

NORTH COAST CATHOLIC



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content

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



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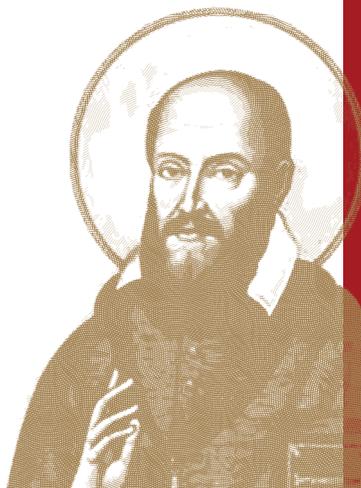
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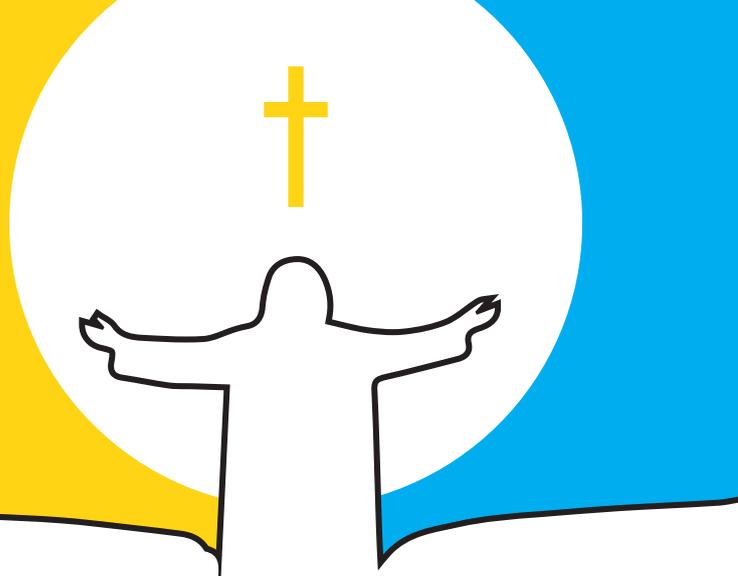


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FROM *the* BISHOP

THE RISEN LORD IN HOLY COMMUNION



Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and brings us, liturgically, to Jerusalem where we accompany Jesus and his disciples throughout the week which leads to the passion and death of our Lord. The events of those days plunge us into a contemplation of the extent of the sufferings of our Lord. The Church recognizes the events of these days as actual events (they really happened) and invites us to reflect upon the seriousness of God's love for us despite the seriousness of our offenses against him. Thus, Holy Week is a call to conversion. Only the most calloused soul could participate in and observe the events of Holy Week without being moved to sadness, remorse, and sorrow. While these emotions may be experienced, the converting grace of Holy Week can only be activated by a prayerful resolve on the part of parishioners to respond to the Lenten invitation to "Repent and believe the Good News". As Ashes were imposed on Ash Wednesday many heard the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." This was an invitation to turn away from sinful attachment, to repent, to seek forgiveness, to strive for virtue, to commit oneself more fully to the life of faith and to reflect on the reality that our life here is short and that eternity is very long.

During Holy Week, we remember. On Palm Sunday, we remember the jubilation of the crowd as our Lord entered into Jerusalem. While acknowledging this jubilation we recognize that it was short lived and soon turned to rejection. We are reminded of how many people come for ashes on Ash Wednesday and palms on Palm Sunday but who abandon the Lord for many of the Sundays throughout the year. Prayerful

resolve is needed if fuller faithfulness is to be achieved.

During Holy Week, we remember. On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper, the last Passover, which Jesus celebrated with his disciples. They were honored to be at the table of the Lord and there boasted of their courage and their certitude about being committed to the Lord, even to death. Yet, already there was one prepared to betray our Lord and the rest were unaware that within a few short hours they would flee like the many who welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday. We are reminded of how many come to receive Holy Communion and yet fall far short of the minimal faith requirements by actively promoting practices, either for themselves or for others, which are clearly opposed to the teachings of Christ and his Church.

During Holy Week we remember. On Good Friday, we recall the betrayal, the abandonment, the condemnation, the scourging, the crowning, the cross, the crucifixion, the darkness, the death, the piercing. We also remember the Lord's words, especially "Woman, behold your son" as Jesus entrusts us, in a singular way, to the care and protection of his own Blessed Mother and invites us to recognize her as our own spiritual Mother, "Son, behold your Mother."

During Holy Week we remember. On Saturday, we recall the silent, sad, impatient waiting. It is the Jewish Sabbath and no work can be done. We wait with the gathered followers of Jesus, largely in silence remembering the horrible events of the previous day which ended with Jesus' death on the cross and his hasty burial in a borrowed tomb.

During Holy Week we remember. On Easter Sunday morning we continue to wait in sad silence. We recall that some women of Jerusalem who were followers of Jesus did not have time on Friday to complete the burial ritual (cf. Luke 23:56) and were eager to go to the tomb as soon as possible after the Sabbath with the spices and perfumes they had prepared. We walk resolutely with them on the way to the tomb and remember and share their amazement when they see that the stone blocking the entrance had been rolled back and find the tomb empty. We run with them to the apostles to announce what had been discovered and try, with them, to comprehend the significance of the empty tomb. We run with Peter and John to the tomb to see for ourselves. Like them we ought to be filled with confusion and joy and wonder as they later encounter the Risen Lord himself.

During Holy Week we remember. On every Sunday, and at every Mass, we recall the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. During Holy Week we are brought more deeply into the meaning and significance of each Mass and thus are invited to deepen our appreciation of what it means to encounter the risen Lord in Holy Communion. May our Easter encounter with the Lord lead each of us to a deeper and more faithful commitment to the Lord and to his Church.

Pray for me as I promise to pray for you.

Bishop Robert F. Vasa



By Chris Lyford
Editor, North Coast Catholic

From *the* Editor

Just Keep Walking



We just finished observing National Child Abuse Prevention Month but you can still pray the novena created by our office of Child protection, Bishop Vasa, and various Priests located at: www.srdiocese.org/aprilmovena. Each Novena prayer video is approximately 10 minutes. You could visit each day for ten minutes or spend about an hour and a half to pray the entire novena. We must never forget these little ones and keep them in our prayers every month.

There is no amount of money that one can offer in payment for a wounded soul: a wounded psyche. You can throw all the money in the world at it but there will be no healing, no restitution, no redemption. May our prayers for healing never let up. Also, for this month of May, visit our website at www.srdiocese.org/mary for a daily reflection and a simple spiritual exercise about Mary, which like Mary, will lead us to Jesus.

A new era of pilgrimage has dawned in our Church. The Church has always been considered a pilgrim church simply because our heavenly home is our destination, the current synod process is considered with a spirit of 'walking together'. That also means, hopefully, talking together. Many are hesitant to talk to 'strangers' for various different reasons. I like to think that to walk with someone means letting them set the agenda. Walking with someone means that you are going their way. As a pilgrim, we have a general destination, but can often afford a

sojourn that takes us off course for the sake of possibly showing a little encouragement and joy. We need to treat each other as fellow travelers, facing the road ahead shoulder to shoulder even for a short stretch. Especially for a short stretch. How many of us would give another 20-30 minutes after Mass is over to just hang out with the people, we just exchanged peace with? I mean outside the church, not in the pews out of respect for those offering their thanksgiving prayers (please). Or do you think the people you just prayed together for God's will to be done, are not going to be that interesting? At least you can smile to all like the family you are and wish your fellow travelers a safe journey until next time. This is just a whisper of the 'walking with' that the synod pilgrimage is all about.

Stephen Morris our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry has creatively taken this spirituality of pilgrimage to the next level in working with others to create Camino experiences in our own Diocese that occur on dates or from places that honor our diocese, and the spirituality of pilgrimage. The first one is on May 26th from Star of the Valley Church. If you prefer not waking up Trione-Annadel Park, you can just hang out in the parking lot before the pilgrims leave and you will have walked a 'short stretch'. Here's to a new season of Walking with each other, encouraging each other, forgiving each other, and perhaps just sharing the joy of our common destination and telling stories of the road.

Be sure to read this month's Family Life contribution for some excellent ideas for family pilgrimages to plan for this summer. And take a look at the pilgrimage the Bishop and the Marian Sisters took to the site of the new faith feature of the Mater Dei Convent.

