their relocation to a larger convent built in 1957 which they purchased and which once housed the Ursuline Sisters, and **2)** in January 2022, the 10-year anniversary of their founding.

Reverend Mother Teresa Christe recently spoke to CWR about the Marian Sisters' work.

CWR: How is it that your community came to purchase the Ursuline convent?

Mother Teresa Christe: We first lived in the bishop's former residence, and then moved into a single-level apartment convent where we have been for the past four years. This site has been a blessing. It is within walking distance of the cathedral parish, is private and gated, and has a grassy courtyard. But it can only accommodate 20, so we can see that we will soon run out of space.

To support the Marian Sisters, we have a Marian Sisters Lay Council, a group of about 12 individuals who love the sisters and support consecrated life. Our members include an architect, a real estate agent, a construction manager, a deacon and a priest. They are professionals, some former CEOs, who meet monthly

SEE THE FULL INTERVIEW

www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/02/05/marian-sisters-move-to-new-santa-rosa-convent)





SPECIAL THANKS TO PATIN VINEYARD MANAGEMENT AND BISHOP ROBERT VASA
for helping to restore and repair the pond and water features of Our Lady's garden.

to advise me on the business aspects of running a convent and to introduce me to potential donors. I've been very grateful for their advice; it has enabled me to focus less on business matters and more on the spiritual growth of the sisters. The council has been helpful in providing for our temporal needs, and helping us acquire what we need for growth.

For the past year and a half, the council and I have recognized that we needed a larger space. We looked at different areas of the diocese, but it was the bishop's preference that we stay within the City of Santa Rosa, because of its population density and it's where the Catholic schools we serve are.

After a lot of looking, I was resigned that we were going to have to buy land and build. I had contacted the Ursuline Sisters about acquiring their former convent, which is located at 400 Angela Drive in Santa Rosa, but they were not interested. In prayer, I told Our Lord that if we build, I will have to occupy my time getting permits and overseeing construction, which would distract me from the spiritual. I wrote the Ursuline Sisters one last letter last August reminding them of our interest in the facility, but they

responded that they were still not interested. But, a few weeks later, they changed their minds, and approached Bishop Vasa giving him first right of refusal to acquire the property.

What a miraculous change in circumstances! The site has 37 cells, a large chapel, offices and a refectory [dining room], and is located on 45 acres. It is in Santa Rosa, 10 minutes from the cathedral, close to the chancery and close to the elementary schools and high school we serve. The Ursuline Sisters were using it as a retreat center until the October 2017 Tubbs fire, which burned down some of its buildings.

CWR: What is the Marian Sisters' relationship with Bishop Vasa?

Mother Teresa Christe: He is our canonical founder. He has been very supportive of all we do. He lets the Holy Spirit work through our charism. I go to him for advice, and while he never tells me what to do, he will strongly advise me. I would be a fool not to follow his leadership.

CWR: What is the typical day like for your sisters?

Mother Teresa Christe: We gather in our chapel at 5:45 a.m. We have an hour of adoration with mental prayer, and have the chanting of Lauds. We have

Mass at 7 a.m., celebrated by our wonderful chaplain, Fr. Jeffrey Keyes.

We have breakfast, and our sisters in formation at home begin their duties, such as cooking and laundry, and take classes. Our sisters in apostolates leave for their work; before they go I give them a special blessing, and pray to Our Lady to protect them.

Our sisters at home have mid-day prayer, the Angelus at 11:45 a.m. and lunch. Our sisters in apostolate pray the Rosary with their students or in pairs, or on a Rosary walk.

Our sisters at home have an hour of personal time from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. They can rest, study or develop their talents. Some sew, play musical instruments or exercise. At 2 p.m., we resume household duties and studies. At 4:15 p.m. we have community recreation time. Most communities have this later in the day, but we like to have it when the sun is still out. Our sisters might play volleyball or whiffle ball, or ultimate Frisbee. When it rains, we do handcrafts. It is a time of fun, joy and mutual good will.

At 5:15 p.m., we chant Vespers and have spiritual reading. We have dinner, Compline and there is time for evening study.

CWR: Where are your vocations coming from?

CWR: What are your plans for moving into your new home?

Mother Teresa Christe: With all our prayers to St. Joseph to help us find a new home, it is appropriate that our target date for moving in is St. Joseph's feast day, March 19. We will spend our first night in all-night adoration, followed by Mass with the bishop.

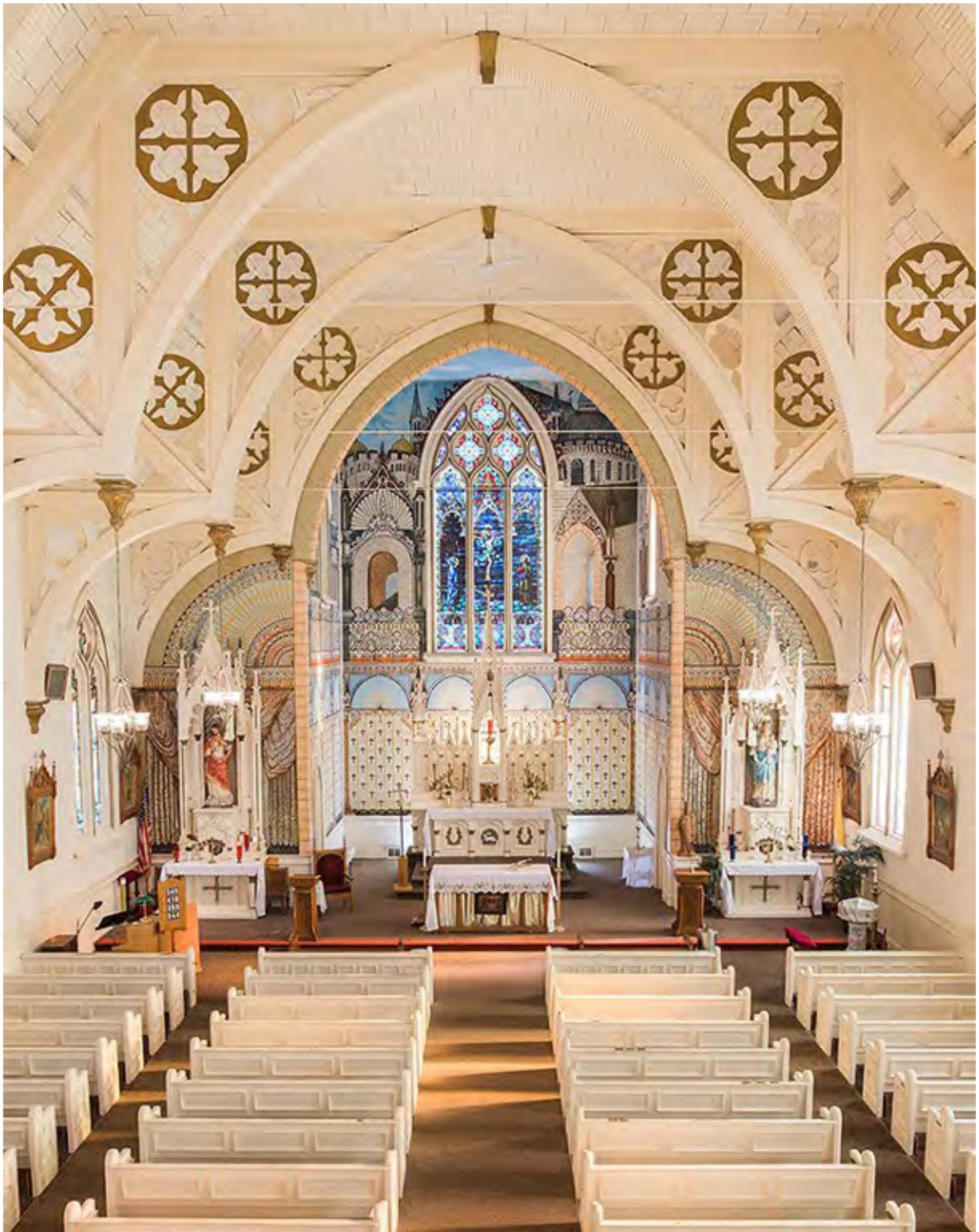
CWR: Is the convent ready for you to move in?

