

Walk for Life Jan. 26 in SF

Staff report

Join tens of thousands of pro-lifers of all ages, races and religions at the 15th annual Walk for Life West Coast on Jan. 26 in San Francisco.

At the 12:30 p.m. rally at Civic Center Plaza, Rev. Walter Hoye, founder and president of the Issues4Life Foundation, whose unjust imprisonment for exercising his First Amendment rights made him a worldwide hero to the pro-life movement, will be among the speakers. Hoye will be joined by Rev. Shenan Boquet, president of Human Life International, who travels the world spreading the Gospel of Life; pro-life and pro-chastity speaker Patricia Sandoval, who will share her gripping story of the journey from pain and fear to hope and life; and Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood worker who crossed the line to join the pro-life movement.

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MICHELE JURICH/THE CATHOLIC VOICE

The gymnasium at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin was transformed: At the basketball court's baseline, a folding table, covered with a white cloth, and anchored by a tabletop crucifix, became the altar.

'You really feel the presence of Christ here'

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

For one hour on a Saturday morning in late December, the gymnasium at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin was transformed into a holy place. At the basketball court's baseline, a folding table, covered with a white cloth, and anchored by a tabletop crucifix, became the altar.

A few feet in front of it, 10 dozen plastic chairs were arranged, a center aisle dividing them.

Ushered in by deputies, the congregation filed into the seats, filling the front rows first. Volunteers from the detention ministry greeted them and handed out worship aids and song sheets.

To the right of the altar, a choir of about a dozen volunteers from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton prepared to sing. As "Joy to the World" filled the gym-turned-church, the bishop of Oakland processed to the altar, accompanied by priests and a deacon who are involved in detention ministry.

Rev. Lawrence D'Anjou, pastor of St. Raymond Church in Dublin, in whose boundaries the jail stands; Revs. Alberto Perez and Luke Ssemakula, who work in detention ministry; Deacon John Mignano of Transfiguration Parish in Castro Valley, who works in detention ministry; and Rev. Alexander Castillo, episcopal secretary, joined Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, at the altar.

Richard Denoix, lay Catholic chaplain at Santa Rita, had invited two inmates to proclaim the day's readings. They spoke in loud, clear voices. The congregation's participation, in both response and in song, was also vibrant.

The active participation comes at no surprise to those who volunteer regularly in the detention ministry.

"They all have a Bible," said Lori Nelson, a volunteer for the past 16 years, and they know it well.

"You really feel the presence of Christ here," said Matt Gray, a member of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. "You don't have to search or seek. It's here."

In his homily, Bishop Barber encouraged the men to look beyond getting out of jail to eternal life.

In order to live forever, he told them, we need to get some of the divinity Jesus had inside of us.

"You're then invincible," he said. "Even if someone kills you, you're going to live forever."

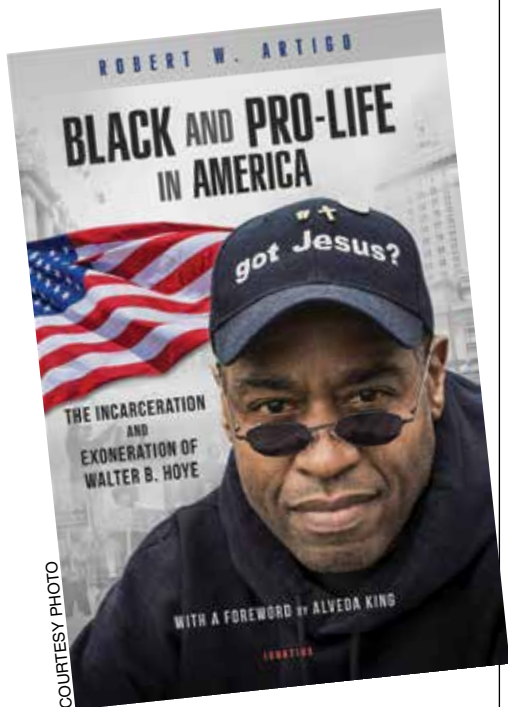
He encouraged the inmates to talk with the chaplains and detention volunteers about receiving the sacraments that will allow them to do just that.

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, he told them, they have "another mother."

"Mary and Jesus are always on duty, taking care of us," Bishop Barber said.

Volunteers from the detention ministry, which regularly visits inmates, offered prayer cards and candy to them at the end of Mass. Several spoke their thanks to the choir and volunteers as they returned to their housing units.

The shepherd, holding his crozier, did not leave the altar until the last of blue-clad flock had filed out of the room.



COURTESY PHOTO

A new book detailing Rev. Walter Hoye's experience, "Black and Pro-Life in America: The Incarceration and Exoneration of Walter B. Hoye II," by Robert W. Artigo.

Diocese greets new parish with joining of two Oakland churches

By Albert C. Pacciorini
Staff writer

The New Year officially welcomed a new parish to the Oakland diocese on Jan. 1.

Divine Mercy Parish is a union of two Oakland churches, St. Lawrence O'Toole-St. Cyril at 3725 High St., and St. Paschal Baylon, 3700 Dorisa Ave. St. Lawrence O'Toole-St. Cyril was formed in 2001, combining separate, older parishes.

Similar to other unified parishes, two separate campuses remain on High Street and Dorisa Avenue. In Alameda,

St. Philip Neri and St. Albert the Great combined administration in 2011; Our Lady of Guadalupe in Fremont combined St. Leonard and Santa Paula; and the Catholic Community of Pleasanton operates St. Augustine and St. Elizabeth Seton.

At Divine Mercy, worship — Masses, Sacraments, religious and other events — will be held at the separate sites. There is one parish office, one rectory, one parish council, one finance council, one music ministry. For reasons of economy and efficiency, administrative operations are

Divine Mercy Parish, Oakland
www.DivineMercyOak.org

combined, in this case on High Street.

Combining the existing three names into one for the new parish would be unwieldy, so parishioners submitted names. Divine Mercy was the most popular — and the new name was announced at a parish picnic on Sept. 30.

Joining the adjacent parishes, which encompass a vast geographical area of Oakland, had been under consideration since 2017.

The new parish covers three ZIP codes, and within its boundaries there is great

(Continued on Page 11.)



ALBERT C. PACCIORINI/THE CATHOLIC VOICE

Rev. Brandon Macadaeg next to a painting of the Divine Mercy of Jesus.



World Day
of the Sick 2019

Saturday, February 9, 2019
11:00 a.m.

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On our cover

A dozen volunteers from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton offered music and song at a Christmas Mass for prisoners at the Santa Rita jail. More on this page.

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BISHOP BARBER’S SCHEDULE

Jan. 2-8: US bishops’ Spiritual Retreat, Chicago

Jan. 16-21: International Bishops’ Forum on Justice & the Economy, Lisbon, Portugal

THE DIOCESE



**Regina Mundi:
Carrying the Good News into the world**

When the Diocese of Oakland was created in 1962, Bishop Floyd Begin petitioned the Vatican to place it under the protection of Our Lady Queen of the World. In recounting that story in his Dec. 15 homily at a Mass attended by the Regina Mundi Society, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, told the gathering of one of his favorite titles for Our Lady. While the contents of the original Ark of the Covenant were lost, when Mary answered “yes” to the Angel Gabriel, she became the Ark of the New Covenant. She carried the Son of God in her body. When we receive Holy Communion, we carry Christ into the world. Bishop Barber thanked the members of the Regina Mundi Society, who are donors who give \$1,000 or more each year to the Bishop’s Appeal, for helping him bring the Good News to all the people who live in the Diocese of Oakland.

Correction

Claire Elmore is an active docent at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland. A photo caption in the Dec. 10 issue was wrong.

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February 18	Pilgrimages & Retreats	January 30
March 4	Summer Camps, Schools & Activities	February 20
March 18	Senior Living	March 6
April 8	Holy Week & Easter Liturgies	March 27
April 29	Summer Camps & Schools/CYO Wrap Up	April 17
May 13	Catholic Volunteers Tribute	May 1
May 27	General News	May 15
June 10	Graduation Tributes	May 29
June 24	Senior Living & Resources/CYO Wrap Up	June 12
July 8*	Religious Jubilarians Celebrations/Vocations	June 26
August 12*	Religious Jubilarians Celebrations	July 31
September 2	Fall Festivals/College Information Guide	August 21
September 16	Catholic High Schools Information Guide	September 4
October 7	Elementary School Guide/Respect Life	September 25
October 21	National Vocations Awareness Week/Retreats/Pilgrimages	October 9
November 11	Senior Living & Resources/Holiday Guide	October 30
November 25	Gift of Giving/General News	November 13
December 16*	Christmas Liturgies	December 4

*The Catholic Voice — Publication theme subject to change.
The Voice publishes only one issue in July, August and December.

