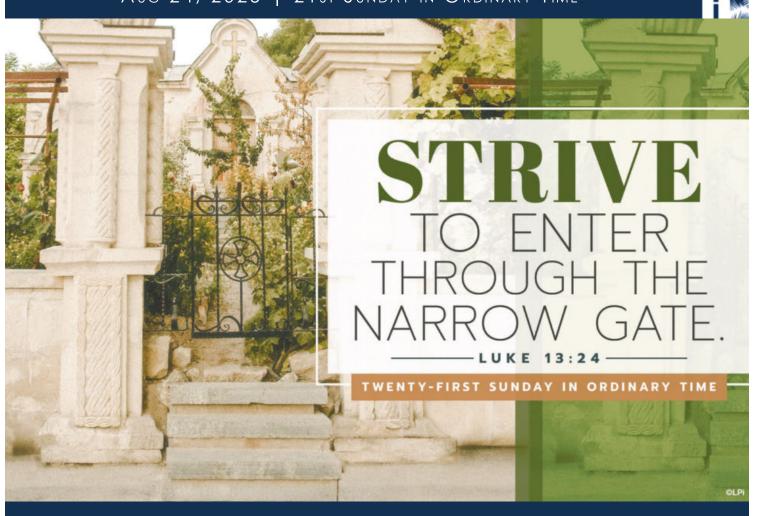
ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY Aug 24, 2025 | 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Rev. Msgr. Paul Dotson, Pastor
Rev. Charles Balamaze, Associate Pastor | Rev. Msgr. Peter O'Reilly, In Residence
Deacon Don Burt | Deacon Jim Egnatuk | Deacon Dale Sheckler

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 pm (Sunday Liturgy) Sunday 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 5:00 pm

DAILY MASSES

Monday - Saturday 8:10 AM Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 PM

ADORATION CHAPEL

 Sunday
 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

 Monday & Friday
 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

 Saturday
 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

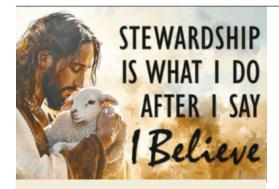
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Pastoral Center 310-540-0329
Office for Worship 310-316-0090
Office of Religious Education 310-316-4460
O.C.I.A. for Adults 310-316-0961
St. Lawrence Martyr School 310-316-3049
Youth Ministry/Confirmation 310-316-0466
Funerals 310-540-0329 x274
St. Lawrence Martyr Gift Shop 310-540-0329 x249

To become a member of our community of faith, please stop by or call the Pastoral Center at 310-540-0329 or register online: https://www.stlm.org/im-new



GIVING TO ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR IS EASY WITH ELEXIO

Forgot your envelope? Are you visiting us today and want to make a ONE TIME GIFT? Want to give to a special collection? Follow these easy and secure steps to Text-to-Give:

- Text GIVE to 424-414-STLM.
- Follow the text instructions to complete your donation.
- Save the number as a contact in your phone to make future giving faster and easier.

You may also give by scanning this QR Code with the camera app on your cellphone or visit STLM.ORG/GIVING



We thank you for your generosity and support of our St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Community.

PASTORAL CENTER HOURS AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 1

AUGUST 24 SETTEMBERT

Sun	8/24	08:00 am - 1:00 pm
Mon	8/25	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Tue	8/26	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Wed	8/27	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Thu	8/28	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Fri	8/29	08:30 am - 12:30 pm
		01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Sat	8/30	Closed
Sun	8/31	08:00 am - 1:00 pm
Mon	9/1	Labor Day

Office Closed

PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY

Good Shepherd, Guide me through the narrow gate. Remove from me anything that distracts me from You, Your love, Your invitation, Your mission. Keep me close to You, familiar at every step. Amen. ©LPI

Tea for God's Children Fundraiser Thank You

With an abundance of gratitude, we sincerely thank our St. Lawrence Martyr Priests, Deacons, Staff and Parishioners for your support. Your generosity allowed F.A.I.T.H. Ministry to donate \$ 8,363.61 to Gems Uncovered. This organization's mission is to help young men and women affected by Human Trafficking rebuild their lives so that they can move from a life of hopelessness to a life of purpose. For more information, please visit their website at **GemsUncovered.org**.