Mother Teresa Christe: The buildings are ready for us, but are in need of beautification, as are the grounds. We want to make the site a beautiful place for prayer.

CWR: What help do you need?

Mother Teresa Christe: We always need help fundraising. People can connect with us through our website or Facebook page. We also invite the people to join with our sisters in praying for a smooth transition, and that this new convent will be a place where Our Lord is loved and served above all things.

Connect with the
Marian Sisters'
community:
www.mariansisters.com



CHURCH *of* THE ASSUMPTION

FERNDALE RESTORATION

With credit to
the Times Standard

The people of Ferndale have a generous reputation of restoring and valuing the city's beautiful Victorian architecture and enjoying the uniqueness of "the village." Steeples of our local churches beckon locals and visitors to our city. Fr. Mario Laguros, pastor, and the parishioners at Church of the Assumption want to keep its beacon shining as well.

When the church was built in 1896, beautiful murals were frescoed on the five walls of the sanctuary. This we knew from a photo, circa 1900, by J. J. McClosky Sr.

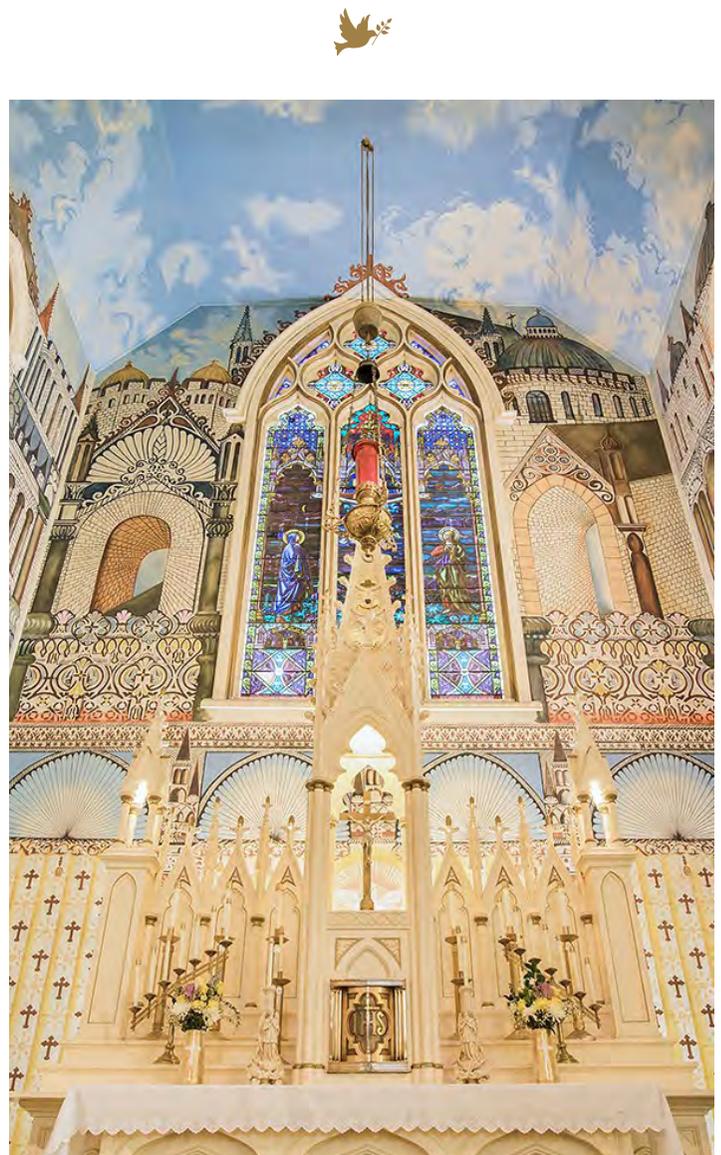
Five years ago, parishioner John Richards uncovered a patch of a long-hidden mural on the wall of the church behind the main altar. This historic piece of art has been hidden for over 90 years.

After this discovery, a committee was formed to explore the possibility of refurbishing/restoring the interior Assumption Church murals. Recently all their hard work has been rewarded as they have achieved the restoration of a beautiful sanctuary and interior of the Church.

The last interior refurbishing was done under the direction of Fr. Thomas Devereaux, pastor, in 1976. After 42 years, the interior of Assumption Church is showing its age and parishioners feel now is the time to undertake repairs and restoration.

In a recent sermon, Fr. Laguros so beautifully stated, "This is God's house of prayer. We want to make our church building beautiful and inviting for all people — not only for parishioners, family and friends, but also for everyone, people from all walks of life who wish to come and pray. We want God to know that we care about His House. The sanctuary is the center of all our celebrations and the whole church as well."

PHOTO BY LEÓN VILLAGÓMEZ
North Coast Journal



Cross Catholic Outreach Committed To Stopping “Silent Killer” of Guatemala’s Poor

The devastating consequence of Guatemalan poverty rarely gets covered in the news. Occasionally, the world is told about some act of crime or violence in the country, a symptom of the desperation poverty creates, but we seldom hear about the silent killer tragically impacting Guatemala’s poorest families — malnutrition.

Extreme hunger and the medical hardships it creates impact thousands of Guatemalans without drawing much attention from the world at large, even though most of the victims are babies and young children. Only local Catholic leaders seem to have found solutions to this crisis, and it is their efforts to provide nutritious food to the poor on a regular basis that have begun to make a difference.

“Malnutrition has a terrible impact on poor children, and this crisis is particularly deadly in Guatemala’s remote, rural regions. There, where families live too far from hospitals or clinics capable of helping them, a serious lack of resources and inadequate food production create the perfect conditions for malnutrition to thrive,”



explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a major Catholic charity working with local leaders to find solutions. “Poor mothers are forced to choose which of their children to feed on a given day, and they watch in despair as their sons and daughters weaken, grow gaunt and lose the will to live.”

Cavnar went on to explain the major difference between hunger and malnutrition.