Rev. Gerard Moran returns to St. Isidore Parish in Danville

Staff report

Rev. Gerard K. Moran, who was on administrative leave since Sept. 21, has been restored as pastor at St. Isidore Parish, Danville, effective Dec. 17.

Father Moran was removed after Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, was informed that Patrick Foley had been celebrating Mass and other sacraments at St. Isidore. Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego issued a letter Sept. 4 saying Foley had been removed from priestly ministry.

In a Dec. 17 letter, the bishop wrote, “This is a grave concern, since this meant the children of St. Isidore Parish and School had been at risk of being with a priest (Foley) with credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

“We asked anyone with information or concerns about Patrick Foley’s behavior to report to law enforcement and to contact our diocesan chancellor, Steve Wilcox. As of today, we have not received any allegations of sexual abuse or inappropriate sexual behavior by Foley at St. Isidore’s.”

Visiting priests and deacons must always obtain a letter of suitability before ministry in another diocese. Not doing so is a violation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The bishop wrote:

“I have three priorities regarding this matter:

1. Safety of children is paramount.
2. Following the charter is mandatory.
3. The parish exists for the spiritual good of the parishioners, not for the benefit of the bishop or pastor.

“As we have seen from this terrible incident at St. Isidore’s, the charter requirements are effective. They allow us to know with greater certainty that those who serve in our parishes and schools are following the same code of conduct to have a safe, healthy and holy environment for our children and young people.”

Visiting priests must now have their letter of suitability posted at the church, and Bishop Barber is sending auditors to St. Isidore quarterly to be certain all safe environment procedures are followed.

In a letter to priests, the bishop promised surprise verification audits will take place at other parishes in the diocese, ensuring these (charter) procedures are being followed throughout the diocese.

Bishop Barber also thanked Rev. Paul Schmidt, retired, who agreed to serve as temporary administrator at St. Isidore, and school Superintendent Kathleen Radecke, for her leadership of the faculty of St. Isidore School, during the investigation.

Bishop Barber spoke at Masses Dec. 15-16 at St. Isidore, explaining the issue.

“I told the parishioners of St. Isidore that I was giving Father Moran another chance, and I asked them to do so as well. But I also insist, and will verify, that the Charter for the Protection of Young People is followed in every parish in our diocese.”

What is a “letter of suitability?” Read an earlier story here: <https://bit.ly/2BNFCuQ>.

Santa Maria pastor reappointed vicar general

Staff report

Very Rev. George Mockel, vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland, has been reappointed to the post. Father Mockel is also the full-time pastor at Santa Maria Parish in Orinda.

In making the appointment, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, said, “Upon the expiration of his five-year term as vicar general, in December this year, Father Mockel requested that his term not be renewed so he could devote full time to his parish responsibilities at Santa Maria in Orinda.

“Upon further reflection and serious consideration of his request, I have asked Father Mockel to remain as vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland. His dedication to our diocese over these years has been invaluable in helping me in my ministry as bishop and in serving the faithful ... He has done an excellent job as the vicar general of our diocese and has always served with prudence, wisdom and discretion.”

The bishop said he was grateful to Father Mockel for his loyalty and said he would continue as both vicar general and pastor, and as director of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith.

Father Mockel has been vicar general since July 1, 2005, and served Bishops Allen H. Vigneron and Salvatore J. Cordileone, both became archbishops, in Detroit and San Francisco, respectively. The vicar general aids the bishop in the overall administration and governance of the diocese. He exercises the bishop’s ordinary executive authority over the entire diocese with the exception of any authority the bishop or the law of the Church excludes. He acts as a kind of chief operating officer and assists in the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Father Mockel has served at several parishes in the diocese, including St. Bonaventure in Concord, Church of the Assumption in San Leandro, Corpus Christi in Piedmont and St. Agnes in Concord.

“I thank Father Mockel for his continued service and dedication to Christ’s flock that has been entrusted to our care,” Bishop Barber said.

THE Catholic VOICE

“Let the Catholic voice . . . be spread in every diocese, in every parish, in every association, in every family.”
— Pope Paul VI

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Is this the end of the Christmas season or the beginning?

By Joe Heschmeyer

Terry Mattingly of GetReligion has a great column about the “two Christmases.” As he notes, for the Church, the Christmas season runs from Christmas Day (Dec. 25) to Epiphany (Jan. 6). These are the famous Twelve Days of Christmas. But in secular society, the Christmas season runs from around Thanksgiving until Dec. 25. So Dec. 25 marks either the end of the Christmas season (for secular culture), or the First Day of Christmas (for the Church).



Heschmeyer

It's an important difference, and one in which he notes many Christians tend to side with the world, rather than the Church:

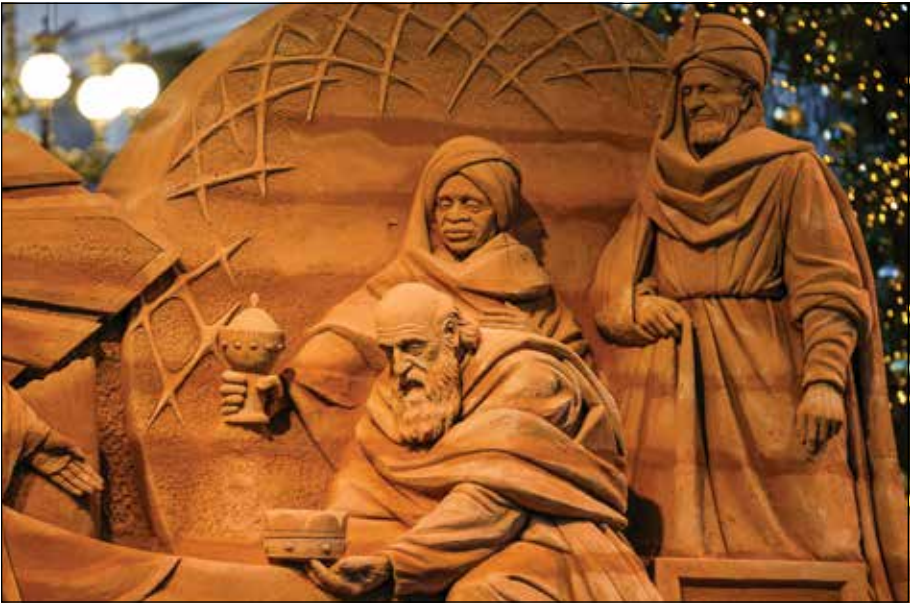
“Unfortunately, most Americans — especially evangelical Protestants — have so distanced themselves from any awareness of the Christian calendar that their decisions about that kind of question have been handed over to the culture,” said the Rev. Russell D. Moore, dean of the theology school at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Many evangelicals fear the “cold formalism” they associate with churches that follow the liturgical calendar, and the result, he said, is “no sense of what happens when in the Christian year, at all.” Thus, instead of celebrating ancient feasts such as Epiphany, Pentecost and the Transfiguration, far too many American church calendars are limited to Christmas and Easter, along with cultural festivities such as Mother's Day, the Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and the Super Bowl.

The difference

For the world, what we've just gone through was the Christmas season, and it's tied to (at best) being nice, and making time for family and friends, or (at worst) non-stop marketing, shopping, and fighting off loneliness and despair with a credit card.

Dec. 25 marks the end of the world's Christmas season, because this is the climax of their efforts. This is the day when we come together and share all of those



The Three Kings are seen in a Nativity scene made of sand in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 10.

presents, and where we take some time off of work to be with our families. Once the presents are opened, and our families have started to annoy us again, it's back to our ordinary routines. Santa Claus, the central figure of this Christmas, is already gone by Christmas morning.

But for the Church, Dec. 25 should mark a beginning, not an end. It marks Christ's advent into the world where, for the first time, we could behold the Savior of the World in the Flesh, as the rich and the poor, the Magi and the shepherds alike, fall to their knees. The period we just went through wasn't the Christmas season, because Christ hadn't come yet. It was the Advent season, in which we've prepared for Christ's coming.

The Catechism explains that in Advent, the Church “makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: ‘He must increase, but I must decrease.’” Just as you tidy up for a party, and tidy up a lot for an important party, the birthday of

Christ himself, his visit to each and every one of us, should motivate us to clean house. And cleaning house involves throwing out our old sins, and making space for Christ to come in.