Finally, in this month's North Coast Catholic be sure to check out the story of three young adults who finished their 800-mile Lenten pilgrimage from Mission San Diego to Mission Sonoma just in time to attend the Easter Vigil. They did it to pray for the conversion of California. It would be 317 miles from our St. James (San Diego) to St. Joseph's in Crescent City. If you are not up for a pilgrimage with so many miles, I can offer one that is incredibly short, and yet perhaps because more challenging than all of these. I am pretty sure it's about 50 to 75 feet from my front door to my next-door neighbor's front door. How about we start with that pilgrimage and bring a small random gift just to say 'hi'. Don't wait for a power outage to connect. If you need to wear a cardigan sweater to make you feel More like Mr. Rogers then go for it. If we are a pilgrim people we need to be 'walking with' others every day. Let's make this Eastertide a time of reaching out with the grace of the Holy Spirit starting with our closest neighbors! 🇺🇸



Here Comes *Summer!*

Greetings Family:

The past two years of living with the Covid-19 pandemic has certainly been a challenge for all of us. But thanks be to God, it seems like things are loosening up a bit and allowing us all a bit more freedom and the "ability to move about!" Like many of you, we have really limited our thoughts of traveling. But just maybe, this is the time when we can once again consider some vacation plans. And with the summer right around the corner, we thought it might be fun to offer some ideas of where you can go for a "close to home" vacation with a Catholic perspective.

We are all so blessed to live in the Diocese of Santa Rosa. We don't think there is another diocese in all of the United States that has more scenic beauty and natural diversity! Throw in some important sites dealing with early California history and you can stay within the diocese and have a wonderful vacation without having to travel too far! And with the exorbitant gas prices, that just might be the ticket for travel this summer!

So here are some ideas we have for you for "close to home" summer vacation ideas:

If you haven't experienced it yet, make the trip to Santa Rosa to see the *Cathedral of St. Eugene*. After the installation of the marble baldacchino and the overall remodel, it is quite beautiful. Check their parish website (steugenes.com) for Mass times and plan on attending a Mass there.

For a taste of early California history, make the trip to Sonoma and visit *Mission San Francisco de Solano*, the last of the 21 California Missions and the end of the Mission

Trail. Founded on July 4th, 1823, plans are underway to acknowledge in 2023 the 200th anniversary of the establishment of this mission along with the beginning of the St. Francis Solano parish. There is much California history to learn in Sonoma including the life of the Wappo and Pomo peoples and the start of an independent California with the Bear Flag Revolt.

While not a Catholic site in itself, a trip to the redwoods can seem like a religious experience! In fact, there are various redwood groves called "cathedral" groves because of their sense of peace and grandeur. *Redwood National and State Parks* north of Eureka (<https://www.nps.gov/redw/index.htm>) is a good place to head for an incredible experience of walking through God's creation in the old growth redwood forests. South of Eureka is *Humboldt Redwoods State Park* featuring the Rockefeller Grove of redwoods, one of the finest redwood groves in existence!

And while you're up in Humboldt County, be sure and go to the delightful town of Ferndale and visit the newly restored *Church of the Assumption*. It is a beautiful small-town church and is just beautiful! While you are there, attend Mass, but check beforehand as to when the church is open.

And of course, a trip along any stretch of coastline within the Diocese of Santa Rosa is a treat! From the Del Norte coast all the way down to the Sonoma coast one can find opportunities to picnic, hike, fish, or camp while enjoying the most spectacular stretch on all of the California coast. Being able to just slow yourself down and enjoy a day along the coast can work wonders for your soul!

And finally, what would a summer be without some "recreation?" The very root of this word comes from the Latin *recreāre*, that is, "to restore oneself or to re-create yourself." And a great place to recreate within our diocese is Clear Lake! Clear Lake is a great place to go for boating, kayaking, fishing, swimming, camping, or ??? With more than 100 miles of shoreline around the largest natural freshwater lake wholly within California, Clear Lake is the place to go for some personal "restoration!"

So, there you go – places to go and enjoy the beauty of God's creation, a chance to reflect on our historical past, and an opportunity to recreate yourself, all within the Diocese of Santa Rosa! And approaching your summer travel plans with a Catholic perspective can provide you with a grateful heart to appreciate the wonder of God's creation in addition to knowing that the good Lord is always there with us in whatever we do and wherever we go. And we can always add a prayer of thanksgiving that we are here within the scenic Diocese of Santa Rosa!

Blessings to you all for the summer!



Pax Christi,
**Carlin and
Deacon Dave
Gould**

Co-Directors of
the Marriage
& Family Life Office



Thank You Coordinators!



Fatima Jimenez

Victims Assistance Coordinator
for the Diocese of Santa Rosa

As our school year and religious education programs start to wrap up, I would like to take some time to recognize the extraordinary work that our Safe Environment coordinators do. At every Parish and School, there is a designated person who is responsible for overseeing that every employee and volunteer is fingerprinted, cleared, and trained before working with our children and youth. These individuals also work alongside my office to ensure our policies are followed at every location.

Having been a Safe Environment coordinator for several years, I can tell you that it's not an easy task. Our coordinators must know who is involved in almost

every ministry, track people down when they are not compliant, make sure the Circle of Grace Program is taught every year, and turn in audit reports to my office. The most challenging part of this role is that their requests are often ignored or, even worse, met with a rude and snarky attitude, yet despise the challenges; our safe environment coordinators are fully committed to their work.

I am grateful for them because our safe environment efforts would not succeed without their hard work. They are on the front line, keeping our children and youth safe at our parishes and schools. So, next time you see them around, please say "thank you."

Below is the list of our current Safe Environment Coordinators.

HUMBOLDT/ DEL NORTE

Shawn Shafter / St. Mary Church, Arcata
Fr. Greg / St. Joseph Church, Crescent City
Kim Farrell / Sacred Heart Church & St. Bernard Church, Eureka
Lynn Enemark / St. Bernard's Academy, Eureka
Denise Regli / Assumption Church, Ferndale
Lizbeth Ramirez / St. Joseph Church, Fortuna
Jill McClure / Our Lady of the Redwood's Church, Garberville
Carol Clymo / Christ the King, Mckinleyville

MENDOCINO/ LAKE

Margarita Lopez / Our Lady of Peace Church, Clearlake
Cristina Flores / Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Fort Bragg
Kathleen Kasperson / San Jose Sanchez Del Rio Catholic School, Fort Bragg
Guadalupe Silva / St. Mary Immaculate, Lakeport
Marietta Coyle / St. Anthony Church, Mendocino
Sandy Hood / St. Joseph Church, Middletown
Deacon Sergio Orozco / St. Aloysius, Point Arena
Daniel Muniz / St. Mary of the Angels Church, Ukiah
Lisa Cavalin / St. Mary of the Angels School, Ukiah
Matthew Alaniz / St. Anthony of Padua Church, Willits

NAPA

Mary Narverud & Marina Maldonado / Holy Family, American Canyon
Karen Verzosa & Lidubina Ceja Magana / Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Calistoga
Marisol Jimenez / St. Apollinaris Church, Napa
Angela McWilliams / St. Apollinaris School, Napa
Lupita Gallegos / St. John the Baptist Church, Napa
Amparo Valenzuela / St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Napa
Maria Cuevas / Kolbe Trinity School, Napa
Gladys De Haro / St. Helena Catholic Church, Saint Helena
Marisol Jimenez / St. Joan of Arc, Yountville

SONOMA – NORTH

Gini Lockwood Christani / Our Lady of Guadalupe, Windsor
Daisy Rauda / St. Peter Church, Cloverdale
Luis Penalzoa / St. Elizabeth Church, Guerneville
Kellyann Azevedo / St. John the Baptist Church, Healdsburg
Carmen Sandoval / St. John the Baptist School, Healdsburg
Fran Osegueda / St. Philip the Apostle & St. Teresa Church, Occidental
Cindy Hordyke / Holy Spirit Church, Santa Rosa
Veronica Guterrez / Resurrection Church, Santa Rosa
Maris Sanchez & Tony Nelson / St. Eugene Cathedral, Santa Rosa
Oscar Corona / St. Eugene School, Santa Rosa
Karina Iniguez / St. Rosa of Lima Church, Santa Rosa
KC Paul / St. Rosa of Lima School, Santa Rosa
Sharon Charlton / Star of the Valley Church, Santa Rosa
Father Chinh / Vietnamese martyrs Mission, Santa Rosa
Carol Drake / Cardinal Newman High School, Santa Rosa

SONOMA – SOUTH

Nancy Gibson / St. Leo's the Great Church, Boyes Hot Springs
Deacon Tino Vera / St. Joseph Church, Cotati
Roberta Guerra / St. James Church Petaluma, Petaluma
Sally Doolittle / St. Vincent de Paul Church, Petaluma
Danielle Rynning / St. Vincent de Paul Elementary, Petaluma
Lisa Jepsen / St. Vincent de Paul High School, Petaluma
Maureen Sheridan Scott / St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Rohnert Park
Lourdes Esmeralda Valencia / St. Sebastian Church, Sebastopol
Sarah Wilson Olvera / St. Francis Solano Church, Sonoma
Perrin Cutting / St. Francis Solano School, Sonoma



Bishop Vasa Appoints New Superintendent of Catholic Schools



Santa Rosa, California: Most Reverend Robert Vasa, bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, has appointed Dr. Adrian Peterson to the position of Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Adrian brings a wealth of expertise in the field of education, having begun her career as a Catholic school teacher, a vice-principal and most recently serving as Principal of St. Matthew Catholic School in San Mateo. In addition to the abundance of classroom and

administrative experience, Adrian holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of San Francisco. Adrian is devoted to Catholic educators and models herself as a lifelong learner.