“Most Americans think of hunger as a temporary thing — a pain that will eventually be relieved — and praise God, that’s often the case. A child in the U.S. may go hungry at times, but that hunger isn’t usually a life-threatening issue,” he said. “Guatemalan children showing signs of malnutrition have typically endured hunger for weeks or months on end, and at that point, they begin to manifest signs of mental and physical damage that may become irreversible.” Stunted growth is one of the most common physical



In the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu, rural communities are relying on help to obtain the food they need to reduce the risk of malnutrition among children.

problems Cavnar has seen, and the harm it does to a child’s body is lasting.

“You can imagine the pain this creates for parents. When they are poor and have no food to offer their children, they begin to feel powerless to stop the decline their sons and daughters are experiencing,” Cavnar said. “Travel into rural areas of Guatemala and you will meet many poor mothers who live in despair, feeling they will never be able to provide relief for their suffering little ones without some kind of outside help.”

Thankfully, Church leaders in Guatemala have a heart for the poor and marginalized, and they are working in partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach to distribute food

where it is needed most. (see related story on opposite page.)

“Right now, we are developing a feeding outreach in the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu to address the needs of its rural Guatemalan families,” Cavnar said. “These local Catholic leaders were eager to supply food to the vulnerable in their diocese, but they needed help to put the right programs in place. Cross Catholic Outreach will be involved, of course, and we are hoping and praying American Catholics will want to add their support as well. The more who contribute to this mission of mercy, the more we can accomplish. So we are asking for people to be generous in their response.”

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to:

**CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH
DEPT. AC01726,
PO BOX 97168,
WASHINGTON DC 20090-7168**

The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless

to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful responses to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources

to partners in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala impacted by natural disasters.”

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, supports this mission, writing, “What a joy it is to be part of the Lord’s redemptive work and to manifest

his mercy on Earth by caring for our neighbors in need.”

In addition to praising CCO’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and sheltering the homeless, as well as through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*.”

A “Neighbor in Need” Appeals to American Catholics for Help During Serious Food Crisis



The men and women in Guatemala work very hard to provide for their children, but bad weather can destroy their crops and strip away their earnings. At those times, the Church must step in and help.



In the department of Suchitepéquez, Guatemala, poor families typically rely on farming for survival, and because their remote villages are isolated, many become very dependent on the success of their local harvest. This becomes a very dangerous gamble in years when nature does not cooperate.

“When harvests are poor, work opportunities and crop yields literally dry up, leading to low household incomes and a critical shortage of food,” explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic charity working in the region. “That’s the kind of situation the people are facing now. Their access to food has become very limited and families are suffering as a result.”

When Cavnar encountered this crisis on a visit to Guatemala, it immediately reminded him of a passage in Chapter 16 of the Gospel of Luke, he said.

“There in Luke, Jesus tells a parable about a poor man living on the doorstep of a man with plenty. The poor man’s needs are ignored, though he longs for something

simple— just the scraps from the rich man’s table. When both die, the affluent man is rebuked for turning away from a situation he could easily have helped solve. Simply put, he ignores a neighbor in need. I believe we are faced with a modern-day example of that parable today in Guatemala, a country so close to our own.”

Statistics certainly back up Cavnar’s view. Guatemala — less than a three-hour flight from Houston or Miami — has the highest levels of extreme hunger in Latin America or the Caribbean, and the fourth-highest level in the world. With their limited access to employment and educational opportunities, many of the country’s remote indigenous people have begun feeling hopeless. Some have resigned themselves to eating one small meal of tortillas each day, and they are in anguish, seeing their children languishing on the brink of starvation as a result. Thankfully, Bishop Pablo Vizcaino and Caritas of the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu have developed a strategic plan to rescue these children and set their families on the path to long-term health through improved

nutrition. In partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, major food shipments will be secured and distributed to those who need help most.

“The story of Lazarus and the rich man taught us an important lesson about helping a neighbor in need, and we should take it to heart as we consider the suffering going on at our doorstep, there in Guatemala,” Cavnar said. “My team is committed to providing the food these desperate families need, and I’m confident Catholics throughout the U.S. will join our cause by helping to sponsor those shipments. This suffering must end.”

To combat Guatemala’s hunger crisis, Cross Catholic Outreach has a simple but effective plan to deliver scientifically formulated food packets they call Vitafood. This fortified rice product, specifically designed to reverse the effects of child malnutrition, can be packed in large shipping containers and cost effectively sent to Catholic programs capable of bringing them through customs and effectively delivering them to the families with the greatest need. A single

container of Vitafood can make a big impact, according to Cavnar.

“Vitafood is extremely flexible. It is rice or lentil based, and it comes in several different varieties. It can be prepared straight from the package or flavored with additional ingredients to suit local tastes,” he explained. “No matter how it is prepared, its nutritional value remains the same, providing the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber, fat and carbohydrates that a child’s hungry body needs. What’s more, because these Vitafood meals are donated to us, we only need to cover shipping costs to deliver the food to our ministry partner in Guatemala. That means every \$0.15 cents donated can help put 6 nutritious meals in the hands of a family in need.”

Cavnar’s current goal, he said, is to secure the support of American Catholics to fund the effort. “The diocese is eager for the help, and we have the logistics settled. What we need now is the support of compassionate Catholics

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to

**CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH
DEPT. AC01726
PO BOX 97168,
WASHINGTON DC 20090-7168**

The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
Matthew 25:35



White House: Pope Francis has said there's a 'moral obligation' to get vaccinated

RECEIVING THE VACCINE: A moral obligation or a moral choice?

By Matt Hadro
Washington D.C., Apr 7, (CNA)

President Joe Biden on Tuesday called on Americans to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, saying that Pope Francis has called vaccination a "moral obligation." In his remarks on the state of COVID vaccinations on Tuesday, President Biden praised the partnerships between religious groups and community health centers on providing COVID-19 vaccinations. He called the effort to provide vaccinations "an example of America at its finest," and added that "they're all meeting what Pope Francis calls the moral obligation - get vaccinated - something which he went on to say can save your life and the lives of others." In response to CNA's inquiry as to the source of Pope Francis' comments, the White House pointed to the pope's January television interview where he said that "I believe that, ethically, everyone has to get the vaccine." In that interview, Pope Francis called vaccination "an ethical option because it concerns your life but also that of others."

However, the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) stated in

December that vaccination against COVID-19 is not a moral obligation – a statement that was approved by Pope Francis.

"At the same time, practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary," the CDF said in its "Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines."

The Vatican went on to emphasize that vaccination against COVID can promote the common good. The CDF said that those who do not receive a COVID-19 vaccine must take the appropriate actions to ensure they would not spread the virus and pose a risk to vulnerable people.

"In the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic, the common good may recommend vaccination, especially to protect the weakest and most exposed," the Vatican stated.

Those refusing a COVID vaccine out of conscience "must do their utmost to avoid, by other prophylactic means and appropriate behavior, becoming vehicles for

the transmission of the infectious agent," the CDF note said. It added that such persons must avoid the risk of transmitting the virus to "those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) also cited the CDF's note to say there is not a moral obligation to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, in its "answers to key ethical questions about COVID-19 vaccines" published in January.