With this view, Christ is our guest, and we want him to stay with us forever. So Dec. 25 celebrates his arrival, and we savor this arrival in a special way for days, culminating on either Jan. 6 (the traditional date of the Feast of the Epiphany), Epiphany Sunday (the nearest Sunday to Jan. 6), or even Candlemas (Feb. 2, for those cultures that really like Christmastime).

In a nutshell, here's what I'd say are the two most important differences between the liturgical calendar and the secular one:

1. One makes Christmas something we do for Christ, while the other makes it something he does for us. The world's version focuses on our efforts (our shopping, caroling and the like), while the Church's version focuses on Christ's entry.
2. The world's view of the Christmas season is largely without Christ. That is, all but the last day are a celebration of something we're calling “Christmas,” without the Nativity. What exactly are we

celebrating Dec. 25 that's different than what we were celebrating, say, Dec. 20? By de-emphasizing the utter centrality of the Nativity to Christmas, the focus starts to come off of Christ. Whether it's shifted toward family or shopping, that shift's still a disaster.

As Mattingly notes, this has hit Evangelicals the hardest. With a cultural suspicion of Advent and the whole notion of “liturgical seasons,” Evangelicals end up turning to the world for their seasons and holidays. The most shocking example (at least to me) was my discovery that when Christmas falls on a Sunday, many Evangelical churches simply cancel church services. In 2011, when Christmas was on a Sunday, David Gibson reported for the Wall Street Journal:

“Nearly 10 percent of Protestant churches will be closed on Christmas Sunday this year, according to LifeWay Research, and most pastors who are opening up say they expect far fewer people than on other Sundays. Other reports suggest that churches across the board are scaling down their services in anticipation of fewer worshippers.

‘We have to face the reality of families who don't want to struggle to get kids dressed and come to church,’ Brad Jernberg of Dallas's Cliff Temple Baptist Church told the Associated Baptist Press. Similarly, Beth Car Baptist Church in Halifax, Virginia, is planning a short service featuring bluegrass riffs on Christmas music. ‘I'll do a brief sermon, and then we're going home,’ said Pastor Mike Parnell.”

I suppose that this avoids the risk that worshipping God would get in the way of the purpose of secular-Christmas ... to be with your family.

The real war

The secular “Christmas” season is a time of strife, with the infamous “war on Christmas” specials that Fox runs annually. But the real “war on Christmas” that we should be worried about is the one I just described, the internal destruction of Christmas by Christians.

Let me give two examples of what I mean here. The first one involves a dis-

(Continued on Page 11.)

The Harvest is Plentiful...

... But the workers are few. Beg the Lord of the Harvest, therefore to send out workers into the harvest. Mt.9:37-38

Diocese of Oakland
**SEMINARY
COLLECTION**
January 13, 2019



L-R Fr. Mario Rizzo, Fr. Jimmy Macalinao, Fr. Arturo Bazan ordained on May 25, 2018 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light

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Sister Wendy dies

WASHINGTON — Sister Wendy Beckett, who gained fame in the 1990s for television shows and books explaining art, died Dec. 26 in Norfolk, England, at the age of 88. She has been widely described as both an unlikely art critic and television star, but that may have been what made her all the more likeable. She joined the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur when she was 16 and died where she had long lived, on the property of a Carmelite monastery.



Sister Beckett

Resist Christmas attack

PORTLAND, Ore. — Members of Our Lady of Lavang Parish in Portland did not let an attack stall their Christmas observances. Volunteers at the Vietnamese Catholic community gathered Christmas Eve, tools in hand, to repair their church, which had been seriously damaged when a man intentionally drove his SUV into the worship space and repeatedly crashed through the pews. In addition to the pews, walls and doors were heavily damaged. About 100 parishioners responded to the call for help of Father Ansgar Pham, pastor.

Clergy fall in poll

Americans' view of the honesty and ethics of clergy has fallen to an all-time low in a ranking of different professions released by Gallup. The Gallup poll, conducted between Dec. 3-12 of 1,025 U.S. adults, found that only 37 percent of respondents had a "very high" or "high" opinion of the honesty and ethical standards of clergy. Forty-three percent of people gave them an average rating, while 15 percent said they had a "low" or "very low" opinion, according to the poll that was released on Dec. 21. Gallup noted that the 37 percent "very high" or "high" score for clergy is the lowest since it began asking the question in 1977. The historical high of 67 percent occurred back in 1985, and the score has been dropping below the overall average positive rating of 54 percent since 2009.



CARLOS GARCIA RAWLINS/REUTERS, CNS

Migrant caravan

Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands from Central America trying to reach the United States, walk next to the border wall as they try to cross into the U.S. from Tijuana, Mexico. Catholic groups such as the Hope Border Institute in El Paso, Texas, denounced the deaths of two immigrant children in December, saying the deaths could have been prevented if U.S. authorities were not blocking migrants from entry points where they can legally ask for asylum. Instead, they said, migrants are driven to enter through more dangerous locations, where they experience dehydration and other dangers, or they are sent to crowded locations not fit to house children.

Stickers help evangelize

BATON ROUGE, La. — An Election Day mistake opened the door wide for some real evangelization. It began as some voting locations Nov. 6 ran out of "I Voted" stickers, which are traditionally provided by the Louisiana Secretary of State's office to people at the polls. The governmental faux pas created a deluge of complaints on social media, with voters asking why they were unable to get a sticker. At one point, Father Michael Alello, pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, posted on his social media account, "Don't worry, you will get an 'I Prayed Today' sticker today when you come to Mass." Father Alello, who admitted his post was a "sarcastic joke," could not predict the impact his invitation would have. Soon after reading the post

Todd Husers, a friend of the priest from another parish, called and asked, "How many stickers do you want?" A week later, St. Thomas More distributed 2,500 stickers at weekend Masses. Other parishes ordered stickers as well and the parish received inquiries from churches in Texas and Michigan.

Priest apologizes

WASHINGTON — A Michigan priest criticized for emphasizing suicide in his homily during a recent funeral for an 18-year-old who took his own life has since apologized. "As with any funeral, it was my intent to serve this family in their time of grief, but I fell well short of providing them the comfort they so desperately needed. Instead, I added to their pain. I deeply regret that, and I am sorry," said Father Don LaCuesta, pastor of Our Lady

of Mount Carmel Church in Temperance, Michigan.

Illinois abuse report

CHICAGO — Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's report claiming that the clergy sexual abuse of minors in the state is "significantly more extensive" than what the state's dioceses had previously reported is unfair and "just false," according to the top lawyer for the Archdiocese of Chicago. William R. Kunkel, general counsel of the archdiocese, made the comments in an interview with The Washington Post Dec. 20. "We don't see lawyers, doctors, schools publishing lists" of allegations not found to be "reasonably" credible, he told the daily newspaper.

Charges against nuns

WASHINGTON — The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has changed its mind about not seeking charges against two women religious who were found to have "misappropriated" a "substantial amount" of money, perhaps up to half a million dollars, from one of its Catholic schools. Various news stories say that after archdiocesan officials disclosed in a Dec. 3 meeting with parents from St. James Catholic School in Torrance that Sister Mary Margaret Kreuper and Sister Lana Chang had perhaps embezzled as much as \$500,000, the school community expressed outrage.

Appeal expected

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australian Cardinal George Pell reportedly has been found guilty on five charges related to serious sexual misconduct involving two boys at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne in the 1990s. The trial, the specific charges, the testimony and almost all other details involving the accusations against the 77-year-old cardinal are covered by a court-issued "super injunction," which forbids all media in Australia from reporting on it. Cardinal Pell is expected to appeal the conviction.



Cardinal Pell

— Catholic News Service

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Catholic cemeteries in the Diocese of Oakland all offer special services for All Souls Day, including this candle-lit prayer service at Holy Sepulchre in Hayward on Nov. 2.

Families, friends gather for cemeteries' Vigil of Light

Special to The Catholic Voice

Thousands of family members recently gathered at five Catholic cemeteries across the Diocese of Oakland for a powerful All Souls Day experience.

On Nov. 2, Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services extended the hours of cemetery operation for its annual Vigil of Light, providing families the opportunity to gather in prayer at the gravesites of their loved ones. Beginning at dusk with the blessing of candles, families process to gravesites and mausoleums in silent prayer of the departed.

"I was profoundly moved by the beauty of this event," said Kindlen Robles, CFCS' new Director of Funeral & Cemetery for the Diocese of Oakland. "Seeing literally thousands of people coming together as Catholic family joined in solemn prayer and reflection, with a backdrop of candles illuminating the night, was one of the single most powerful spiritual experiences of my life."