As an Administrator, Adrian brings passion to her leadership. She is enthusiastic about creative collaborations with faculty, staff, and clergy. She is eager to engage with our schools. "I want to see Catholic education grow and prosper and develop future leaders for the Church and the world. I want to develop Individuals who are formed to walk like Jesus," Adrian said. "As Superintendent, I look forward to assisting our leaders in their endeavors. I hope to share our stories with others and celebrate our success."

Dr. Peterson succeeds Dr. Linda Norman, who has served in the role since June 2016. Linda took a position as President of our

diocesan high school, Cardinal Newman, last year and has served as interim Superintendent during this time. Linda and Adrian will be working together to ensure a smooth transition for our schools.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Adrian Peterson to our team. We look forward to working with her and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to bless us on this journey to do His will.

Inquiries should be directed to Lori Norcia, Director of Human Resources at lnorcia@srdiocese.org.



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. 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. Stephen Canney | June 18, 1961 |
| 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 |



CHILDREN LEARN from the Good Shepherd

By Marie Ebbing
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish

Take a moment to recall one of your earliest childhood memories of being in church. What was that sacred space like? Do you remember the colored light beaming through the windows, the creak of the wood pews, or dipping your fingers into the holy water as you entered for Mass? Now imagine your own children or grandchildren

stepping into a beautiful space prepared especially for them – a space where everything in that room contains beautifully hand-made materials crafted for them to touch, to care for, and above all to delight in – where they can gently grow into a deeper relationship with God.

This describes the atrium, the children's learning environment, of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. CGS is a comprehensive approach to faith formation based on the educational principles of Maria Montessori, an expert in early childhood development who understood the value of a child's potential to learn. CGS may seem new to many in North





America, but it has been a long-standing method of catechesis that originated in Rome over 60 years ago through decades of collaboration between Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori pupil, and Sofia Calvaletti, a noted Hebrew scholar and Catholic theologian. Today, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has spread to six continents and serves toddlers and children in more than 35 countries in the widest variety of cultures and socioeconomic settings. In 2009, Mother Teresa's religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, has added CGS to the formation of every novice.

The mission of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the United States (CGSUSA) is: To involve adults and children in a common religious experience in which the religious capacities of the child predominate, especially those of contemplation and enjoyment of God. In her book *Religious Potential of the Child*, Calvaletti writes, "children have a tremendous capacity to fall in love and be in love with God in a manner that creates harmony and happiness within them." This is what CGS catechists never tire of witnessing first-hand. While offered worldwide, children respond universally to God's gifts they encounter and contemplate through the CGS method. Because the child is already in relationship with God, the child's silent request to "help me to know God by myself" is heeded and attended to with seriousness and tenderness by the adult. Children have an innate longing to know the essential truths of our faith and a need to satisfy their deep hunger to fall in love in God. God's covenant relationship as shown through gift and response is celebrated

and continually unfolded to nurture the child's religious potential.

Yet this religious potential is not limited to children. Parents and catechists who come alongside the children to heed the call "turn and become like children" (Matthew 18:3) find that, like an everlasting spring, their own personal relationship with God is renewed. Adults rediscover their faith with a new joy and love that flourishes like the heart of a child. This is what sets Catechesis of the Good Shepherd apart from other catechetical methods and keeps CGS catechists' hearts afire to serve children. The role of adults is to make an environment where they can meet Jesus, experience and know the essential elements of our Catholic faith through presentations of scripture and liturgy. It is not teaching as much as it is a joyful journey with the child in their relationship with God to bring them the very best food of our faith.

Like a mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32), CGS was planted at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Rohnert Park in 2019 and preparations for Sonoma County's first atrium began with CGS catechist Marie Ebbing and CGSUSA Formation Leader Jennifer Bell. The atrium – not a classroom but a place of work and prayer for children – was gradually filled with materials that meet the developmental needs of children ages 3-6 years old. Parishioners gave of time and talents to build, craft, or donate materials: a child-sized model sacristy cabinet and tabernacle, figures for infancy narratives and Last Supper, a Paschal candle, a wooden liturgical calendar

puzzle, and a hand sculpted relief map of Israel. Even Ebbing's mother in Ohio sewed model chasubles and donated nativity figures from WWII to help. The work is ongoing. Materials, like a model of the city of Jerusalem and a model of priests' garments, are still being made. Fundraising is in the works to purchase needed materials for baptism, Biblical geography, Kingdom of God parables, and more. Although St. Elizabeth Seton's first atrium year was cut short due to the pandemic, its recent beginnings showed signs of great response from the children – then and now.

Theresa Owen, now a Level 1 Catechist, was eager for her then four year old daughter, Caroline, to experience CGS. Owen says, "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was once described to me as 'the perfect food for the perfect age.' Accompanying children in the level one atrium is like watching fish swim in water. It is so natural. Their entire body becomes calm as they work with their hands and have a place to delight in the love of God. The atrium respects their humanity. They aren't being stuffed with information. Instead they savor beautiful morsels of God's love found in parables and the early life of Christ. They carry this with them and begin to show outside of the atrium their deep connection with God. They are fed in such a way that they now feel free to bask in God's love, to meditate and contemplate with ease, and leave refreshed."

Jessica Lofaro's son, Enzo, at the time was the youngest in atrium at three years old. Lofaro loves the program because it allows little ones to discover their faith at their

own pace. Her son enjoyed the atrium and didn't want to leave at the end of a two hour session. Even though Enzo hasn't been able to return to the atrium since the pandemic began, the impact is still evident to Jessica. On a recent vacation while visiting a church museum, Enzo left his family in awe as he pointed out garments used in the Catholic mass and named them to his family – two years after his atrium experience.

Lupita Rivas enrolled her five year old son Milan in CGS in October 2021 when the atrium reopened. She says Milan looks forward his time in the atrium all week to learn about God, is happier, and makes Jesus part of his daily life at home. She is so attracted to the work she now volunteers her time as an atrium assistant.

As the pandemic has eased and CGS has been able to reopen, adults at St. Elizabeth Seton have become curious about this particular room and what it contains. Over recent weeks, CCD catechists invited Marie Ebbing to share some presentations with elementary students to supplement their classroom coursework. The response from the students and the adult volunteers has been excitement and insatiable curiosity.

Erika Espinoza is a CCD catechist who wishes her family could have taken advantage of the program for her eldest son who is now in high school. Nonetheless, Espinoza is happy her youngest son has been able to take a glimpse of it. "It helps the children create a deeper relationship with God and helps them understand their faith better. It explains the why, where, when, what, who, and all the possible «mystery» questions we could have about our faith. I especially love the details of the material that the children get to touch and work with. The tactile, visual work helps the children to deepen their relationship with God by listening to the presentations, pray, but most of all work with the material."

While St. Elizabeth Seton serves the 3-6 year old children, Catholic dioceses around the United States also serve the needs of children 6-12 years old, as well as 0-3 years old and their parents. Rebekah Rojcewicz is a long-time CGS catechist and national formation leader who studied with Sofia Calvaletti and Gianna Gobbi in Rome in 1981 and serves



on the International Board for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. In her recent book, *Life in the Vine: The Joyful Journey Continues*, Rebekah writes what adults and families at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish have experienced for themselves. "The children have taught us – and go on teaching us – the most important lesson is that only the greatest mysteries will do for them. They want the truest, richest material of our faith, not our endless explanations of those mysteries. They only want the keys to those mysteries in order to go on exploring and enjoying them on their own."