Please continue to pray for the victims and survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. We also ask that you pray for traffickers, pornographers and buyers of services, that God may change their hearts and minds and stop their exploitation of victims. Thank You and God Bless

St. Lawrence Martyr School Non-Discrimination Policy



The school, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students regardless of race, color, national origin, and/or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, medical condition, sex, or national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies and practices, scholarship programs, and athletic and

other school-administered programs, although certain athletic leagues and other programs may limit participation and some archdiocesan schools operate as single-sex schools.

While the school does not discriminate against students with special needs, a full range of services may not always be available to them. Decisions concerning the admission and continued enrollment of a student in the school are based upon the student's emotional, academic, and physical abilities and the resources available to the school in meeting the student's needs.

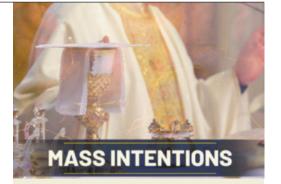
[Note that this School Student Non-Discrimination Policy does not provide nor imply that the archdiocese waives any legal exceptions or exemptions that may apply to it as a religious nonprofit organization.]

This Catholic Elementary School publishes the above policy in the staff and parent/student handbooks, public relations/recruitment brochures and in other publications such as the parish bulletin and school newspaper. The school also publishes applicable grievance procedures in the staff and parent/student handbooks.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for all those suffering illness and in need of healing and comfort.

Antonio Borromeo Margaret Machuca Anne Dale
Carolyn Epps Diane Cole Salene Chavez
Msgr. Gary Bauler Dale Ziegler Lisa Ziegler
Margie Morsches Carol Campbell Anne Lafranchi
Les Rangel-Santos Monica Rangel-Santos Gayle Meyer



THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

May all the souls of the recently departed, through the mercy of Christ, rest in peace.

Krissy Carlos Petra Castellanos Jaksa Barbic

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. (Isaiah 66:18)

Psalm: Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (Psalm 117)

Second Reading: So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed. (Hebrews 12:12-13)

Gospel: For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." (Luke 13:30)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPi

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30

Monday: 1Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10, Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 23:23-26
Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, Matthew 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (429), Mark 6:17-29
Saturday: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11, Matthew 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29, Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a,

Luke 14:1, 7-14



CHURCH HIERARCHY

O.C.I.A. in Pastoral Center Wednesday, September 3, 7:00 pm ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

7:00 am | Ruth Platamone †
9:00 am | Maureen Cash †
11:30 am | Maria Ibarra †
5:00 pm | Fern MacDonald †

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

8:10 am | Pedro Duran † Krissy Carlos †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

8:10 am | Kathy O'Herron 12:00 pm | Luis Aguirre †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

8:10 am | Teodoro & Rosina Chiaravalloti †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

8:10 am | Roxy & Christopher Sigua 12:00 pm | James Michael Barrable †

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

8:10 am | Remigio Gonzales †

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

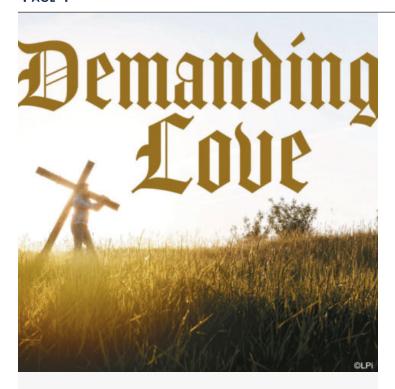
8:10 am | Wolford & Ritter Families 4:00 pm | Ed & Alanna Kennedy

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

7:00 am | Alvaro Fernandez †
9:00 am | Brenda Argano †
11:30 am | Phyllis DeCrescenzo

(† Deceased)

Parishioners are invited to offer Mass intentions for loved ones, living or deceased. A donation of \$20 is suggested. You may also add your loved one to the Book of Intentions in the church by Mary. Your offering supports our parish and the spiritual work of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.



GOSPEL MEDITATION by FR. JOHN MUIR

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going! ©LPI

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Mini Reflection: Jesus' whole thing was that you can sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like."