The Vigil of Light Program was started a number of years ago by Robert Seelig, CEO for Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, who envisioned opening diocesan cemeteries at night allowing families the unique opportunity to place candles on graves. "A cemetery full of light at night will draw families together for the true prayerful purpose of All Souls Day," Seelig recently reflected. "I felt this program would set us apart from all other cemeteries and speak volumes about our faith to the larger community."

The Vigil of Light program is conducted annually at CFCS Cemetery & Funeral Centers in Antioch (Holy Cross), Hayward (Holy Sepulchre), Lafayette (Queen of Heaven),



Families and friends gathered in prayer Nov. 2 at Holy Cross Cemetery in Antioch.

Oakland (St. Mary's) and San Pablo (St. Joseph).

For more information about the ministry provided by Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services, visit www.cfcsoakland.org.

St. Clare's Retreat

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January – March 2019

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February 15-17 (Spanish Married Couples for Christ Non-Silent Retreat)	Otra Pareja Para Cristo
February 22-24 Fr. Gary Sumpter	Women's Silent Retreat <i>Mary as the Model of Closeness to Jesus</i>
March 1-3 Fr. Patrick Dooling	Women's Silent Retreat <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>

For more information or register:
www.stclaresretreat.com
stclaresretreatcenter@gmail.com
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Staffed by Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows

School seeks to meet challenge grant

Staff report

Silicon Valley real estate developer and philanthropist John A. Sobrato will be matching dollar-for-dollar donations up to \$250,000 made through June 30 to Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School in Oakland.

The gift from Sobrato, who has been a major supporter of Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School and ICA Cristo Rey Academy in San Francisco, will benefit the day-to-day operations of the Oakland high school. The school's inaugural class, which numbers 64 students in its first year, entered the St. Elizabeth campus in the Fruitvale district in 2018.

Greg Young, the high school's director of mission advancement, said Sobrato visited the campus in November. "He's a businessman," Young said. Sobrato asked questions. "He wants to understand where we are," Young said. "He understands the model, the progress and the importance."

Shortly after the visit, Young said, Sobrato made the challenge grant.

"The Sobrato family has been such a huge supporter of our school, but also Cristo Rey San Jose and ICA," Young said. "This is his way of continuing his commitment to Catholic high school education."

The challenge grant is Sobrato's first gift to the Oakland school, Young said.

Such a grant allows the Oakland school to engage donors in the mission to provide high quality Catholic education to students from families of limited financial means.

Every student earns up to half of his or her annual tuition through Cristo Rey's corporate work study program. Although families contribute a fraction of the actual cost of tuition, there is a gap of about \$8,000 per year per student.

"My wife and I are delighted to support Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School in their founding year," Sobrato said. "This extends our commitment to support Catholic education and the Cristo Rey model in the Bay Area, a proven and effective model that enables low-income youth to break the cycle of poverty through education and work."

In 1998, Sobrato, who heads one of the most successful private real estate development organizations in California, created the Sobrato Family Foundation to provide philanthropic support to local non-profit organizations.

"Mr. Sobrato's generous pledge furthers our mission of educating young people to be men and women of faith, purpose and service," Young said.

To help the school meet its goal in the challenge grant, see www.cristoreydelasalle.org/donate.

St. Joan of Arc parish opens GIFT, offers to share

Staff report

St. Joan of Arc Parish in San Ramon opens a "gift" each January.

From Jan. 13 to 26, the parish will offer its seventh annual Growing In Faith Together experience. Four keynote presentations highlight the two weeks of daytime and evening events that include workshops on spiritual art; gospel justice; and living our faith.

For a full listing of the events, and how to register, go to www.sjasr.org/GIFT.

There will be four keynotes this year, two each week, offered from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the church at 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon.

Jan. 15, Justice Keynote: Refugees, the Church, our Response, presented by Rev. Thomas Smolich, SJ, international director of the Jesuit Refugee Service.

Jan. 17, Mercy Keynote: God's Mercy: What? How? Where? presented by Rev. Mark Wiesner, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Livermore, and one of the Missionaries of Mercy commissioned by Pope Francis during the Year of Mercy.

Jan. 22, Diocesan Keynote: The Ongoing Clerical Abuse Crisis, presented by Stephen Wilcox, chancellor of the Diocese of Oakland, and Rev. Jayson Landeza, pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Oakland, who has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Diocesan Ministry to Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse.

Jan. 24, Scripture Keynote: The Gospel of John, presented by Rev. Ray Sacca, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish.

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"Can a Franciscan be Angry?" Franciscan Spirituality Retreat
with Darleen Pryds, PhD, 1/25 – 1/27

LGBTQ Day of Dialogue with Janet Gardner, 1/27

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Father Kappler takes Canada post

Staff report

Rev. Stephan Kappler, who has served as pastor of St. Jarlath Parish for the past five years, bid farewell to the Oakland parish at the end of the 2018.

On Feb. 1, Father Kappler will become CEO/president of the Southdown Institute in Toronto, Canada. Father Kappler, who is a psychologist, did his post-doctoral residency at the institute in 2013.

The Southdown Institute, founded in 1966, provides preventative and restorative care to clergy and vowed religious using the integration of psychological, physical and interpersonal practice with the wisdom of the Catholic Spiritual Tradition, according to its mission statement.

The institute recruited Father Kappler for the position, which must be filled by a priest or religious who also is a psychologist.

For the past five years Father Kappler has divided his time between the parish and his psychology practice, KAIROS Psychology Group, where he serves clergy and Religious with their psychological/emotional needs.

In a bulletin letter to his parishioners, Father Kappler said he had mixed emotions about the move.

"I am very excited and elated to be given such a prestigious and important leadership position at an organization that helps priests, religious, seminarians and other faith leaders from around the world. It is a great honor to be given such trust, and I am so grateful to Bishop Barber for giving me his permission to fulfill that new role for a period of five years.

"However, I am also deeply sad to leave St. Jarlath. For the past five years, my heart has been here with you, and I have felt so very much at home with all of you. I have done my best to be a good pastoral leader, and I am glad to say that I think I am leaving St. Jarlath a stronger, more financially solid and more united parish."

Rev. Hector Enrique Ballesteros, parochial vicar at St. Leander Parish, San Leandro, was appointed parochial administrator of the parish, effective Jan. 1.

Father Kappler's Oakland-based KAIROS Psychology Group will continue, transitioning to a different format. He will continue to provide assessments for the Diocese of Oakland.



Rev. Kappler



Spanish teacher Ana Patterson, top row, left, and her students, holding the books.

Moreau Catholic students create special children's books for the holidays

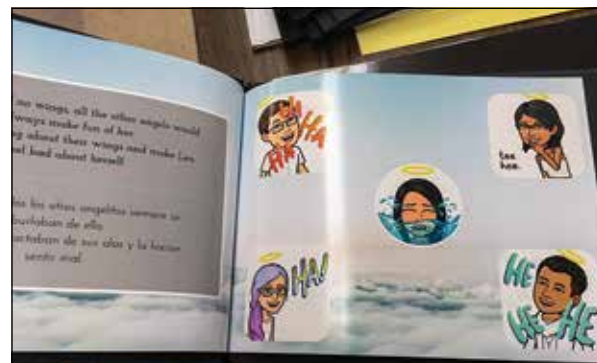
Special to The Catholic Voice

For 38 children in San Francisco, their Christmas was a little brighter thanks to special books written in English and Spanish by Moreau Catholic High School students.

The school's Spanish 3 Honors students wrote the children's stories, illustrated them and donated the books to children from the Up on Top program in San Francisco. Many of the books focus on either pets or children and include a moral like "don't give up," "being different," "human kindness" and "self-acceptance."

"I am very proud of my students' work, not only to see the final product but also to see how enthusiastic they became when they found out where we were going to deliver the books," said Moreau Spanish teacher Ana Patterson. "The books are just wonderful!"

"Some of my students have previously met the children in the program so have a special friend to which they have written the book," Patterson added. "Writing the book and giving it to the child in person has a great impact for both of them."



Spanish 3 Honors students wrote and illustrated the children's books.

The students began working on their books a month ago with Patterson helping them with editing their Spanish.

"The project teaches our students many things, including what it means to be Holy Cross and open up their hearts to those in need," Patterson said. "The students are very proud of their work and many of them want to keep in touch with the kids."

Patterson completed a similar project in years past, where her AP Spanish students sent the children's books they created to a school library in Honduras.