The White House in March claimed that Pope Francis "has spoken to the safety and efficacy of all three vaccines." While Pope Francis had said that everyone must get a COVID-19 vaccine, it was not clear which vaccine he received. Pope Francis had also not praised the efficacy of any specific vaccine.

In its December note, the Vatican CDF stated "We do not intend to judge the safety and efficacy of these vaccines, although ethically relevant and necessary, as this evaluation is the responsibility of biomedical researchers and drug agencies."



Responding to the Trauma in Our Lives

**Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries
During Fires and Quarantines**



During this season of Lent, we confront the fact that our savior, Jesus Christ, was a victim of violence and trauma. We recognize that violence and trauma existed before Jesus' birth and continued after his death and resurrection, even to this day. Since trauma takes many forms, many of us can also recognize that we, too, have been harmed by trauma – the traumas of crime, the traumas of natural disaster, or even the traumas of everyday life: sickness, accident, injury, the death or sickness of loved ones, the ends of relationships and many others. What can we do in the face of trauma and violence? I believe that Scripture provides some possible responses. Additionally, advances in our understanding of trauma over the last twenty years provide some specific actions that may be taken to respond to trauma.

In the Diocese of Santa Rosa, the Office of Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries has the mission of responding to the needs of all people within the diocese who have been harmed by crime. Initially formed over 15 years ago as the Office of Detention Ministries with the mission of assisting those persons who were in any form of criminal confinement within the diocese, the mission has expanded to serve the families of the imprisoned, the survivors and victims of crime and their families, and the law enforcement and correctional officers who are harmed by crime. The name of the office has change from Detention Ministries to Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries (CRJM) to reflect a new model for responding to crime which shifts from an emphasis on retribution to a stress on the need for accountability, healing, and restoration.

In normal times, volunteers from CRJM provide direct ministry to the imprisoned, help families keep in contact with loved ones who are in custody and facilitate the visits of children to their imprisoned parents, act as volunteer law enforcement chaplains, and provide limited services to the survivors and victims of crime on an on-call basis.

During the quarantine, most services have been severely curtailed. We do continue to support the Chaplains at Pelican Bay State Prison and Napa State Hospital with material resources when possible – things like Bibles, prayer books, rosaries and liturgical equipment. We also have been providing a weekly packet of lectionary-based articles to persons

detained at Sonoma County adult detention facilities. Finally, we have participated in many Zoom meetings networking with our ministry allies, Zoom trainings and conferences for volunteers and Zoom retreats and prayer sessions for KAIROS volunteers. In October 2021, Deacon John facilitated a panel at the Catholic Mobilizing Network's national Zoom conference: "Harm, Healing and Human Dignity: An All-virtual Catholic Conference on Restorative Justice".

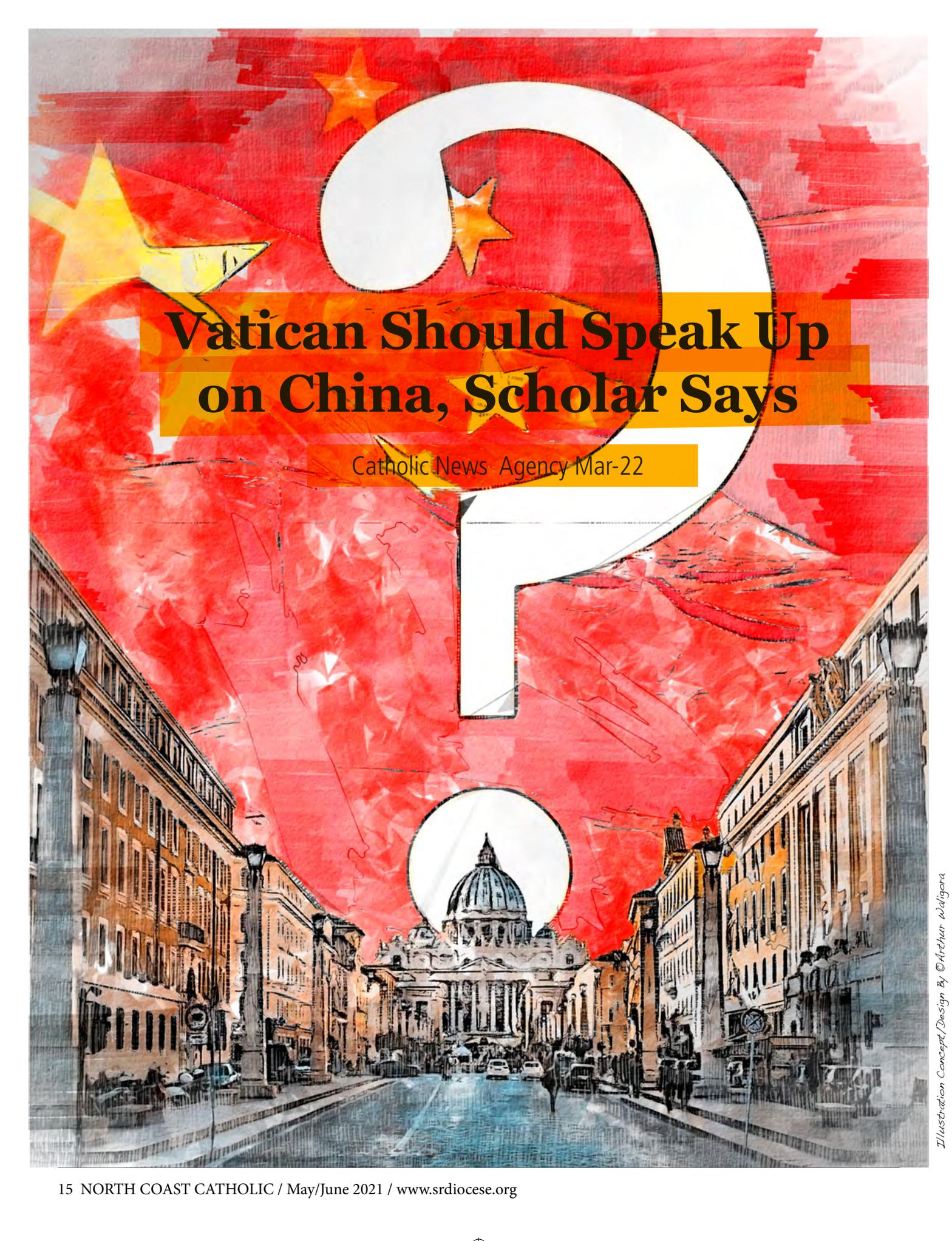
We are excited about three specific developments during the quarantine. First, we have coordinated with the Sonoma County Main Adult Detention Facility to offer a new trauma-informed re-entry program for men and women in that facility. We will be recruiting people who are willing to attend facilitator training, who are able to pass the facility security clearance process, and who are willing to contribute about six hours each week for at least two years.

Second, Deacon John has participated as an advisor to the California Conference of Bishops Committee on Restorative Justice which is in the process of issuing a Parish Guide to Traumatic Bereavement. This guide is intended to provide resources of immediate use to parishes responding to the needs of persons who have lost a loved one specifically due to homicide or suicide.

Third, the California Catholic Conference has also developed a Catholic Restorative Justice Network and is offering a series of Webinars for people interested in ministering to persons impacted by the trauma of crime. Though the series began in February, there's still time to register to attend. One may register at www.restorejustice.com.