Come see for yourself! St. Elizabeth Seton will be offering an open house program on Sunday, May 22, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. for anyone who wishes to see and learn more about CGS. Join us for light refreshments and childcare will be provided. Please contact Jennifer Bedoka, Director of Faith Formation at sesreled@gmail.com for event details. 🇺🇸

For more information on setting up an atrium or offering CGSUSA Formation contact Jennifer Bell at jennifer@spiritdirection.com. The United States Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd official website can be found at www.cgsusa.org.





International Public Rosary Campaign

By Scott Lorbeer

Public Rosary Coordinator, Santa Rosa Diocese



No one needs to be reminded that our country and the entire world are going through multiple challenges and serious life threatening dangers. Two years (and counting) of a pandemic, with lost lives, lost jobs, lost liberties. Now, war has erupted between Ukraine and Russia in Europe, with more crises of death, serious injury, and refugees.

Prior to November of last year, an Austrian, Louise Pierre Laroche, took action to try to adjust public policies on restrictions, working with government, businesses, and media, but to no avail.

Concerned about the growing divisions in society, caused by coronavirus policies, Laroche started a rosary campaign in late November 2021, dedicated to asking the Blessed Virgin Mary to help solve the current crisis, and for peace, freedom, and the Kingship of Jesus Christ in society. He asked fellow Christians to pray the Rosary – to gather in public: at a park, a public square, a procession, or at a Church – on Wednesday evenings around 6:00 pm.

His simple request, in conjunction with the ominous feelings devout Catholics in

Austria were experiencing, sparked an amazing response. According to their website public-rosary.org, Austria now has 259 groups praying the rosary. But what is even more remarkable, is that the campaign has taken off in 28 other countries, because they too, are facing similar losses of lives, jobs, and liberties. Italy has 169 groups, and France has over 2,500!

On January 19, 2022, when the Public Rosary started at St. Eugene's, there were only three in the United States, and none in Mexico. Now there are eight in Mexico, and sixteen in the United States, with four of those in the Santa Rosa Diocese (Santa Rosa, Windsor, Napa, and St. Helena).

The public rosaries take place every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. praying in solidarity for the ending of these series of crises. Rosaries are being prayed in front of a church, at a marketplace or through the streets as a procession. Praying the rosary in public is important because this initiative is not only about praying the rosary, it is about praying the rosary in the public space. As Laroche said, "When you pray the rosary in a public space, you are praying as Catholic citizens and thus,

you affirm by the act the inalienable right to pray in the public space. By praying the rosary, you place God in the middle of the public space, and with God, the natural order and natural law, which are the objective standard for judging all social relations and laws. You pray for society. Society is what happens in the public space. It is important to understand that the state does not have or should not have any power over the private space and over the Church. Through this, all this becomes visible and understandable for everyone -- that's all that needs to be said -- this is extremely powerful and important."

Please join this peaceful crusade of Catholic citizens for our time and the next generations. Either attend one of the existing public rosaries, or find a friend and start your own. If you start your own, let the people at public-rosary.org know.

For more information, see the article at Life Site News: www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/hundreds-of-rosary/

For questions about starting a local public rosary, email socpublicrosary@yahoo.com

Cross Catholic Outreach Supplies Safe Water to Poor Families in African Dioceses

Every 15 seconds, a child in a developing country dies from cholera or some other waterborne disease because their water is contaminated with bacteria and parasites.

When a community does not have its own water system — which is often the case in many African nations — the community's women and children must walk for miles over rough terrain each day to find and collect water from a remote source. Even when they are successful in this daunting task, the water they collect can be risky to use because most of these groundwater sources are contaminated. (See related story on opposite page.)

"It is an incredible hardship for these families, but the Church in Africa is working hard to find solutions to these challenges, and we are partnering with bishops in several dioceses to help provide that relief," said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, an official Catholic ministry with a history of success in supporting African missions. The current water projects undertaken by Cross Catholic

Outreach will help communities in Ghana, Malawi and Zambia.

"Our mission team is currently working with Bishop Richard Kuuia Baawobr in the Diocese of Wa, Ghana; Bishop Martin Anwel Mtumbuka in the Diocese of Karonga, Malawi; and Bishop George Zumaire Lungu in the Diocese of Chipata, Zambia. Each of these wonderful Catholic leaders has a deep love of the people in his diocese and is very concerned about the water crisis rural families are facing on a daily basis," Cavnar said. "They've identified the areas of greatest need, and we are working with them to ensure those communities are provided with safe, abundant sources of water."

To address this need, Cross Catholic Outreach drills wells and installs pumps and enclosures that will protect the quality of the water. Drilling the wells to a depth determined by a local hydrology company ensures they will continue to supply clean water even during the driest season of the year, when substandard wells are known to dry up.



Cross Catholic Outreach is working to provide safe, clean water sources in poor, rural communities in Ghana, Malawi and Zambia.

"It is important to do the job to a high professional standard and to provide sturdy pumps at each location because our goal is to have these water systems serve generation after generation, providing safe water for many years to come," Cavnar explained. "We also work with the diocese to create water committees at each well location. These local leaders play a critical role in managing the use of the well and ensuring it remains in good condition. They also set up

a community fund to cover the cost of any repairs that become necessary. These additional steps also help extend the water system's effectiveness and longevity."

While the donors who help Cross Catholic Outreach fund these water projects appreciate the care the ministry takes with its work, it is the impact of providing water to poor families that appeals to them most, Cavnar said.

"Many of our donors are aware of the terrible fatalities caused by waterborne diseases, especially among children," he said. "They value life, and they want to make sure the vulnerable are protected. Giving to support water projects achieves that goal, but it also produces other important benefits because it supports the Church's educational goals and helps families lift themselves out of poverty by eliminating the burden of searching for and collecting water."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach's many relief programs to help the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC02067, 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 Delivers Impact With Each Donated Dollar

The Bible encourages believers to put their faith into action by giving to others and having a generous heart. So it's no surprise that those who take their faith seriously seek out charitable organizations that align with Catholic social teaching and have a track record of success.

Cross Catholic Outreach is known for its long-standing record of blessing the poor in developing countries — and its commitment to sharing its results with supporters.

"We want as much of the donor's dollar as possible to reach the poor, and the best way to do that

is to empower the Church leaders and programs already working in the trenches in countries like Haiti, Guatemala, Kenya and the Philippines," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach.

This financially responsible approach allowed the ministry to successfully take on 318 projects in 32 countries during the 2021 fiscal year, with an astounding 95.39 percent of donations going directly to serve the poor.

The ministry highlights its impact in a special section of its website located at CrossCatholic.org/impact.

There, donors can learn how cash grants and material aid have benefited children and families around the world by providing nutritious food, clean water, safe homes, Catholic education, disaster relief and much more.

"For example, Cross Catholic Outreach took on the surge in global hunger by taking on 92 food-related projects in 18 countries. Thanks to our supporters, we delivered more than 20 million protein-rich meals to help children and families grow healthy and strong," Cavnar elaborated.

Other successes include blessing 96,417 people with clean, safe water;

building, repairing or upgrading 391 homes for 2,270 people; sponsoring academic scholarships for 4,531 students; and shipping \$17.1 million in supplies to survivors of natural disasters. Donors also funded agricultural projects, medical care, microenterprises, and care for orphans and vulnerable children.

"These Works of Mercy have transformed lives and communities in amazing ways," Cavnar said. "I am deeply grateful for every gift and ask for continued prayers as Cross Catholic Outreach pursues new ventures in the decades to come."

American Catholics Working to End Water Crisis Faced by Poor Families in Africa and Beyond

When families lack access to essential resources for life, like food, water and safe shelter, their time and energy is often consumed with a desperate search for those resources. By necessity, survival becomes their first priority. It dominates their every thought, consumes their valuable time and saps their useful energy. It is a terrible and stressful way to live. "Some describe this constant daily pursuit of survival without any real progress as 'the deadly cycle of poverty,' because once a family is trapped in it, it steals the potential of one generation after another.

"Water scarcity and unsafe water are at the root of the problem."