Pilgrimages



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Portugal — Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima — join the international Rosary & candlelight procession.

Spain — Santiago de Compostela, Santander — the Routes of St. James & Basilica of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Montserrat-Mass at the Monastery and the original effigy of the Romanesque Black Madonna. Barcelona — visit the Sagrada Familia, Unesco World Heritage "Park Guell".

France — Lourdes — The Shrines and Blessing of the Sick in the legendary healing waters of Lourdes.



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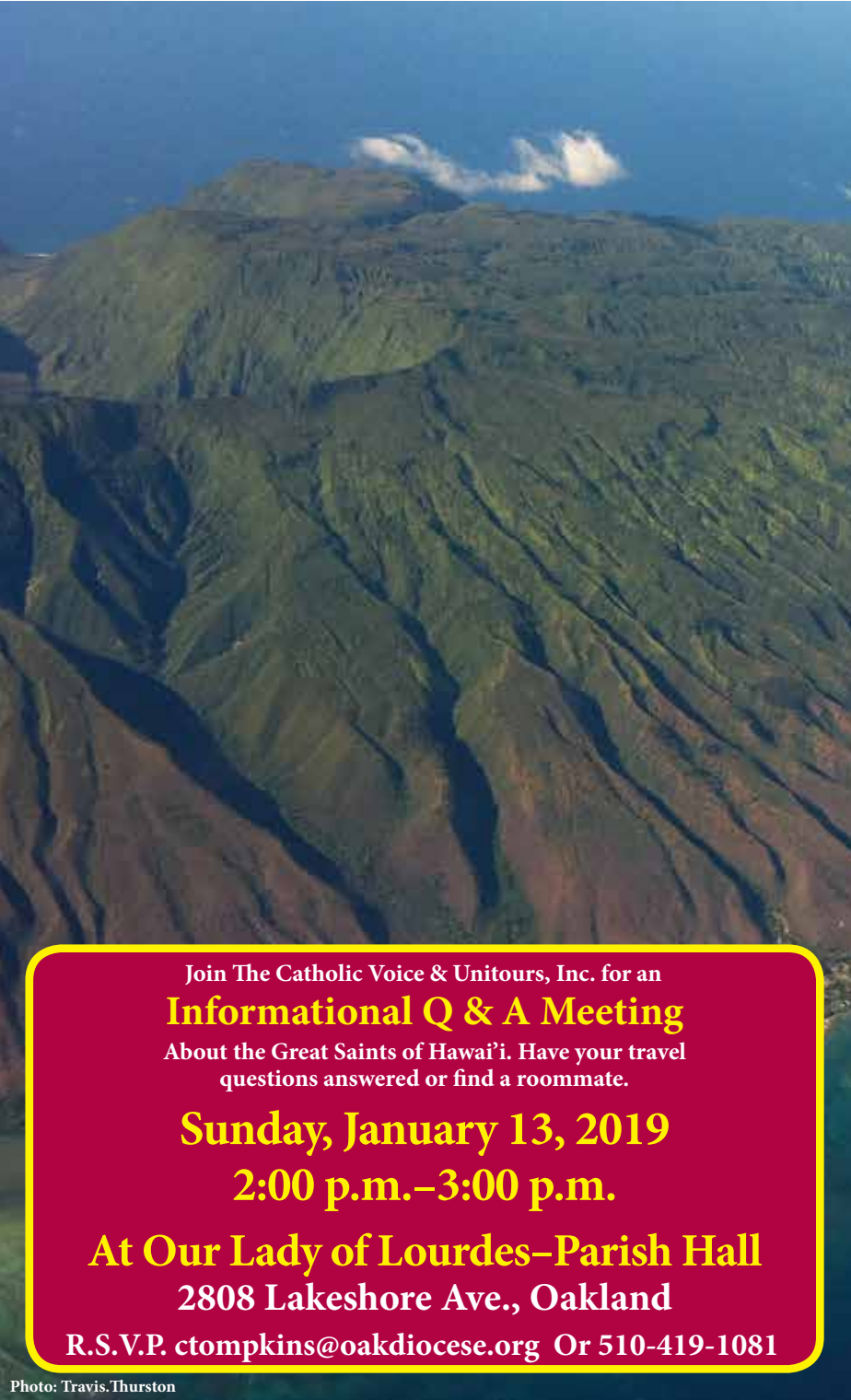
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Spiritual Guide



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Senior Living & Resources

'Muffin People' deliver the goods, six days a week

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

On a chilly Tuesday morning — the temperature is 38 degrees at 7:18 a.m. — Jack Dice backs his Dodge Dakota truck into the receiving dock at the Safeway in Moraga.

Allow me to introduce you to the muffin man.

There is no Drury Lane in his town.

The name conferred by a recipient — “Here comes the Muffin Man” — stuck.

But they are the Muffin People, some, but not all, in various stages of retirement. Working people do the Saturday runs.

Six days week, they bring pickups, SUVs and even small sedans to loading docks of grocers and bakers in Central Contra Costa County — Pleasant Hill, Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda — and accept food at its sell-by date, or in some cases just a day old, and deliver it to the less-fortunate on the other side of the Caldecott Tunnel.

The Muffin People delivered their first run, consisting of bread and bakery goods, on May 20, 1988, to St. Mary's Church Food Program in Oakland — which became St. Mary's Center. John Di Palermo and Joe Stuart volunteered to start collecting goods from Moraga stores three days a week, at the request of Sister Baptista at the center to parish-ioners at St. Monica Church in Moraga for redistribution.

While delivering food —in the early days, a sizeable number of muffins were donated — to St. Mary's, a woman yelled, “Here comes the Muffin Man.”

The ministry, renamed the Muffin People, became a staple at St. Monica Parish, where 38 people choose their day and make a run — or two—of it. It takes 24 vehicles a week to keep to the schedule.

A unanimous vote — 2-0 — of its previous leaders put Jack Dice at the head of this pack of do-gooders. He's been one of the Muffin People for at least a dozen years. “I'll do this as long as I can,” said Dice, who is 84, and shows no sign of slowing down.

He's on a first-name basis with the receiving clerks. Seven full Safeway carts await him. He packs the truck carefully. He has a sense of what awaits him at each of his three stops this day, and he knows what he'll need room for. He culls the food. Some crushed doughnuts will not make the trip through the tunnel.

But the cartons of eggs will. As do the cartons of organic milk, and a case of organic whipping cream. There's a box of chicken broth that didn't make it to Thanksgiving stuffing. It rides near the boxes of pumpkin spice Twinkies. Some cans with labels in various states of coming unglued go into a crate. Cat food tins are separated, earmarked for orders of Sisters who feed felines.

A half-sheet cake decorated with balloons slides carefully onto the rear seat of the truck.

Dice carefully returns each cart he empties to the loading dock door.

Fifty-five minutes after he began, he was waving goodbye to Safeway and headed to Lafayette, where some of his fellow Muffin People were already at work going through the day's donations from



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, Jack Dice is the man in red. Below, Rose Wilson, left, and Rosalie Dice look over donated flowers.



Trader Joe's.

Among those at work is Rosalie Dice, Jack's wife of 57 years. They are keeping an eye out for protein, which is hard to come by. Later in the week, Jack Dice will deliver soup prepared by his parish's Soup to Serve program to the shelter in

Berkeley's Veterans Building. He'd like to see 15 pounds of protein go into that 10 gallons of soup.

Volunteer Jim Blay has already filled a vehicle, and headed to St. Vincent de Paul in Oakland, where he will spend the remainder of the morning volunteering in

Are you a Muffin Person?

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the dining room.

Tom Robertson begins loading a protein-rich collection of foods into Jack Dice's truck. Rose Wilson's SUV, which she will drive to Oakland, is already filling quickly.

At this stop, Dice finds that his co-workers have already made the stop at SusieCakes. Two bins, each with five dozen cupcakes, have been set aside for him. He has a plan for those cupcakes to be on a lunch table in Oakland within the next two hours.

With sturdy yellow cord, Dice ties down the offerings in his truck, which include at least a dozen orchid plants that have been deemed past their prime bloom.

At 9:41 a.m., he is away from Trader Joe's and on Highway 24, heading to Oakland.

His first stop is St. Mary's Center, where two men who know what the chef needs ask about eggs and bread. The winter shelter for seniors is open at the center. The packaged fruit salad and fruits also make their way on to the cart.

Need a cake? Jack Dice asks, offering the decorated half-sheet. Onto the cart it goes. A half-dozen of the orchids are welcomed, too.