**If you would like to participate in our programs
or would like more information, contact
Deacon John at jstorm@srdiocese.org.**

**If you would like to support our work, we are funded
largely through the diocesan Annual Ministries Appeal.
We appreciate your generosity!**



Vatican Should Speak Up on China, Scholar Says

Catholic News Agency Mar-22



Swedish scholar who studies China has called for the Vatican to speak up about human rights abuses by the Chinese government, noting that “dialogue on equal terms is not what is happening.”

“China should be treated like any other country and play by the same rules as others,” Fredrik Fällman, Associate Professor of Sinology at the University of Gothenburg, wrote in a March 19 column at East Asia Forum.

“The Catholic Church often comments on the situation in other countries. Yet in China, the Vatican keeps silent on many concerning developments — including structural religious persecution, labour rights issues and human rights abuses against the Uyghurs. It seems Vatican officials are holding China to a different standard compared to other countries.”

In 2018, the Vatican reached an agreement with the Chinese government on the appointment of bishops. The terms of the agreement, which was renewed in October 2020 for two more years, have never been publicly revealed.

The agreement was undertaken to help unite the state-run Church and the underground Church. An estimated 6 million Catholics are registered with the Chinese Communist Party, while several million are estimated to belong to unregistered Catholic communities which have remained loyal to the Holy See. According to Joseph Cardinal Zen, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, Christians in China have continued to be persecuted and harassed by authorities, “despite the agreement.”

The policy of “sinicization”, announced by Chinese president Xi Jinping in 2015, aims to enforce Chinese and communist identity on all religious practice in the country. It has included instructing churches to remove images of the Ten Commandments and replace them with sayings of Mao Zedong and Xi.

Fällman noted that even in Hong Kong, where religious people enjoy more freedom than on the mainland, Beijing has been tightening its control over religion in recent years, most recently by way of a “national security” law which came into force last summer.

Under the new law, a number of Catholics in Hong Kong have been arrested and charged with terrorism, sedition, and foreign collusion.

The Diocese of Hong Kong remains vacant, as the diocese has been led since 2019 by John Cardinal Tong, who retired in 2017 and took the helm again after Hong Kong’s previous bishop died unexpectedly. Successive candidates selected by the Vatican, and approved by Pope Francis, have had to be withdrawn over political concerns.

“The impending choice of a new [Hong Kong bishop] will undoubtedly create more tensions as he will be scrutinised for where his allegiance lies. The choice of a ‘pro-Beijing’ bishop will not go down well among many Hong Kongers, while the choice of a more independent and critical bishop may put pressure on Hong Kong Catholics,” Fällman noted.

He added, “If the Vatican wants to restore the order of episcopal appointments and do away with clandestine practices, then it must engage in dialogue with any necessary counterpart — ‘pro-Beijing’ or not.”

According to new rules set to take effect on May 1, 2021, the state-run Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association will be responsible for selecting episcopal candidates. The candidates will then be “approved and consecrated by the Chinese Catholic Bishops’ Conference.”

The rules reportedly do not mention any role of the Vatican in approving bishops, despite the 2018 Vatican-China agreement reportedly involving both Chinese authorities and the Holy See in the process of appointing bishops.



Cardinal Joseph Zen, a former bishop of Hong Kong, says most supporters of the Vatican deal do not truly know China.
Photograph: Benjamin Haas/The Guardian

“There needs to be an international coalition between Christians, and perhaps other religious groups, to put pressure on China,” Fällman concluded.

“Here the Vatican could play a central role with its strength and experience, which would also benefit the achievement of the ‘pastoral’ aspects sought with the current Sino-Vatican agreement. True dialogue includes frank criticism and is the key to making real steps forward in relations with China.”

Cardinal Zen told CNA last year that the Church’s silence on the mass detention and abuses of the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, supposedly as a result of negotiations to renew the 2018 agreement, “will damage the work of evangelization” there in the future.

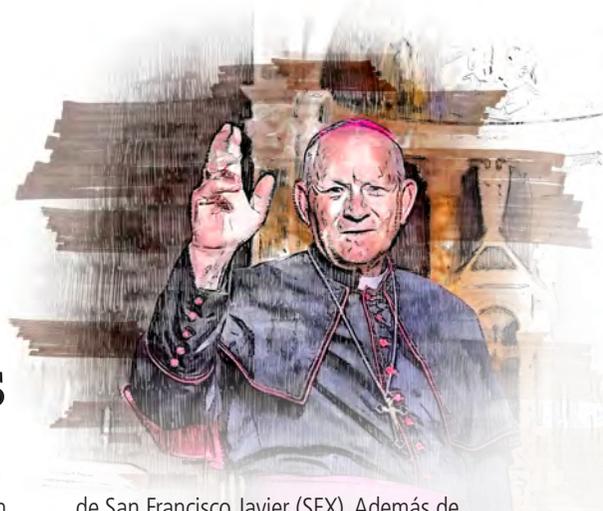
Pope Francis has remained silent on what some human rights groups have called “genocide” of Uyghurs in China’s northwest. “The resounding silence will damage the work of evangelization,” Zen told CNA in an interview last year.

“Tomorrow when people will gather to plan the new China, the Catholic Church may not be welcome.”



DEL OBISPO

El legado de los Religiosos



Mi Querida Gente de la Diócesis de Santa Rosa:

Oro para que todos hayan tenido una Cuaresma llena de gracia y una Pascua muy bendecida. Animados por la esperanza de que la amenaza del COVID siga disminuyendo, pudiendo celebrar la noticia de la Resurrección con mayor alegría y festividad que el año pasado. Mientras nos llena de la alegría de la Resurrección, debemos recordar que aún vivimos en un "valle de lágrimas" y por eso debemos seguir tomando las precauciones necesarias para asegurarnos que otra ola de virus no nos aflija.

En enero, escribí sobre las maravillosas y muchas contribuciones que las religiosas han hecho en la difusión y apoyo de la fe en la Diócesis de Santa Rosa. Este mes quiero recordarles a aquellos Religiosos, Hermanos y Sacerdotes, que han servido a las necesidades pastorales y espirituales de nuestra Diócesis desde hace décadas y hasta hoy. También quiero mencionar la naturaleza internacional de nuestra Diócesis.

Si bien será imposible para mí enumerar todas las Órdenes Religiosas de Hombres que han brindado atención pastoral a nuestra área a lo largo de décadas, intentaré darles una idea de cuánto hemos dependido y con cuánto contamos actualmente de la presencia y el servicio de estos hombres.