Jim Cavnar, President
Cross Catholic Outreach

Today's children are born into the poverty of their parents, and they in turn are unable to offer any hope to their sons and daughters. The tragic cycle just keeps repeating itself," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the most successful Catholic ministries working to end this kind of poverty around the globe.

According to Cavnar, there are only a few ways to successfully



The search for and collection of water remains a daunting task in many African countries. During dry seasons, holes are dug in the riverbeds. As muddy water slowly seeps up to fill these pits, it is collected for drinking and cooking.

first in line for water in the morning. That is risky because it makes them vulnerable to wild animals and human predators."

While this risk may seem unwise, the poor consider it an unavoidable

"As you would imagine, water from ponds and streams is used by animals and also becomes contaminated with debris and chemical runoff. Still, these families have no other options, so they drink water polluted by parasites, bacteria and waste — risking their health to quench their thirst. When they become sick, it only adds to their trials and adds to the burdens they must endure in order to survive."

Fortunately, this troubling situation has not been ignored by the Church or ministries serving the poor. In fact, partnerships between dioceses and Cross Catholic Outreach have produced practical solutions to water scarcity problems in Africa and beyond. Very often, American Catholics are part of this important cause too. Their donations fund the wells African communities desperately need.

"We can end the misery of poor families in remote areas of Africa by installing simple deep-water wells in their communities, and American Catholics can play a critical role in that outreach," Cavnar

confirmed. "Supplying water has an obvious benefit — it addresses a basic human need. But the impact of these projects goes much deeper. Donors who support our efforts to provide poor communities with clean, easily accessible water are also improving public health and helping promote the education of needy children. When we install wells in a community, children are sick less often and spend fewer hours searching for and collecting water. That has a huge impact on their education because they can attend classes regularly and have the time and energy to study."

To bring all of these blessings to the poor in Africa, Cross Catholic Outreach recently launched a new *Wells of Salvation* campaign aimed at helping poor families in three African dioceses. (See related story on the opposite page.)

Cavnar's prayer is that hundreds of compassionate Catholics will donate generously so dozens of wells can be installed in these African communities, ending the terrible burdens water scarcity has placed on them.



break this cycle of poverty, and one of them involves water.

"When you look for the source of poverty in developing countries — particularly in Africa — you often discover that water scarcity or unsafe water is at the root of the problem," he said. "In the poorest communities, families usually lack access to water and spend enormous amounts of time and energy finding and collecting it. These women and children leave home before dawn and walk miles to the nearest borehole, dam or stream, whether the water there is clean or not. Some even sleep in those remote places just so they can be

trade-off to save precious time. Once the queue starts forming, it can take hours for a family to collect the water they need.

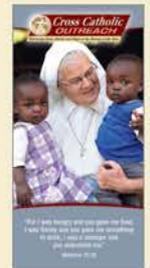
In the dry season, their lives become even more difficult. At certain times of the year, streams and other groundwater sources literally dry up. Then families dig holes in a dry riverbed and wait for muddy water to well up from below so they can fill their buckets.

"It would be bad enough if water scarcity was the only problem the poor face. But even when water can be found, it is often unsafe for human consumption," Cavnar said.

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. AC02067, 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.





California Mission Pilgrims Arrive in Sonoma

Three young adults and their dog complete Lenten Mission pilgrimage from San Diego to Sonoma

By Valerie Schmalz

Managing Editor, San Francisco Catholic



*‘I really wanted to do something for several years to pray for California.
To ask God to bring about a radical reconversion to him.’*

-Hope Waterman, California Mission pilgrim

A trio of twenty-something young adults and their dog Laika walked more than 800 miles in the footsteps of St. Junipero Serra on a Lenten pilgrimage to pray for California that spanned the 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Vigil.

Hope Waterman, 27, Matthew Geier, 27 and John Paul Hanson, 24, began walking after the 7 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass at the first mission, Mission San Diego de Alcalá, and concluded in time for Easter Vigil in Sonoma, where the 21st and farthest north California mission was founded by the Franciscan friars.

“I wanted to do something for several years to pray for California,” said Waterman, who was inspired to make the pilgrimage to ask the intercession of the Franciscan friar who founded California’s mission system. The idea came to Waterman as she was praying

with 40 Days for Life in October 2020 in Lander, Wyoming, as the widespread desecration and vilification of St. Junipero’s statues and reputation in California was making headlines in the second half of 2020. Statues in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Rafael were among a number of statues vandalized and St. Junipero Serra’s reputation attacked, with the state of California officially removing his statue from the state capitol last year.

“The thing I could do to bring about the radical reconversion of California was to pray to the man who brought the faith to California in the first place and to walk the missions of California as a prayer and penance for the salvation of California,” said Waterman, an emergency medical technician in Wyoming who grew up in California and in Texas. “I decided to do it in Lent and start off on Ash Wednesday.”

Waterman met Geier, a park ranger at Chino Hills State Park and a musician with a medieval and renaissance ensemble, when she was scouting and planning the pilgrimage earlier this year. Geier thought it sounded like a great idea and his boss agreed, giving him six weeks off. Hanson was a childhood neighbor and is a family friend who up until two days before the expedition was undecided. “I meant to say no,” said Hanson when Waterman called him in Irving, Texas, to find out his final decision, “and somehow I said yes.”

Waterman’s dog Laika, named for the Sputnik canine who was the first to orbit the earth in 1958, made up the pilgrimage’s fourth.

It was the vilification of St. Junipero Serra – a saint canonized in 2015 by Pope Francis during his visit to the U.S. – that led Geier to join the 46-day pilgrimage organized by Hope Waterman. “The idea that someone who is a canonized saint in the Catholic Church, that he’s having his name and reputation smeared through the mud by people who did not know that he had such love for the native peoples of California,” motivated Geier he said, noting that Junipero Serra grew up in comfort and was a professor at a university in Mallorca. “He left all of that.”

The 21 missions, beginning with the first one founded by St. Junipero Serra in San Diego in 1769, are integral to the state, Geier said. “It’s to try to restore a proper appreciation for the missions as a foundation of California. This place was such a deeply Catholic place. The whole society of our state has grown up around these missions.”

“The whole society of our state has grown up around these missions.”

Matthew Geier, California Mission Pilgrim Because of his commitment to the reputation of St. Junipero Serra and to California’s Catholic heritage, Archbishop Cordileone met with the pilgrims just hours after he learned they had arrived in San Francisco Holy Thursday. He blessed their pilgrimage, their banner and various religious articles, praising the initiative which he called “blazing the trail for what I think we should be doing here, a Camino California.”

Archbishop Cordileone blessed the pilgrims, their banner and their journey.

For Hanson, Geier and Waterman, it’s been quite a journey: sun, rain, sore feet and a rosary together every night, “unless we fall asleep during the rosary,” noted Hanson. Most nights they camped out, but in a few cases members of the informally organized California Mission Walkers put them up and several nights they stayed in hotels. Gregory Wood, a Catholic therapist and member of the Mission Walkers, connected them with several

families. They walked everywhere, refusing rides because Father Serra walked everywhere. They only stayed indoors at places that would allow dogs.

“It’s really fun,” said Geier. “The three of us have been on the road for six weeks. Both John Paul and I had never been back packing before.”

“People have offered us all kinds of things. It’s been encouraging to see so much kindness and generosity and hospitality,” said Geier, adding that people see them with huge packs on their backs and identify them as people in need. “I didn’t know that it was out there being offered to those in need. That is kind of the humbling thing.”

“It’s a beautiful place with lots of nice people,” said Hanson.

“This is what we need as a Church is young people who are on fire and evangelizing,” said Wood. †



SANTA ROSA DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES on the Camino de Sonoma

These celebratory dates for pilgrimage align with relevant Saints of the Diocese, pilgrimage, and Native Americans. Each day’s journey will begin with Mass at 8am, include reflections and prayer pauses, a lunch break, and conclude around 3:30pm. Schedules are subject to modifications.