Dice makes his way to the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room, about 10 blocks from his first stop. The narrow side street is blocked by a pair of box trucks delivering cabinets elsewhere. But he maneuvers his car to the gate, honks for entry and backs the truck to the kitchen doors.

He is met by Kevin Wilson, a chef in training from the Kitchen of Champions program. He lifts crates of food from the bed of the truck. He knows what the chefs can use from the day's haul.

Dice, too, knows what the diners need. He dons a Muffin People cap. He reaches behind the front seat of the truck to where he has stashed the cupcake bins. Once inside the kitchen, he pulls on plastic gloves, picks up two big trays and lines them with parchment paper. He opens the bins and makes a beautiful presentation of the cakes, making sure each perfectly printed “Happy Birthday” faces the same way.

In just a few minutes, the dining room will open. As many as 600 people might be having lunch today. There will be dessert.

The truck nearly empty, Dice will make his last stop at ECAP, the Emeryville Community Assistance Program, near the Oakland-Emeryville line. There are big bins of produce in the parking lot. Dice's arrival means some smaller size, gourmet items are available for the 200 people who shop there.

It's not quite 11 a.m., and this Muffin Person's work on this side of the tunnel is done. He will return the empty containers to the stores on the other side.

(Continued on Page 10.)

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Leadership change at St. Mary's Center

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

As the new executive director of St. Mary's Center, Sharon Cornu said she plans to build on the solid foundation set into place by her predecessor Carol Johnson. "I'm not planning a lot of changes to the program," Cornu said Dec. 6, following the Annual Memorial for Homeless People, hosted by St. Mary's Center, a nonprofit organization that provides vital services to improve the quality of life for at-risk seniors and preschoolers in West Oakland. "We need to grow to continue to meet the growing need."



Cornu

Johnson, who recently retired after two decades of service, oversaw an expansion of programs and facilities at St. Mary's Center that included the addition of A Friendly Manor, a day center for homeless women, 24 units of SRO-type housing (for people with low or minimal incomes) and the acquisition of the Closer to Home and Presentation House transitional housing units, all in West Oakland.

Cornu cited the work of the Center's Senior Advocates for Hope and Justice, a program that educates and trains seniors at the center to become advocates by focusing on the policies that affect them directly, as a significant component of the work of the Center. "It is so critically

important on the advocacy side in helping make sure that the policymakers who are making important decisions know what St. Mary's knows about homelessness," she said.

One of the concerns the Senior Advocates have worked on recently has been on restoring cuts to Supplemental Security Income amounts, which many of those at the center live on. St. Mary's Center is also actively involved in efforts to stop discrimination against homeless people and in educating others about the need for affordable housing in the community.

Prior to her arrival at St. Mary's, Cornu had been part of an Oakland-based consulting practice that focused on public policy and leadership development in housing, transit and workforce. An instructor at Oakland's Mills College, she previously served as Oakland deputy mayor and director of advocacy at the Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California. Her first job after college was at a settlement house in Providence, Rhode Island, much like St. Mary's Center.

"I am excited to be at a place that is all about solutions and is really ready to ramp up and serve people and work to prevent homelessness," Cornu said. "We have such important communities in Oakland that have contributed to the robustness and the beauty of the land that we love. Our tenants need more protections and we need more housing affordability. We know what we need to do and we're going to go do it."

Pupils visit seniors

From left, Felicita Castillo, Kaliya Kirkwood, Aiden Lee and Kevin Hoang visit with three residents at Villa of Castro Valley on Dec. 3 as part holiday visit to the senior residence. After visiting and sharing cards with their new friends, the whole fifth grade class from Our Lady of Grace School, Castro Valley, ended its hour-long visit with a performance of Christmas carols for the residents.



DAVID SCHOLZ/COURTESY PHOTO

Longtime volunteer honored

St. Mary Magdalen Parish celebrated Robert Kelleher's decades of service as chair of the Berkeley parish's finance council, from which he retired in 2018, shortly after he turned 90. A short ceremony took place after Communion at the 5:30 p.m. Mass Nov. 3. A potluck reception followed in the parish hall, with special guests including longtime parishioners who have moved away, and a pair of Dominican priests. Kelleher continues to serve as a lector at the 8 a.m. Mass and remains the chief of "Monday Morning Money Counters." Among family and friends surrounding him at the special event were Lorraine Kelleher Sommers and Mike Sommers, standing; seated from left, Helen Sommers, Beverly Kelleher Croshal and Steve Croshal, Rev. Hilary Martin, OP, and Robert (Bob) and Louise (Lolly) Kelleher. Rev. Nicholas Glisson, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen, thanked Kelleher for his decades of service. The parish, by the way, has begun a quarterly senior luncheon. For details, go to www.marymagdalen.org.



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◆ SPIRITUALITY

Feb. 2, March 2

Senior Anointing Mass. 11 a.m. at Divine Mercy, 3725 High St., Oakland. All seniors, their caregivers or anyone seriously ill or anticipating surgery are invited to attend this Mass and sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. 510-530-0761.

Anointing of the Sick Mass at Holy Spirit Church. Starts at 11 a.m. at 37588 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. For seniors, those who are seriously ill or those anticipating surgery. A complimentary luncheon follows the Mass. 510-797-1660.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Conscious Aging Workshop — What's Next? Reimagining the Meaning and Purpose of Our Lives. Presented by Jim Briggs. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Mercy Center, 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. \$75 nonrefundable registration. Information: 650-340-7474 or visit www.mercy-center.org.

◆ SOCIALS/LUNCHEONS

Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15

Senior Social at St. John Vianney Parish. Come hang out, socialize and meet new people from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Mullen Commons, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Singles, widows, widowers, divorced, separated, couples — all are welcome. Cost: \$5 includes lunch. To sign up call the parish office at 925-939-7911.

Senior Book Club at St. John Vianney Parish. Meets for an hour after lunch at each social (see above). To join, read the book of the month and show up. The book of the month for January: "The Truth According to Us" by Annie Barrows; the book of the month for February: "Hillbilly Elegy — A memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance.

Thursday, Jan. 31

Senior Potluck Luncheon at St. Mary Magdalen Parish. Participants, who meet in the parish hall, from noon to 3 p.m., are asked to bring a dish to serve 10 to 12 people: surnames A-G — desserts; surnames H-N — entrees; surnames O-S — drinks (two bottles of wine, sparkling water or soda); surnames T-Z — salads. The parish is at 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley. RSVP to parish office, 510-526-4811 or online at marymagdalen.org/seniorlunchreg.

March 26, July 2, Dec. 10

Senior Potluck Luncheon. Noon in the Holy Family Room at Divine Mercy, 3725 High St., Oakland. Bring a dish to share. It's free, but we need attendees to RSVP so we can set enough tables. Please RSVP to 510-530-0761, ext. 104, and let us know what you're bringing. Held quarterly.

Third Mondays

St. Anthony Parish Senior Ministry. 11:30 a.m. in the hall, St. Anthony Church, 971 O'Hara Ave., Oakley. The luncheons are sponsored by various parish organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Guadalupana Society, Am-Fil Community as well as private individuals. In addition to lunch, the gatherings may include speakers, games like Bingo and live entertainment.

Tuesdays

St. John the Baptist Parish Senior Lunch and Speaker. Meets Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at El Cerrito Royale, 6500 Gladys St., corner of Lexington, El Cerrito. Information: 510-232-5659; www.stjohnelcerrito.org.

Second Tuesdays

Senior Adult Ministry at St. Joan of Arc Parish. The Senior Adults of St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon meet for lunch and conversation from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. We bring our own bag lunch plus snacks to share. This is a "lively" group gaining wisdom and insight from sharing of our spiritual journeys. For more information send an email to phyllis9@comcast.net.

Second Tuesdays

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Senior Luncheon. Meets every second Tuesday at 860 Oak Grove Road, Concord. Information: 925-682-5447, ext. 2. Free.

Third Tuesdays

St. Stephen Parish hosts a monthly Card & Games Party in the parish hall at 1100 Keaveny Court, Walnut Creek. Beginning at noon on the third Tuesday monthly, parishioners and friends meet to play bridge, Rummikub, dominoes, etc. Bring your own lunches; beverages and snacks are provided. Questions? Contact Walter Lang, 925-939-2430.

Third Tuesdays

St. Isidore Church's Young at Hearts Group. This

gathering, an extension of the parish's Legion of Mary ministry, begins at 11:30 a.m. at 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. \$3 donation. 925-837-2122.