Heaven and Regina George

There are certain phrases that serve as a kind of shibboleth for millennials, a dog whistle that only ears formed between 1981 and 1996 can discern. "You can't sit with us!" is one of those phrases.

It's from the movie *Mean Girls*, (which, I hear from my younger family members, has now become cool with the kids again, so maybe my point about it being niche is incorrect). The character Regina George, merciless ruler of the cool kids, is rejected from the ultra-exclusive lunch table she herself formed when her minions, tired of her cruelty, serve her the most devastating words a teenager can hear in public: "You can't sit with us."

So passes earthly glory, as they say.

At first blush, this Gospel gives "Mean Girls" vibes. We have an image of the unlucky masses clamoring for entry into the kingdom of heaven as God locks the door against them, saying, "I do not know where you are from."

Very "you-can't-sit-with-us."

But we need to remember that the people pounding on the door of heaven in today's Gospel aren't people who wanted a seat at God's lunch table — at least, not until it was the only lunch table left, because they had Regina George'd their way out of all the other ones.

Jesus' whole thing was that you can sit with us, whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever you've done. But there are a lot of lunch tables in the world, and not everyone wants to be at one with rules like "repent" and "be good to that person you really don't like." It's not always an easy table to sit at, especially when there are so many other options.

We have to choose heaven before heaven becomes our only choice.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman . @LPi

ON THE DEATH OF A LOVED-ONE

Starting July 1, 2025, families experiencing the loss of a loved one may call 310-540-0329 x274 at any time to begin funeral arrangements at St. Lawrence Martyr. This dedicated line is monitored three times a day, and a minister will return your call within 24 hours.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading: Isaiah reveals to us God's plan to gather and unite all His people and witness His glory in the age to come. What are you hoping for in the future?

2nd Reading: The author of Hebrews offers words of encouragement for community members struggling and discouraged in their faith. Is there a friend or co-worker you could look to support this week?

Gospel: Jesus speaks to the crowds of the dire consequences of rejecting his call to salvation. What could be some effective ways to bring others to faith in Jesus? ©LPI

LIVE THE LITURGY

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate," Jesus tells us. "Many will attempt...but will not be strong enough." So let us never be so foolish that we rely on our own strength. Narrow does not mean unpassable — not if we ask for help. ©LPi





Monthly Rosary
First Monday of each Month

Monday, September 1, 7:00 pm In the Church

All Are Welcome!



See You in the *Eucharist*

THE BOOK OF GOSPELS

After the short silence after the Second Reading during the Liturgy of the Word of the Sunday Mass, the priest stands (or the deacon) to bring the Book of Gospels from the altar to the ambo (where the scripture readings are proclaimed). Here at SLM since the Gospel Acclamation or "Alleluia" is sung to accompany



the procession of the Book of Gospels, this acclamation is sung once the book is airborne. The procession of the Book of Gospels during Mass signifies reverence for the Scripture and highlights the importance of the Gospel in the liturgy. This procession is often accompanied by incense, candles, and the singing of the Gospel Acclamation, which enhances the solemnity of the moment and engages the senses of the assembly.

The Book of Gospels is a liturgical book that contains all the Gospel texts used during Mass. Its procession emphasizes the centrality of the Gospel in Christian worship, symbolizing the presence of Christ among the assembly. This practice is rooted in ancient traditions and has been reintroduced in modern liturgical practices to enhance the reverence for scripture. During the Entrance Procession, the deacon or, in his absence, a lector carries the Book of Gospels. It is held at a modest elevation, facing outward so that it can been seen by the faithful. Upon reaching the altar, the Book of Gospels is placed reverently, typically lying down, which signifies its importance and the presence of Christ in the Word.

The practice of processing the Book of Gospels has historical roots, with its use becoming more pronounced after the liturgical reforms of Vatican II. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) specifies that the Book of Gospels should be carried in procession, distinguishing it from the Lectionary, which contains the texts of the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, and Second Reading for the Mass. This distinction underscores the special honor given to the Gospels as the words of Christ, setting them apart from other scriptural texts.