BENEFITS:
 +Physical
 +Spiritual
 +Mental
 +Smile Making
FUN

- **ST. BONA OF PISA • May 26th**
 [Patron of Travelers & Pilgrims] Stage #2
Begin: Star of the Valley Church, ascend Trione-Annadel State Park
End: Trail House, Santa Rosa
- **ST. EUGENE • June 2nd**
 [Diocesan Cathedral] Stage #3
Begin: Flat Rock Park, Santa Rosa
End: The Barlow, Sebastopol
- **ST. JUNIPERO SERRA • June 30th**
 [Patron of California] Stage #1
Begin: St. Francisco Solano Mission
End: Kenwood Plaza Park
- **ST. FRANCIS SOLANO • July 14th**
 [Diocesan Parish] Stage #1
Begin: St. Francisco Solano Mission
End: Kenwood Plaza Park
- **ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA • July 14th**
 [Patron of Ecology & Native Americans] Stage #6
Begin: Jenner Visitor Center
End: Ft. Ross State Park
 *Simultaneous pilgrim groups will connect via video
- **ST. JAMES • July 25th**
 [Diocesan Parish] Origin of Camino de Santiago
Begin: St. James, Petaluma
End: St. Eugene’s Cathedral
- **ST. ROSE OF LIMA... Aug 23rd**
 [Diocesan Patron] Stage # 3 in reverse
Begin: Sebastopol with stops at each Santa Rosa Catholic Church
End: Flat Rock Park, Santa Rosa (Site of origins of the name Santa Rosa)

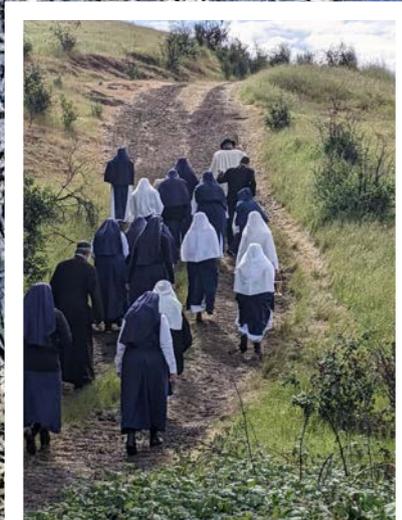
FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE UPON INQUIRY AND REGISTRATION:

Stephen Morris dsryouth@srdiocese.org 310-849-2342 • On the web: www.srdiocese.org/spirituality



Marian Sisters Celebrate the Cross

There is a spiritual fountainhead just North of Santa Rosa on a hill East of Highway 101 just South of the Luther Burbank Center. The Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa are a new religious community of strongly consecrated women, and they are pulling down torrents of grace for the intentions of the Santa Rosa Diocese for everyone from the Bishop, to you, and to me. Sometime in early March the evening sky was illuminated with a very large Cross on this hill as a sign to all that these women live beneath and trust completely in the blood and water that gushed forth from the heart of Jesus; the Divine Mercy. They are relentless, they are faithful, they are humble. We are not sure if there are times when other pilgrims can visit the cross, but you can find out by contacting the sisters at www.mariansisters.com/contact





7 THINGS to Know About the Dobbs Abortion Case Now Before the Supreme Court

Washington, D.C. Newsroom, May 3 (CNA)



Photo: birettas tiff Birettas and rings for new cardinals are displayed in St. Peter's Basilica Nov. 28, 2020 (photo: Divisione Produzione Fotografica / Vatican Media / CNA)

The U.S. Supreme Court heard a historic case on Dec. 1, 2021 that directly challenges Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. On May 2, 2022, a purported first draft of the decision leaked, which if genuine suggests that the court is poised to overturn Roe and return the question of abortion legalization to the states. If that happens, more than a dozen states will immediately outlaw abortion.

Here's what you need to know:

1. What is the case about?

The case, known as Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, involves a 2018 Mississippi law restricting most abortions after 15 weeks. "Dobbs" stands for Thomas E. Dobbs, who serves as the state health officer of the Mississippi State Department of Health. Jackson Women's Health Organization provides abortion in Jackson, Mississippi, and is the only abortion clinic in that state.

The case centers on the question of "Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional," or whether states can ban abortion before a fetus can survive outside the womb. The case challenges two landmark abortion cases that Mississippi calls "egregiously wrong": Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey.

2. Why does the case challenge Roe and Casey?

In Roe v. Wade, the court ruled that states could not ban abortion before viability, which the court determined to be 24 to 28 weeks into pregnancy. Nearly 20 years later, the court upheld Roe in Planned Parenthood v. Casey. The 1992 ruling said that while states could regulate pre-viability abortions, they could not enforce an "undue burden," defined by the court as "a substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion of a nonviable fetus."

Mississippi's Gestational Age Act, the subject of the Dobbs case, bans abortion weeks before the point of viability.

"Under the Constitution, may a State prohibit elective abortions before viability? Yes," Mississippi argues in its brief. "Why? Because nothing in constitutional text, structure, history, or tradition supports a right to abortion."

3. Who argued the case before the court?

Three people spoke before the justices in December. Scott G. Stewart, the solicitor general of Mississippi, was given 35 minutes to represent the state. For Jackson Women's Health Organization, Julie Rikelman, litigation

director of the Center for Reproductive Rights, was given 20 minutes. U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar had 15 minutes to argue in support of Jackson Women's Health Organization.

4. How can Americans hear or read the arguments that were made?

The Supreme Court website offers an audio recording and transcripts of the arguments.

5. How did the draft decision leak? Is it genuine?

CNA has not been able to independently verify if the draft opinion is genuine, and the court's decision will not be final until it is published. The purported draft was obtained by the D.C.-based news site Politico from an as-yet unidentified source. Several legal observers and reporters have offered their opinions that the draft likely is genuine, and the internet is replete with speculation as to who may have leaked the draft, and why. No concrete answers have been forthcoming.

Leaks from the Supreme Court are rare. Observers are saying that the leak constitutes a serious breach of trust in the Supreme Court's process.

Continued on Page 20



El Señor Resucitado en la Sagrada Comunión

La Semana Santa comienza con el Domingo de Ramos y nos lleva, litúrgicamente, a Jerusalén donde acompañamos a Jesús y sus discípulos durante toda la semana conduciéndonos a la pasión y muerte de nuestro Señor. Los acontecimientos de aquellos días nos sumergen en la contemplación de la magnitud del sufrimiento de nuestro Señor. La Iglesia reconoce los acontecimientos de estos días como hechos reales (realmente sucedieron) y nos invita a reflexionar sobre la seriedad del amor de Dios por nosotros a pesar de la gravedad de nuestras ofensas contra Él. Así, la Semana Santa es una llamada a la conversión. Sólo el alma más endurecida podía participar y observar los acontecimientos de la Semana Santa sin ser movida a la tristeza, al remordimiento y al dolor. Si bien estas emociones pueden experimentarse, la gracia transformadora de la Semana Santa solo puede activarse mediante una resolución en oración por parte de los feligreses a responder a la invitación de Cuaresma de "arrepentirse y creer en la Buena Nueva". Cuando se impusieron las Cenizas el Miércoles de Ceniza, muchos escucharon las palabras: "Acuérdate que polvo eres y en polvo te convertirás". Esta fue una invitación a alejarse del apego pecaminoso, al arrepentimiento, a buscar el perdón, a luchar por la virtud, a comprometerse más plenamente en la vida de fe y a reflexionar sobre la realidad de que nuestra vida aquí es corta y que la eternidad es muy larga.

Durante la Semana Santa, recordamos, el Domingo de Ramos, el júbilo de la multitud cuando nuestro Señor entró en Jerusalén. Si bien reconocemos este júbilo, reconocemos que duró poco y pronto se convirtió en rechazo. Se nos recuerda cuántas personas vienen por ceniza el Miércoles de Ceniza y las palmas del Domingo de Ramos, pero abandonan al Señor durante muchos domingos del año. Se necesita una determinación en oración si se quiere lograr una fidelidad más completa.

Durante la Semana Santa, el Jueves Santo recordamos la última Cena, la última Pascua que Jesús celebró con sus discípulos. Ellos tenían el honor de estar en la mesa del Señor y allí se jactaban de su valentía y de su certeza de estar comprometidos con Él hasta la muerte. Sin embargo, uno ya se había dispuesto a traicionar a nuestro Señor y los demás ignoraban que en pocas horas huirían como los muchos que acogieron a Jesús el Domingo de Ramos. Esto nos recuerda cuántos vienen a recibir la Sagrada Comunión y, sin embargo, no cumplen con los requisitos mínimos de fe al promover activamente prácticas, ya sea para ellos mismos o para otros, que se oponen claramente a las enseñanzas de Cristo y su Iglesia.