Thursdays

St. Jerome Church Coffee Group. Meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays in Rohan Hall at 308 Carmel Ave., El Cerrito, after morning Mass. 510-525-0876.

All Saints Parish Senior Ministry. Join us at noon for potluck, bingo and more at 22824 Second St., Hayward. Exception: March 14 outing to Harry's Hofbrau in San Leandro. Information: contact Frances Legg, 510-846-5300.

First Fridays

60 Plus or Minus Club at Church of the Transfiguration. Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass at 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley. 510-538-7941.

Third Fridays

St. Isidore Church's "Classic Club." Meets at 5:45p.m. third Fridays (except in July and August.) in the St. Isidore Room at St. Isidore Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville, for a potluck dinner and social. 925-837-2122.

◆ FITNESS

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays

Wellness Class. 6 to 7 p.m. in the hall, St. Benedict Church, 2245 82nd Ave., Oakland. Come out and join us and stay healthy and fit. Led by Dionne Cola. 510-632-1847.

Fridays

Line Dancing. 1 to 3 p.m. in the hall, St. Benedict Church, 2245 82nd Ave., Oakland. Want to learn new line dances? It's free, however we do request donations for St. Vincent de Paul at St. Benedict Parish.

Wednesdays

Walks at Lafayette Reservoir. 4 p.m. at the west end of the parking area, near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. Bring quarters for parking meters (\$1.50/hour). Rain cancels. Sponsor: Catholic Divorced Widowed and Separated/Singles of Contra Costa. Contact Lee, 925-934-6357.

◆ SUPPORT GROUPS

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomas Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Turning Loss into Strength," presented by Ruth Picha. Information: Molly Fisher, 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

Tuesday, March 5

Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomas Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Bone Health and Osteoporosis," presented by Marianne Lang. Information: Molly Fisher, 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

Tuesday, March 19

Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomas Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Everything You Need to Know About Falls," presented by Molly Fisher. Information: Molly Fisher, 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

Tuesday, April 2

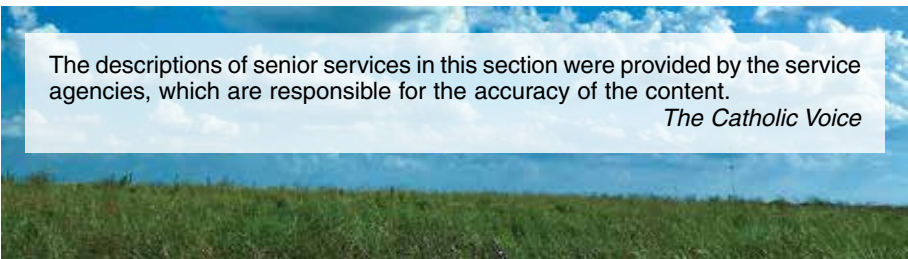
Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomas Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Blood Pressure: High, Low and Monitoring," presented by Julie Schnitter. All are welcome to attend. Information: Molly Fisher, 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

Fourth Wednesdays

Family Caregiver Support Ministry at St. Isidore Parish. 7 p.m. in Rooms 214 and 215 in the Ministry Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Family caregivers are invited to attend our monthly meetings which include prayer, handouts on caregiving and discussion related to coping when caring for loved ones. Dave Clare, 925-314-5784.

Third Thursdays

Catholic Divorced Widowed and Separated of Contra Costa. 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. All who are struggling from a loss due to separation, divorce, death of a loved one or loneliness and depression are welcome to participate in these peer group meetings. Information: Call Joan S., 925-939-1007.



The descriptions of senior services in this section were provided by the service agencies, which are responsible for the accuracy of the content.
The Catholic Voice

AEC Living

AEC Living is an award-winning, highly regarded Senior Services company independently owned by the Zimmerman family. Starting in 1971 with an Alameda nursing home, founder Christian Zimmerman and his wife, Darnelle, became widely known for patient-centered care and progressive innovation. Today, daughter Lauren Zimmerman Cook and son, Stephen Zimmerman, have helped to grow AEC Living into a full continuum care company: home care, senior living communities, Medicare-approved outpatient rehabilitation therapy. AEC Living employs 150 staff members and serves 150 residents and 50 seniors through outpatient services and home care. Two generations committed to a tradition of caring for seniors. For more information, dial 510-748-9700.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Kevin Wilson, a chef in training from the Kitchen of Champions program, awaits a delivery at the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room in Oakland.

'Muffin People' . . .

(Continued from Page 8.)

The donated food amounts to \$1.5 million in retail value a year. The food is donated by Safeways in Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette; Trader Joe's, Diablo Foods and SusieCakes in Lafayette; Lunardi's in Pleasant Hill; and International Foods in Oakland.

In addition to St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary's Center and ECAP, The Muffin People also deliver to A Friendly Manor in Oakland.

Jack Dice says he is on the lookout for new drivers for the ministry. He invites people who are interested in joining the Muffin People to do as he did. "Jim McGhee invited me to take a ride and see about doing this kind of work."

He liked it. "You feel like you're accomplishing something," he said. He said other members of the ministry have shared similar thoughts. "After they finish for the day, they feel so good about what they accomplished."

There's a statistic that motivates his work as well.

"When you hear one out of four children in the Bay Area go to bed hungry," he said, "it's just staggering."

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Diocese greets . . .

(Continued from Page 1.) diversity of ethnicity, social levels and cultures, said Rev. Brandon Macadaeg, Divine Mercy's parochial administrator. "This is a great opportunity to renew," he said, "Divine Mercy is where Christ meets the people." In a letter to parishioners for the picnic, Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ, bishop of Oakland wrote, "My joy is overflowing today, as I greet you, for the first time, as the Parish of Divine Mercy. "Mercy is at the very core of what it means to be Catholic. And it will be, in a special way, at the center of who you are as a faith community. Wherever you hear the cry of the poor, you will respond. You will feed and clothe the hungry and naked. You will help those who are homeless, need a job, need legal papers or are fighting an addiction," Bishop Barber wrote. Father Macadaeg said, "Our mission is to be disciples of Christ, witnesses of mercy and a beacon of hope." The union brings together about 100 families from St. Paschal Baylon and 900 families from St. Lawrence O'Toole-St. Cyril. We're committed to renewal, evangelization and financial security, Father Macadaeg said. The parish is using the Formed program for faith forma-

tion, and Father Macadaeg is also following the Amazing Parish model of St. Isidore Parish member Patrick Lencioni. The nationwide program helps parish leaders enhance faith development in youth, sacramental renewal and evangelization. Father Macadaeg wants to develop, along with Rev. Luis Lopez, parochial vicar, and Sister Mario Raffaelli, SHF, and his small staff, aided by volunteers, a core that will help grow parish enthusiasm and participation. "Think about the people who aren't here," Father Macadaeg said. "Millennials, people who may not know God, how do we reach out to them?" One visible thing Father Macadaeg has done is relight the church tower on High Street, offering a beacon in the neighborhood. Since the new parish was announced, there's a "sense of excitement, hope," Father Macadaeg said. "Sincere people are coming together to renew a parish." Divine Mercy Parish has already had several events that provided unity for the separate church sites, such as the parish picnic and a music concert. To celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy, there will be a vespers service at St. Paschal Baylon the evening of April 27, followed by one Mass and a reception beginning at 10:30 a.m. April 28, Divine Mercy Sunday. Bishop Barber is scheduled to say the Mass.

Day of the Sick set Feb. 9

Staff report The annual World Day of the Sick Mass will be 11 a.m. Feb. 9 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. Those who are sick or ill and their families, caregivers and health care providers and friends are invited to observe this day with the religious and lay people from the Diocese of Oakland. World Day of the Sick events in Oakland will include Mass, Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, blessing of caregivers and health care providers, distribution of holy water from Lourdes, France, and a reception. World Day of the Sick was initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1992 and is held annually worldwide on the date nearest the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11. The event is a ministry of the Diocese of Oakland and is supported by the Order of Malta. The Order of Malta serves the sick, and assists with many charities, including both free medical and legal clinics in the cathedral center. For health clinic information, 510-587-3000 or orderofmaltaclinic.com.

Walk for Life . . .