Les Rangel-Santos
Director of Worship: Liturgy & Music
les.rangelsantos@stlm.org

SLM GIFT SHOP SUMMER HOURS

Sun | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM Mon - Sat | Closed

Summer Hours Thru August 31 310-540-0329 x249 | giftshop@stlm.org

VOTIVE CANDLES

Candles are available at the Pastoral Center or in the Gift Shop. Candles are \$5.00 ea. and stay lit for five days.

NO DONUTS THIS WEEK

We look forward to sharing Coffee & Donuts with you in the Fall.

SOBER, NOT SOMBER

Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous Sundays | 10:15 AM Pastoral Center (Office)

The meetings are mixed, closed, with handicapped access.

More Info | 310-540-0329 x 545

LA Central Office | 323-936-4343

DON'T DRINK - CALL FIRST

BAPTISM MINISTRY

Each baby baptized at SLM receives a free handmade quilt crafted by a lovely parishioner, or a blanket crocheted by our Knitting Ministry.

If you want to support this ministry, you may drop off a monetary donation at the Pastoral Center. Please indicate **Baptism Ministry**.

Interested in volunteering?
Looking for support?



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

Sun, Aug 24, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center Gathering of people who are directly or indirectly affected by care giving of others. 310-540-0329 x 540

MICHELANGELO MINISTRY

Mon, Aug 25, 10:00 am | Parish Hall Explore the artist within you & be part of a community who love the creative process. 310-540-0329 x 540

RESPECT LIFE ROSARY

Mon, Aug 25, 7:00 pm | In the Church Dedicated to bringing the message of life to the parish & the world.

310-678-2583 | DaleSheckler@gmail.com

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT

Wed, Aug 27, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall Family Support Group for those with loved ones suffering from mental illness. 310-792-0244

YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL

Sat, Aug 30 , 12:00 pm | At the beach Young Adult fellowship and formation guided by Fr. Charles. 310-540-0329

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Wed, Sep 3, 10:00 am | Pastoral Center Small Community of Faith who love reading & discussing books. 310-415-0876

CATECHISM & COFFEE

Thu, Sep 4, 9:00 am | Parish Hall Discussion of the Catechism of the Catholic Church guided by Fr. Charles. 310-540-0329

LGBT+ (ONE HEART) MINISTRY

Tue, Sep 9, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center Ministry open to members of the LGBT+ Community, family, friends & allies. Don.Burt@stlm.org

ONE IN CHRIST MINISTRY

Wed, Sep 10, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center A ministry for racial healing and cultural celebration. Come pray with us. 310-540-0329 x 276

PADDLE N PRAISE

Sat, Sep 13 | Lower Courts All adults 18 and over invited to fun, faith and fellowship through Pickleball. 424-408-9738

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Sun, Sep 14, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center Group meeting for those mourning the loss of a loved one.

310-540-0329 x 540

READING ROUNDUP

Mon, Sep 15, 10:00 am | Parish Hall Silently read your own book and then discuss your book, and why you like it! 310-540-0329 x 540

SINGALONG JAM NIGHTS

Mon, Sep 15, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall Bring instruments and/or the desire to sing along to well-loved songs in a group setting. RauLisaV@gmail.com

ST. KATERI CIRCLE

Fri, Sep 19, 6:00 pm | Call for location A Native American prayer group devoted to St. Kateri Tekakwitha. 310-901-2432

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Sun, Sep 21, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center A group of women supporting each other through life's many transitions. 310-540-0329 x 540

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

Thu, Nov 20, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall Supports the victims of human trafficking in the South Bay and Los Angeles County. $310-540-0329 \times 380$

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

TBD

Small groups discuss topics through the lens of faith and provide support for each other. 310-722-0176

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Stephen Ministry Message Line

Christian friend to listen, pray and support you in difficult times. (Confidential) 310-540-0329 x375

Saturday Street Ministry

Provide food & clothing to homeless in LA. 310-540-0329 x276

Open Arms Ministry

Friendly visits to home bound parishioners. $310-540-0329 \times 540$

Caregivers, Take Time To Care For Yourselves

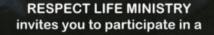
An informal gathering of people whose lives are directly or indirectly affected by their caregiving of parents, children, spouses, or anyone whose lives are directly or indirectly affected by their caregiving. Our group is a safe place where feelings about God, spirituality, and struggles are shared; where issues of isolation and loneliness are addressed; where, as a group, individuals find the courage and strength to continue on; where caregivers teach each other ways to strengthen their relationship with God and with our community.