Durante la Semana Santa, el Viernes Santo recordamos la traición, el abandono, la condenación, la flagelación, la coronación,

la cruz, la crucifixión, las tinieblas, la muerte, la estocada de la lanza. Recordamos también las palabras del Señor, especialmente "Mujer, ahí tienes a tu hijo" cuando Jesús nos encomienda, de manera singular, al cuidado y protección de su propia Madre Santísima y nos invita a reconocerla como nuestra propia Madre espiritual, "Hijo, he aquí tu Madre."

Durante la Semana Santa, el sábado recordamos la espera silenciosa, triste, impaciente. Es el sábado judío y no se puede hacer ningún trabajo. Esperamos con los seguidores de Jesús reunidos, mayormente en silencio recordando los horribles eventos del día anterior que terminaron con la muerte de Jesús en la cruz y su apresurado entierro en una tumba prestada.

Durante la Semana Santa, en la mañana del Domingo de Resurrección, seguimos esperando en triste silencio. Recordamos que algunas mujeres de Jerusalén, seguidoras de Jesús, no tuvieron tiempo el viernes para completar el ritual del entierro (cf. Lc 23,56) y estaban ansiosas por ir al sepulcro lo antes posible después del sábado con las especias y perfumes que habían preparado. Caminamos resueltamente con ellos en el camino hacia la tumba y recordamos y compartimos su asombro cuando ven que la piedra que bloqueaba la entrada había sido removida y encuentran la tumba vacía. Corremos con ellos hacia los apóstoles para anunciarles lo descubierto y tratamos, de comprender el significado del sepulcro vacío. Corremos con Pedro y Juan a la tumba para verlo por nosotros mismos. Al igual que ellos, deberíamos estar llenos de confusión, alegría y asombro cuando más tarde se encuentren con el mismo Señor Resucitado.

Durante la Semana Santa, cada domingo y en cada Misa, recordamos la pasión, muerte y resurrección del Señor. Durante la Semana Santa, somos llevados más profundamente al significado y la importancia de cada Misa y por lo tanto, estamos invitados a profundizar en nuestra apreciación de lo que significa encontrar al Señor resucitado en la Sagrada Comunión. Que nuestro encuentro pascual con el Señor nos lleve a cada uno de nosotros a un compromiso más profundo y fiel con Él con su Iglesia.

Ore por mí como prometo
orar por usted.

Reverendísimo
Robert F. Vasa



¡Bendiciones a todos y Feliz Pascua en el Señor!

By Fr. Mario Valencia

“ **S** i Cristo no hubiera resucitado vana sería nuestra Fe” (1 Cor 15:14) nos recuerda San Pablo. La Resurrección es la manifestación Gloriosa de Nuestro Padre Dios que nos impulsa a adentrarnos más en el misterio de la vida que tiene su propósito no en ésta, sino en alcanzar la revelada por Cristo que nos espera. Esa es la luz al final del túnel que nos impulsa a caminar confiados y sin temor, aunque la obscuridad e incertidumbre rodee nuestra historia, pues sabemos que no vamos solos, sino que Él nos acompaña siempre: “Y he aquí que yo estoy con ustedes todos los días hasta el fin del mundo.” (Mt.28:20) El vivir nuestro año litúrgico en sus diferentes fiestas, solemnidades y tiempos, no solo nos invita a celebrar el misterio de nuestra fe, sino que nos hace participar y experimentar las promesas de Dios en el aquí y el ahora, confiriendo su gracia que nos hace partícipes de su vida en el presente que camina hacia el futuro inherente. En este sentido, podemos decir que nuestra vida de fe en este mundo es una constante cuaresma o adviento que demanda sacrificios, penitencias, y esfuerzos expresados en el tono morado propio del tiempo, pero que a su vez recibe y vive en los destellos luminosos de la resurrección que diluyen la angustia y el sufrimiento, e incluso aligeran el peso del esfuerzo propio de lo humano, experimentando así lo divino que nos invita y lleva al gozo de la resurrección, confiada promesa de poseer ya, nuestra salvación, expresado en el color rosa de los domingos del Gaudete y Laetare, tiempos de gozo que aun en medio del llamado al esfuerzo y la espera nos impulsan a continuar en la perseverancia de la promesa eterna que ya está en nuestra realidad presente: “Yo soy la luz del mundo; el que me sigue, no andará en tinieblas, sino que tendrá la luz de la vida.” (Jn.8:12) Ahora bien, en el ordinario de la vida nos encontramos que nuestra fe no es solo para creerla, sino para vivirla y encarnarla

en lo concreto de nuestros pasos y decisiones, especialmente en la forma de resolver los problemas. Recientemente todos somos testigos de como los niveles de violencia, frustración y estrés en nuestra sociedad cada vez se manifiestan mas; pasajeros agresivos en los aviones, adolescentes que no quieren vivir en reglas, manifestaciones que terminan en violencia, conductores que pelean en las calles, pacientes que agreden a enfermeras y doctores, incluso artistas que abofetean en publico, y que decir de la guerra entre Rusia y Ucrania, etc., situaciones que expresan alto-stress y poca-recompensa que a la menor provocación estallan en rudeza y poca tolerancia de unos por otros. El pensar en uno mismo y en nuestras necesidades y no en la de los demás se va haciendo lo mas ordinario, pues hemos caído en un estado de anomie o carencia de normas sociales que llevan a la anarquía, un vivir sin reglas de conducta social, que produce el desquebrajamiento del tejido social. Por ello

es tan importante, que al fortalecernos en la presencia de Dios y al recibir su gracia cada día caminemos en lo ordinario de nuestra vida consagrando y elevando nuestro corazón, como lo expresamos en cada celebración eucarística hacia Él, consagrando nuestro interior a Él, pues “el hombre bueno del buen tesoro del corazón saca lo bueno y el malo, del malo saca lo malo.” (Lc. 6:45) Éste es nuestro discipulado, ser luz del mundo “para que alumbré a todos los que están en la casa. Brille así vuestra luz delante de los hombres, para que vean vuestras buenas obras y glorifiquen a vuestro Padre que esta en los Cielos.” (Mt. 5:14-16) Que todos nuestros días, sean nuestros Gaudetes y Laetares para que impulsados por la luz de cristo que habita en nosotros contribuyamos con el amor y la paz a la restauración de nuestra sociedad. †

Bendiciones Fr. Mario.





Somos los Nuevos Ministros Hispanos de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar

Nosotros somos Sergio y Eustolia Velázquez. Somos originarios de México, Sergio de Guadalajara y Eustolia de Aguascalientes. Nos casamos en Julio de 1982. Siempre hemos residido en Napa. Los primeros 3 años de nuestra vida matrimonial asistíamos a Misa en Yountville. Luego cuando se iniciaron las Misas en español nos cambiamos a St. John de Baptist en Napa.

Tenemos la bendición de tener 3 hijos 2 mujeres y un hombre. Y por gracia de Dios tenemos 5 nietos.

Nuestros hijos tuvieron la bendición de poder asistir a la escuela católica de St. John the Baptist. Como familia siempre estuvimos muy involucrados en la escuela y como feligreses de la iglesia, siempre hemos estado involucrados en diferentes ministerios y actividades de la Parroquia.

Yo trabaje en un taller de pintura por mas de 40 años y Eustolia en el Condado de Napa por 30 años. Hoy, por la gracia de Dios, los dos estamos jubilados de nuestros trabajos dándonos la oportunidad para servir más en nuestra comunidad.

Mi esposa Eustolia ha coordinado el primer año de catecismo en español por más de 20 años. Algunos de estos niños regresan para ayudar, escuchando el llamado de Dios para ser ejemplo a otros niños. El poder ser parte de este ministerio le da una gran satisfacción y es una gran bendición

poder ser parte de la formación de estos pequeños. Además, Eustolia también sirve como ministro Extraordinario de la Sagrada Comunión y Proclamadora de la palabra. Eustolia trabaja como voluntaria en St. Vincent de Paul, donde ayudan a las personas mas necesitadas de nuestra comunidad.

Yo, por gracia de Dios fui ordenando como Diacono en agosto 2012. Y trabajo activamente en la parroquia y apoyando a los diferentes ministerios como el Movimiento Familiar Cristiano, el programa de RICA, ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión y Proclamadores de la Palabra, grupo de oración Buen Pastor, grupo del Rosario, visitando a los enfermos y ayudando a los desamparados.

Nos da mucho gusto aceptar la invitación y ser parte de la Oficina de Vida Familiar. Con la ayuda de Dios y sus oraciones, vamos a poder ayudar donde haya la necesidad y nos ponemos a sus ordenes.