Empiezo con los Carmelitas (OCD), tanto sacerdotes como hermanos, que tienen su hogar en Oakville. Esta comunidad no administra ninguna parroquia en particular, pero ha sido y sigue siendo una gran potencia espiritual para la Diócesis. El otro grupo estable de Religiosos son los Religiosos Hermanos de las Escuelas Cristianas (FSC) que administran la Escuela Secundaria Justin

Sienna y tienen una casa en las afueras de Napa. Otro grupo de hombres que estaban asociados con las escuelas de la Diócesis son los Padres de la Preciosa Sangre (CSSP), este grupo administraba la escuela secundaria Cardinal Newman en Santa Rosa en sus inicios, pero hoy no tiene presencia en la Diócesis. Hay otras Órdenes religiosas que estuvieron representadas en la Diócesis en el pasado, como los Jesuitas, Franciscanos y Dominicos, que intentaré enumerar de nuestros registros en los años noventa. Quiero mencionar una conexión religiosa que muchos recordarán. El padre Eric Freed, asesinado en Eureka el 1 de enero de 2014, llegó a la Diócesis de Santa Rosa como sacerdote Salesiano. Ha habido y sigue habiendo sacerdotes de Órdenes Religiosas que vienen a servir aquí temporalmente y luego eligen hacer un compromiso permanente con la Diócesis. Estos hombres aportan la riqueza de sus Órdenes particulares, la espiritualidad de los fundadores de sus Órdenes y un carisma distinto o conjunto de dones que nos beneficia en la Diócesis.

A lo largo de los años, por ejemplo, solo en 1994, encontramos una lista de las órdenes de sacerdotes religiosos que sirven aquí. Estos incluyen: Agustinos (OSA), Orden Cisterciense de la Estricta Observancia (OCSO), Sociedad del Verbo Divino (SVD), Orden de Predicadores (OP - Dominicos), Frailes Franciscanos (OFM), Sacerdotes de la Congregación de la Santa Cruz (CSC), Padres del Espíritu Santo (CSSp), Padres Jesuitas (SJ), Padres Maristas (SM), Maryknoll (MM), Canónigos Regulares de Premontre (O.Praem - Norbertines), Oblatos de María Inmaculada (OMI), Oblatos de la Virgen María (OMV), Padres Redentoristas (CSSR). En 2020, la lista es más corta pero significativa. Cartuja (O.Cart), Misioneros de la Fe (MF), Misioneros de los Pobres (MOP), Sociedad

de San Francisco Javier (SFX). Además de los miembros de las órdenes religiosas, hay sacerdotes de una variedad de países que sirven aquí, ya sea de forma temporal o permanente. Tenemos sacerdotes cuya tierra natal (lugar de nacimiento) es Irlanda, México, Polonia, Ghana, Filipinas, Kenia, Nigeria, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, El Salvador, Venezuela. Los sacerdotes de la Diócesis representan así una diversidad internacional significativa y multicultural. Sin duda, la diversidad de la formación sacerdotal y el patrimonio cultural tiene la posibilidad de enriquecer nuestra Iglesia local. Al mismo tiempo, esta diversidad significa que puede no ser posible una exposición constante a sacerdotes de la misma cultura. Por lo tanto, muchas parroquias experimentan una cultura diferente cada vez que se cambia de pastor. Esto es parte de lo que significa, incluso en nuestra bien desarrollada Diócesis, ser considerada una Diócesis de Misión. Como Diócesis de Misión, dependemos en gran medida de la presencia de muchos sacerdotes y hermanos religiosos, así como de nuestra gran variedad de sacerdotes internacionales.

¿Dónde estaríamos sin ellos? Que los nombres de estas comunidades devotas sean un motivo para que usted agradezca a Dios por su servicio aquí y que el recuerdo de ellas le traiga mucha esperanza, alegría y gratitud.

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

Reverendísimo Robert F. Vasa
Obispo de Santa Rosa



El Dolor de los Padres

por el Diácono Tino
y Martha Vera



En mayo celebramos el Día de la Madre y en junio el Día del Padre. Y si hay una madre y un padre, quiere decir que hay una familia también. Esto nos da la oportunidad de meditar en los tiempos difíciles que paso la Sagrada Familia, especialmente durante la infancia de Jesús.

Los tiempos difíciles para la Sagrada Familia comenzaron cuando tuvieron que viajar de Nazaret a Belén estando la Virgen María embarazada. Este viaje fue a pie y en burro que sin duda llegaron a Belén completamente agotados. Según la Santa Escritura, Jesús nació cuando ellos llegaron a Belén. Poco después, la Sagrada familia tuvo que huir durante la noche porque Herodes buscaba matar al niño Jesús.

A muchas personas se les olvida lo que es ser un inmigrante. En primer lugar, ninguno deja su tierra natal no más porque sí. Siempre hay circunstancias que requieren este paso tan drástico. Ninguno quiere viajar a otro país donde se habla otro idioma y la cultura es diferente. ¿Quién quiere dejar atrás a sus familiares, amigos, y sus posesiones? Esto es lo que tuvo que hacer la Sagrada Familia cuando el ángel le pidió a José que huyeran a Egipto para proteger al niño. No se sabe mucho de como sobrevivió la Sagrada Familia su tiempo en Egipto. Sin duda tuvo que ser un tiempo difícil. Después el ángel le pide a José que nuevamente regresen a la tierra santa y se establecen en Nazaret. José y María tuvieron que empezar de nuevo una vez más.

Hoy en nuestros tiempos muchas familias se encuentran en la misma situación que la Sagrada Familia y tienen que dejar su tierra natal debido a la violencia, falta de oportunidades, o por desastres

naturales que acabaron con todo su ambiente. En África muchas familias están huyendo para Europa. Continuamente vemos fotos de niños que se están muriendo por falta de alimento y podemos ver el tremendo dolor en los ojos de sus madres. Que difícil ha de ser ver a un hijo que se está muriendo por falta de nutrición y no tener como alimentarlo. A estas madres también una espada les traspasa el alma.

Nosotros tenemos la misma situación en los miles de niños que se encuentran en la frontera del sur. Niños que viajan a los Estados Unidos para poder unirse con sus padres que no han visto por varios años. Unos niños son detenidos antes de llegar a la frontera, otros son deportados inmediatamente, y otros son detenidos por un largo tiempo. Qué horror será para los padres de estos niños que no pueden tener a sus hijos con ellos. Qué horror será también para los niños estar sin la protección y cariño de sus padres.

El mismo Hijo de Dios nació entre una familia que vivió muchas dificultades. No le podemos decir a Dios Padre, a la Virgen María, o a San José que no saben de los dolores por los cuales pasan nuestras familias pues ellos mismos vivieron nuestros dolores.

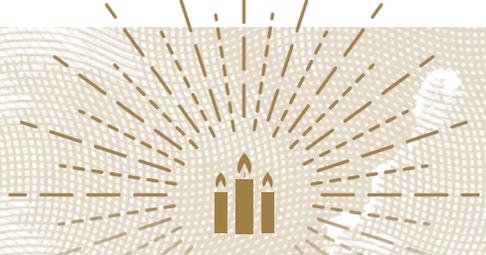
Vamos a pedirle a la Santa Familia, Jesús, María, y José, que vengán al socorro de nuestras familias que se encuentran separadas, que sufren el hambre, y no ven un futuro mejor donde puedan tener oportunidades. Jesús, Tu que viniste para darnos una vida en plenitud, atiende a nuestras familias. María, Tu que sabes lo que es ver a un hijo sufrir, ven al socorro de todas las madres que sufren la separación de sus hijos sin poder ayudarlos. San José, Tu que cuidaste a María y al Hijo de Dios, cuida de nuestras familias que se encuentran en extrema necesidad. Amen.