Fourth Sunday of the month @ 10:30 AM in the Parish Center.

MICHELANGELO MINISTRY

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time" - Thomas Merton We invite you to explore the artist within you, to learn to hear the Holy Spirit guiding you towards your creativity. Don't be shy! This is a ministry where the slogan "No experience necessary" holds true and is a socially supportive and safe space to explore, create, and grow. We will learn and laugh and be joyful together through art. And if you just want to show up and paint rocks, this is the place for you! Rocks and paint will always be on hand.

2nd & 4th Monday each month | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | Parish Hall - upstairs



Rosary for Life 4th Monday of each month, 7 pm in the church

310-678-2583 dalesheckler@gmail.com



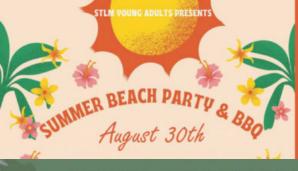


Family Support Group

You are NOT alone

Mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends or coworkers. Join us in a safe, confidential environment to share your experiences and learn from others. We are a FAMILY Support Group for those with loved ones suffering from mental illness. (Please note that this group is for loved ones, not for those with Mental Illness). Fourth Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 PM.

Kim Sheckler or Tracy Ayotte | familytofamilystlm@gmail.com | 310-792-0244



Toin us for food, games and fellowship with young adults from South Bay parishes

1-5 pm - Beach, Avenue I, Redondo Beach

5-7 pm BBQ @ SLM



SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

All are welcome to join this Small Community of Faith.

Our new book is Imagine You Walked with Jesus: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplative Prayer by Jerry Windley-Daoust.

Call for more information, or just show up.

1st and 3rd Wed of each month | 10:00am | Pastoral Center Jeanine Gallagher | 310-415-0876



SLM SCHOOL SCRIP

Tue & Thu | 8:00 AM - 2:45 PM 310-316-3049

Available from the Parish Office outside of regular Scrip office hours.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Shawls and blankets available to give to anyone who needs an uplift. The shawls and blankets are free of charge and available in the Pastoral Center.

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

The F.A.I.T.H. (Freedom & Intervention for the Trafficking of Humans) Ministry supports the victims of human trafficking in the South Bay and in Los Angeles County.

We are collecting toiletry items for victims of human trafficking. The items can be dropped off at the Pastoral Center during normal business hours.

faith.ministry@stlm.org 310-540-0329 x 380

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday | 8 AM - 10 AM 1st Sunday | 8 AM - 11 AM

We prepare bags of groceries for individual families and sack lunches given to the homeless. For a list of preferred donations please visit www.stlm.org/giving-back.

Monetary donations may be given online through Elexio Giving, mailed or dropped in the Pastoral Center mail slot. Please indicate **Food Pantry**.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity as we continue to serve those in need.
310-540-0329 x 276



SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN: WHAT HAVING A "HEALTHY CAUTION" TOWARD ADULTS CAN MEAN, PART 1

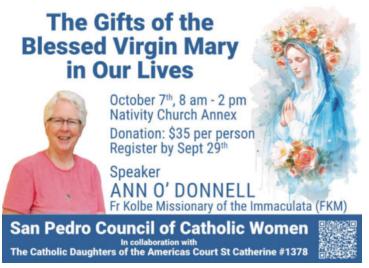
Having a "healthy caution" about adults in your life does not mean treating all adults as potential perpetrators. It is important to increase awareness about the dangers and the signs of abuse without creating paranoia. Safe adults should not be vigilante protectors, but should have a perspective of caution and should not ignore warning signs of inappropriate behavior. To learn more, read the VIRTUS® article "Why Should We Have a 'Healthy Caution' Toward Adults" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.















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Attorney, Collaborator & Mediator

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