Bendiciones a todos!



Diacono Sergio y Eustolia Velazquez

Co-Directores de la Oficina de Matrimonio y Vida Hispano



Make This the Year You Take Your Family to **THE PASSION PLAY!**

ADMISSION IS FREE + We are always looking for new cast members.

The Lake County Annual Outdoor Passion Play happens every year on the third weekend in May. This year it will fall on Saturday and Sunday, May 14th, and 15th, 2022. The start time is 4:00pm, and the play is 2 hours long.

The dedicated members of the Passion Play Community invite you to the outdoor stage to view our annual presentation of the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lake County Passion Play Grounds, off Highway 29, create the setting for our reenactment. This property's gentle, rolling hills overlook one of America's most beautiful lakes: Clear Lake.

The earliest dramatic representations of the Crucifixion, in Latin verse, were given early in the 13th Century. One hundred years later, Passion Plays were being performed by amateur players in both German and French.

At the height of their popularity, in the middle of the 15th Century, they had developed into elaborate productions requiring three days to perform.

Of the passion Plays performed in modern times, the best known is one dating from 1634 at Oberammergau in the Bavarian Alps. In 1939, some immigrants from Germany presented the first performance of the Black Hills Passion Play in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Here in our own diocese of Santa Rosa, more than 150 players re-enact this most touching of dramas. Mounted Roman soldiers sweep across the 1,000-foot stage; sheep wander across the hillside; a powerful sound system carries the dialogue faithfully drawn from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. A talented team of directors, producers, and costume designers work throughout the year to create this experience.

The Passion Play is not a spectacle. Rather, it is a prayerful expression of the faith of the people involved. Men, women, and children from many denominations have come together to make this a truly Ecumenical experience. The unity among the players is a visible sign of the Holy Spirit.

You can visit the website:
www.lakecountypassionplay.org
to get directions and support the play.
You can also call: 707-263-0349
or find out more on Facebook and
Instagram.

Supreme Court Continued.

6. What does the leaked draft say, and does it reflect the court's final opinion?

The leaked draft shows the court siding with Mississippi, as well as a thorough repudiation of Roe and Casey.

"We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled," Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. writes in the purported 98-page draft document, which is labeled as the "Opinion of the Court." "It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives."

The Politico news report said that four other justices had joined Alito in the majority, three

are preparing dissents, and Chief Justice John Roberts — often a swing vote — has not yet settled on a side.

Whether or not the draft is genuine, it is currently impossible to say whether it reflects the court's final judgement, as votes and language in the drafts can change. Again, the court's opinion will not be final until it is published, and it is not yet clear whether the court will publish the final opinion early, or stick to the expected date of roughly late June.

7. What will happen if the court does, ultimately, overturn Roe?

Whatever the court ultimately decides, the consequences for the country will be enormous.

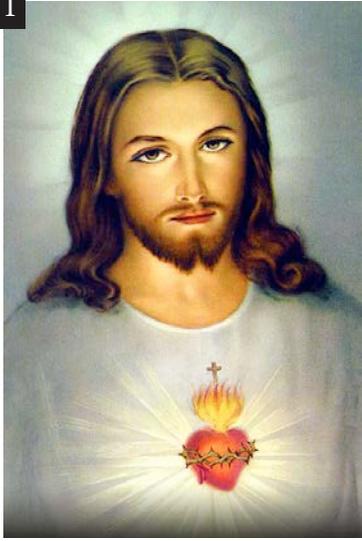
If Roe and Casey are overturned, abortion law would be left up to each individual state. 26 states would certainly or likely ban abortion.

If the Mississippi law is struck down, and Roe and Casey are affirmed, it would be a devastating setback for the pro-life movement, which has pinned its long-term legal strategy on someday having a conservative supermajority on the Supreme Court, as is the case today.

Part of a continuing series examining the U.S. Supreme Court case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, a direct challenge to the 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion throughout the United States. For more see:

www.catholicnewsagency.com/tags/8832/roe-v-wade-2021 for more. 

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SAINTS for MAY+JUNE

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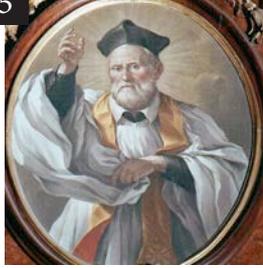
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14



- 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

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4



- 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 (no photo)
- 16. **JUNE 29** St. Peter and St. Paul
- 17. **JUNE 30** First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

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Brilliant Wisdom on Marriage & Family by G. K. Chesterton

“The disintegration of rational society started in the drift from the hearth and the family”, wrote G.K. Chesterton in 1933. “The solution must be a drift back.”

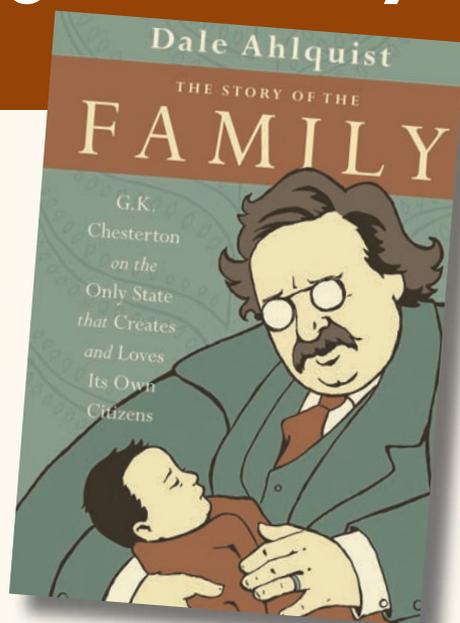
In a world that has lost touch with normality, it takes a pioneer to rediscover the wonders of the normal. This masterful compilation of texts from the prolific G.K. Chesterton, edited by GKC expert Dale Ahlquist, illustrates the glory of the family—the heritage of romance, love, marriage, parenthood, and home. It is a hymn in praise of the saucepan, the kettle, the hairbrush, the umbrella stand, what Chesterton calls “the brave old bones of life”. With piercing wit, the English writer pits all these venerable truths against the fashions of divorce, contraception, and abortion, along with the troubling philosophies that have afflicted education and the workplace since the early 20th century.

Society is built on the family, and Chesterton helps readers to see this reality with fresh eyes. He writes: “The first things must be the very fountains of life, love and birth and babyhood; and these are always covered fountains, flowing in the quiet courts of the home.”

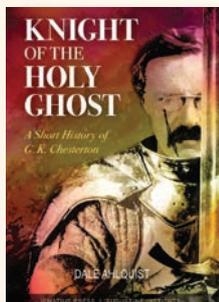
“Chesterton was not only a great defender of the faith but a great defender of the family. This excellent collection of the best of Chesterton’s writing on the family is more needed today than it was in Chesterton’s own day.” —**Joseph Pearce**, Author, *Wisdom and Innocence: A Life of G. K. Chesterton*

“Brilliantly assembled by Ahlquist, this Chesterton chrestomathy does with rapier wit and robust humor what so few could do—make laughingstocks of those sappers who so earnestly undermine the family in the name of freedom. The Woke should fear this book. Everyone else should buy it.” —**Robert Reilly**, Author, *America on Trial*

“Mankind’s future depends on whether we embrace or reject the wisdom of this book. Read this book before doing so becomes a criminal act.” —**Christopher Check**, President, Catholic Answers

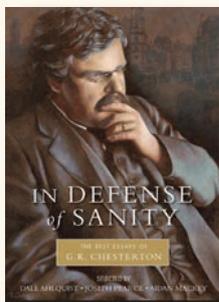


The Story of the Family
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◆ KNIGHT OF THE HOLY GHOST

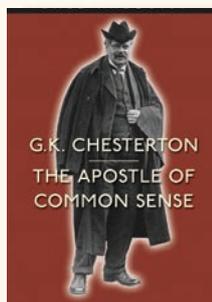
In a rollicking adventure quite Chestertonian in flavor, Ahlquist captains an expedition of discovery into who this GKC fellow is. He deftly and cleverly explores Chesterton as a man, as a writer, and as a potential saint. KHGP . . . Sewn Softcover, \$16.95



◆ IN DEFENSE OF SANITY

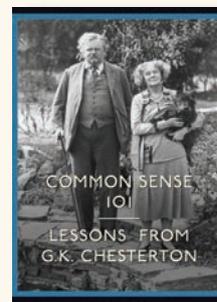
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Also on Chesterton



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