SAINTS

for
MAY + JUNE



- 1. May 1 St. Joseph the Worker
- 2. May 3 St. Philip and St. James
- 3. May 15 St. Isidore the Farmer
- 4. May 22 St. Rita of Cascia
- 5. May 26 St. Philip Neri
- 6. May 30 St. Joan of Arc
- 7. May 31 The Visitation of Mary
- 8. June 02: St. Eugene
- 9. June 05: St. Boniface
- 10. June 13: St. Anthony of Padua
- 11. June 19: Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 12. June 20: Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 13. June 21: St. Aloysius Gonzaga
- 14. June 24: The Birth of St. John the Baptist
- 15. June 28: St. Irenaeus
- 16. June 29: St. Peter and St. Paul
- 17. June 30: First Martyrs of the Church of Rome



PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

Rev. Bernard D'Sa	May 1, 1994
Rev. Gerard Gormley	May 4, 1985
Rev. Michael Cloney	May 11, 1968
Rev. Daniel Roa	May 16, 2008
Rev. Robert Torczynski OCart.....	May 21, 1997
Rev. Juan Ramon Diaz de Leon.....	May 21, 1972
Rev. Eliseo Avendaño	May 22, 2010
Rev. Adam Kotas.....	May 22, 2010
Rev. Carlos Ortega.....	May 22, 1999
Rev. Edilberto Ramon	May 22, 2004
Rev. Mario Valencia	May 22, 2010
Rev. Michaelraj Philominsamy.....	May 26, 1991
Rev. Gordon Kalil	May 28, 1994
Rev. Andrew Pacheco.....	May 28, 2016
Rev. Aaron DePeyster.....	May 29, 2004
Rev. Loren Allen	May 30, 1994
Rev. Thomas Diaz.....	May 30, 1981
Rev. Luis Penalozza	May 30, 1999
Rev. Ray Rioux	May 31, 1994

JUNE

Rev. Robert Castro.....	June 2, 1985
Rev. Mario Laguros	June 3, 1996
Rev. Mark Kissner, OCD	June 5, 2010
Rev. William Donahue.....	June 7, 1986
Rev. Msgr. Daniel Whelton.....	June 7, 1970
Rev. John Griffin.....	June 10, 1972
Rev. Denis O'Sullivan	June 10, 1972
Rev. Msgr. James Gaffey.....	June 11, 1960
Rev. John Martin	June 12, 1965
Rev. Msgr. John Brenkle	June 14, 1958
Rev. Michael Culligan	June 14, 1959
Rev. Samuel Moses Brown.....	June 15, 2013
Rev. Krzysztof Lewandowski	June 15, 2013
Rev. P. Gregory McGivern	June 16, 1985
Rev. Stephen Canney	June 18, 1961
Rev. James Zakowicz, OCD	June 20, 2009
Rev. Isaac Alejandro de la Cruz.....	June 21, 2014
Rev. Fergal McGuinness.....	June 26, 1986
Rev. Gregory Villaescusa.....	June 28, 2003
Rev. Frank Epperson	June 30, 2001
Rev. Matthew Williams, OCD.....	June 30, 1990



A Pilgrimage through May with the Mother of God

*“God wills that all his gifts
should come to us through Mary”*

St. Bernard

It was in Rome, towards the end of the eighteenth century, one fine evening in May. A child of the poor gathered his companions around him and led them to a statue of Mary, before which a lamp was burning, as is the custom in that holy city. There, these fresh young voices sang the Litany of our Lady. The next day, the little group, followed by other children, again gathered at the feet of the Mother of God. Next came their mothers, to join the little assembly. Soon, other groups were formed, and the devotion rapidly became popular. Holy souls, troubled by the disorderly conduct which always increases and becomes graver at the return of the pleasant springtime, saw in these growing practices the hand of God, and they cooperated with the designs of Providence by approving and promoting this new devotion, as a public and solemn act of reparation. The Month of Mary was founded.⁵

“This is the month in which, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary. It is also the month in which from his throne descend upon us the most generous and abundant gifts of the Divine Mercy.”⁶

In our own times, we Catholics, wanting to be close to her always, offer her special presents in May: pilgrimages, visits to churches dedicated to her, little sacrifices in her honor, periods of study and well-finished work offered up to her, and a more attentive recitation of the rosary.

Visit www.srdiocese.org/mary to join others on a virtual pilgrimage of prayer for each day of the month of Mary.



Eucharistic Emergency

By Stephen Morris
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



Closed churches and limited Mass occupancy, sound the alarm, civil unrest and parameters placed upon our natural and unalienable right to worship. We have had a full blown emergency on our hands. Fight or flight! Spiritual survival at stake!

Pastors, parishes, and people adapted as best we could. Many parishes in The Particular Church of Santa Rosa immediately had plans in place to celebrate our One Holy Apostolic Faith outside while others braved opportunities to pray inside. We've done our best. However I must say I recently stumbled on a parish in Sant Clara, Our Lady of Peace Church & Shrine, that addressed the pandemic "emergency" in a unique way.

At Communion time, the Source & Summit of our faith, Priests, Deacons, Acolytes, and Nuns were escorted through a church parking lot with cars crammed together bumper to bumper. This parish is graced with an abundance of warm volunteers who strategically guide car loads of Catholics into the parish parking lot, outfitted with security vests and orange flags.

Although cars are not 6 feet apart, it's not due to a shortage of space or Mass times. The parking lot is enormous under the shadow of a 50ft statue of Our Lady, and the Catholic

congregation of sardines has 10 different Mass times to choose from each weekend.

Quite a flock of faithful.

The ordained carefully hold a ciborium charitably ready to share the Body of Christ as they are escorted by a lay person, weaving between and around parked cars. Yet the best part of this sacred process are the emergency flashers illuminating the parking lot. The rubric for Communion reception is to turn on their car hazard lights if they would like to receive the Eucharist.

Reflect on that for a minute, people have their emergency flashers on to indicate that they are in need of the Eucharist. They are in need of help, healing, and attention from somebody who holds Christ and wants to share Him.

May your metaphorical emergency lights blink greatly during this Easter season to receive and radiate Christ as well.



WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE MOST HOLY TRINITY,

The Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa

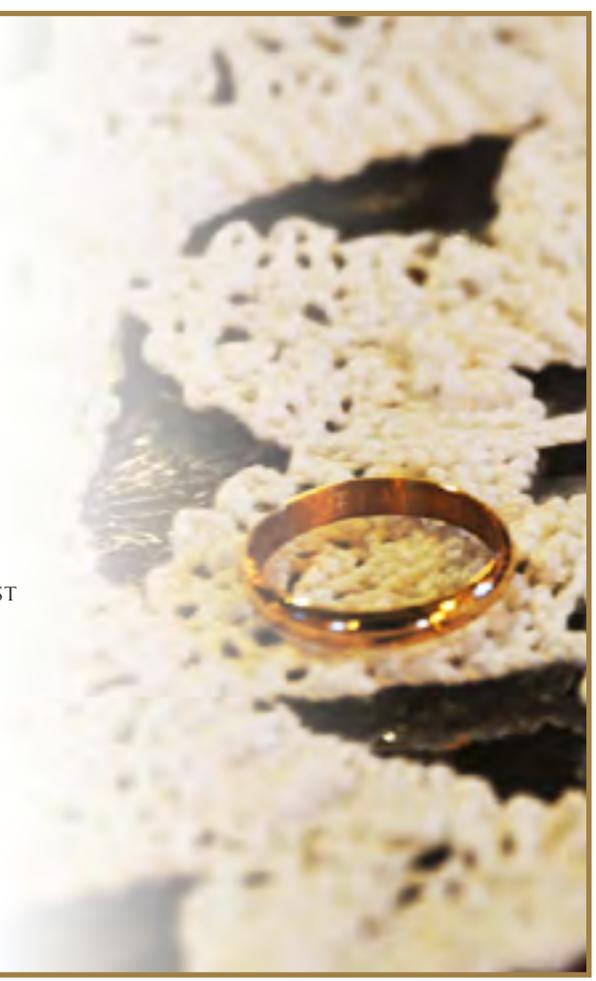
ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THE PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF VOWS OF

*Sister Margaret Mary
of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*

THE MASS OF PERPETUAL PROFESSION WILL BE CELEBRATED BY
THE MOST REVEREND ROBERT F. VASA
BISHOP OF SANTA ROSA

ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-FOURTH OF JUNE,
THE YEAR OUR LORD, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE
AT TEN THIRTY IN THE MORNING
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT EUGENE IN SANTA ROSA.

THE CHURCH INTENDS A PERPETUAL PROFESSION TO BE PUBLIC,
THEREFORE ALL ARE INVITED.
RECEPTION IN THE MSGR. BECKER CENTER TO FOLLOW
(RESTRICTIONS PERMITTING).



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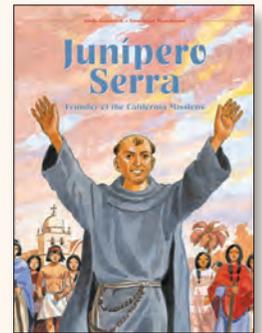
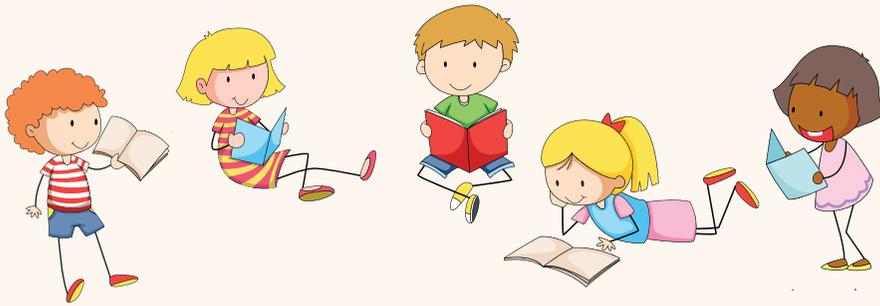
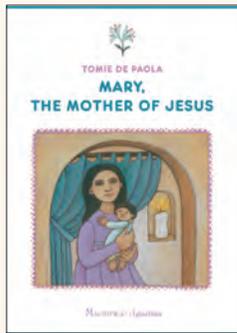
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INSPIRATION & BEAUTY FOR CHILDREN



◆ MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

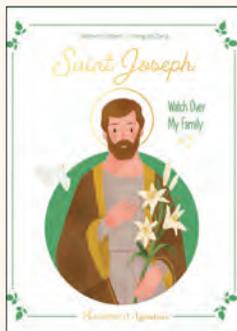
Tomie dePaola, beloved author and illustrator of children's books, presents a splendid depiction of the life of Mary that will touch the heart of every child, and adult. His beautifully written and illustrated episodes draw on the Bible and Church tradition to portray the woman chosen to bring the Savior into the world, and will inspire a lifelong love for and devotion to Mary.

6MARYH . . . 32 pp, Hardcover, \$14.99

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In this beautifully illustrated book, join the founding father of California on his amazing journey and experience his saintly missionary zeal that led to the establishment of the 21 Catholic missions in California. His presence and work are still very much alive through these beautiful missions that are visited by millions of people every year.

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◆ SAINT JOSEPH Watch Over My Family

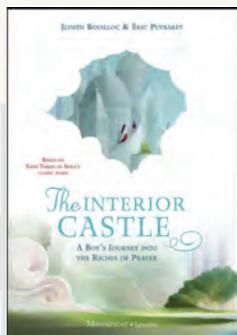
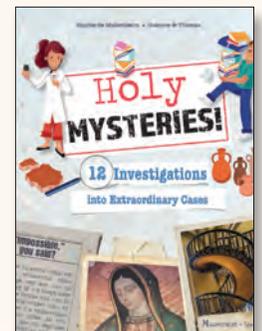
In his great redemptive plan for humanity, God chose Joseph, a just man, to be the guardian of Mary and Jesus. With this delightful, inspiring and beautifully illustrated book, children will learn about and grow closer to Saint Joseph. They will also learn to ask for the powerful intercession and protection of this humble man, who always put Jesus and Mary first in his life.

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◆ HOLY MYSTERIES!

This intriguing and fun book investigates 12 mysterious, inexplicable cases that happened in the history of the Catholic faith, some which still continue to remain today. These cases study the mysteries connected with the sun dancing at Fatima, the face on the Shroud of Turin, saints who are incorrupt, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Juan Diego's tilma, a Eucharistic miracle, and much more!

6HMYSH . . . 80 pp, Hardcover, \$16.99



◆ THE INTERIOR CASTLE

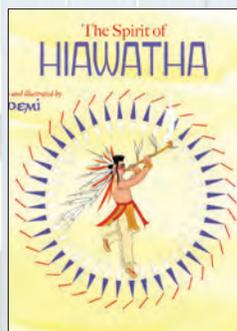
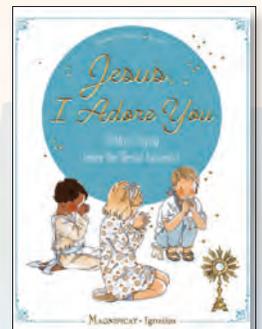
Based on St. Teresa of Avila's spiritual classic, this enchantingly adapted tale tells the story about a boy's journey into the riches of prayer. Sure to captivate and inspire readers of all ages, this engaging story promises an amazing journey its readers will never forget! It wonderfully combines a dramatic adventure with rich spirituality and gorgeous illustrations.

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◆ THE SPIRIT OF HIAWATHA

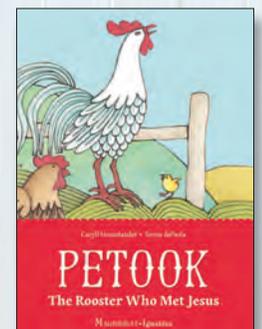
Demi, acclaimed children's author and illustrator, tells the moving story of Hiawatha, the great leader of the Iroquois who brought the tribes together to restore peace and to unify his people. A true peacemaker, he prepared the way for the Gospel to spread in North America. An engaging, colorful story that sets the scene for the missionary work of the heroic Jesuits of the 17th century!

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