(Continued from Page 1.) A walk down Market Street will follow the rally. Hoye's Standup4Life Rally and Walk will take place from noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 25 in front of Oakland City Hall. Speakers will include Karen I.S. Shablin, former health care policy executive for Strategies for Health Care Excellence, LLC; Pat Castle, president, CEO and founder of LIFE Runners; and Rev. Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life. Issues4Life will benefit from a 6 p.m. Jan. 15 webcast at www.issues4life.org/webcast.html or by phone at 833-200-0916. The Day of Celebration, Commemorating the 90th Birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. will benefit the foundation's mission to work directly with Black American leaders nationwide to strengthen their stand against abortion on demand. The webcast's goal is to reach 100 new donors, with each giving \$20 a month. Speakers during the presentation include Alveda King, niece of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; Dr. La Verne Tolbert, Former Planned Parenthood board member; Lila Rose, president and founder of Live Action; Rev. Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life; Rev. Joseph D. Fessio, SJ, founder and editor of Ignatius Press; and Archbishop José Horacio Gómez of Los Angeles.

Hoye book A new book detailing Rev. Walter Hoye's experience, "Black and Pro-Life in America: The Incarceration and Exoneration of Walter B. Hoye II," by Robert W. Artigo, is available. Here is an excerpt, courtesy of Ignatius Press:

Choosing prison Walter knew how the judgment would play out because he and his lawyers had previously agreed on a plan. His lawyers would decline the lesser sentence, which offered a choice between jail time and community service and take the predictably harsher punishment at the discretion of the court. In the long hours since agreeing to this plan, however, Walter found himself stripped of confidence and struggling

to console himself. He wondered whether he would make it through his first night in custody without needing to fight physically to defend himself. Some members of the courtroom audience groaned as Walter's legal counsel explained his decision to refuse the lesser sentence of three years' probation, 30 days in jail or a sheriff's work program, and a \$1,300 fine. They were the same people who had erupted with exuberant cheers when the jury announced his guilt. But there were others in the audience who were silently praying on his behalf, and Walter leaned on the quiet strength of their presence in the rows behind him. Deputy District Attorney Graff responded to Walter's defense by requesting a harsher punishment. "If Mr. Hoye is rejecting probation," Graff said, "then the sentence of two years in county jail, each count carries one year, so the people are asking for two years." Walter Hoye's position had been unwavering since the first sentencing, when he told the judge, "I believe an unjust law is no law at all.... It is my intention to continue my efforts to save the life of the unborn child, by reaching out to men and women going into the abortion clinic, with the love of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior." The part of the sentence that Walter consider particularly unjust and intended to defy was the stay-away order. This order would prevent him from being within one hundred yards of Oakland's Webster Street abortion clinic. "Once the stay-away order was added to the package," Walter's attorney Michael Millen clarified, "at that point it became so onerous that it was something Mr. Hoye could no longer consider." Several times, Deputy District Attorney Graff argued that Walter's intention to the defy the stay-away order warranted the maximum possible sentence of two years in jail — a remarkable punishment for a misdemeanor that hadn't existed until Walter regularly visited the Webster Street clinic with a sign that read, "God loves you and your baby. Let us help you." Rejecting Graff's request for two years in jail, Judge Hing sentenced Hoye to 30 days in Santa Rita Jail, three years of court-supervised probation, and the fine. He also imposed the hundred-yard/stay away order, even though Walter had promised to ignore it.

Is this the end . . .

(Continued from Page 3.) pute over whether or not two bus drivers were allowed to decorate their buses with Christmas decorations. One of the bus drivers defended the decorations by saying, "This is totally not a religious thing. This is about Christmas." Yikes. This should be a wake-up call for Christians who want Christmas to be, you know, about Christ. We should be uncomfortable with both sides of the "war on Christmas": those who want Christmas stamped out of public life, and those who want Christmas hollowed out into something harmless to secularist bigots. The second example is a more general one: the ongoing debate over whether we should say "Merry Christmas!" or "Happy Holidays!" Reality check: the word "holiday" is just a shortened form of "holy day." Christmas is a holiday, Fourth of July is not (hopefully). But "holiday" has come to mean simply "vacation," because that's

how we treat our holidays. This is most obvious in the UK, where vacationing (anytime of year) is often described as "going on holiday." But we Americans are guilty of it as well. If we weren't, we wouldn't be so upset about the phrase "Happy Holidays," because it'd be a religious phrase. If "Happy Holidays" has been sterilized to the point that secularists have no trouble using it, well, that's partly our own fault. **Conclusion** So if Dec. 25 is to be an end, let it be an end to the secular celebration of "Christmastime" once and for all. Take this Christmas as an opportunity to start fresh by welcoming Christ as your guest both for the day, and for the Christmas season, and forever. (Republished from Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Joe Heschmeyer blogs at Shameless Popery, and alongside co-host Chloe Langr, has a weekly podcast called The Catholic Podcast.)

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California Catholic Church to focus on three core issues in 2019

By Al Donner
Special to The Catholic Voice

The Catholic presence at the state Capitol intends to focus on three core issues in the 2019 legislative session — early childhood education, human life and immigration — says Andy Rivas, new executive director of the California Catholic Conference.

Those are core areas where Catholic teaching has a direct role in shaping public policies, policies that may be targets for new legislative efforts in 2019. He spoke at a recent Catholics@Work presentation in Danville.

Each is a subject of long-standing Catholic teaching; each emphasizes respect for human life.

In early childhood education the Church has been a long-time leader and should be allowed to continue its important role even if the state starts its own new programs, Rivas emphasizes.



Rivas

Rivas also fears that lawmakers may try to expand abortion opportunities, particularly to allow them on college campuses. A bill doing that passed the Legislature in 2018 but was vetoed by retiring Gov. Jerry Brown.

On immigration Rivas says, “the people of faith are there to help, not to destroy,” citing the nation’s long history of and benefits from immigration.

Rivas encourages Catholics to check its website www.cacatholic.org to stay informed and to participate in advocating for state policy.

Still, looming in front of those core policy issues is the continuing attention on sex abuse history in the church.

“It is a snowball that is coming, and we have to deal with it,” Rivas cautions.

The political focus on sex abuse tends to focus on the Catholic church, he says, even though sex abuse is widespread in many segments of American society, including schools and most of all within families.

Regarding sex abuse legislation, Rivas points out that the church in California has already committed to pay \$1.4 billion in settlements of sex abuse accusations,

and bishops aggressively have removed guilty parties. But Rivas is concerned that a legislator might try to reopen the statute of limitations so that lawyers who have made sex abuse a primary business could continue filing accusations against the Church

Rivas sees many anomalies in the political situation facing Catholics in California. With Gavin Newsom’s inauguration in January, California will have its fourth Catholic governor in a row (Newsom, Brown, Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger). Catholics also make up the largest number of legislators in the state Capitol. Yet many Catholic legislators “seem to be very unchurched.”

A high priority legislative area may be expanding ECE, which Brown did not support. Newsom does, so a renewed effort is likely in 2019. Rivas said the bishops will fight to include Catholic programs and parents in ECE programs, as other groups try to keep Catholics out.

Other potential legislative areas include immigration issues and embryo protection.

“We have to keep reminding people that we are there to help rather than to

destroy,” Rivas emphasized. “The Church needs to actually be leading the discussion” wherever it can.

Rivas, an East Los Angeles native, came to Sacramento from Los Angeles where he headed Government & Community Relations for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles under Archbishop Jose H. Gomez. In more than 20 years of Church advocacy efforts, Rivas has been executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, a policy adviser in domestic social development with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and an advocate for Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Virginia, plus a stint on a Congressional committee staff working for the late Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona.

The CCC is the formal voice of the Catholic community in California’s public policy arena. It serves the state’s 12 (arch) dioceses, encompassing nearly 11 million Catholics. The CCC is based near the state Capitol in Sacramento, coordinating efforts to shape public policy and serve various Catholic efforts in the state.

Ned Dolejsi retired last summer as CCC’s executive director.

OBITUARIES

Sister Julianne Josten, OP

Sister Julianne Josten, also known by her religious name, Sister Mary Leonard, died Dec. 10 in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. She was 92 years of age and had been a member of the Sinsinawa Dominicans for 72 years.

Born Nov. 21, 1926 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sister Julianne made her first profession as a Sinsinawa Dominican in August 1946, and her perpetual profession in 1949. A longtime educator, she was a teacher for 30 years and served as principal for five years. Her years as an educator includes assignments in the archdioceses of Chicago, Milwaukee, Dubuque, Los Angeles, St. Paul and Minneapolis, and the Diocese of Spokane.

In the Diocese of Oakland, she taught at St. Leo School in Oakland from 1967 to 1972.

She also served as activities director for three years, convent administrator for three years, assistant in the General Finance Office of the Sinsinawa Dominicans for 15 years, 1988 to 2003.

She is survived by nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass was held Dec. 14 at the Dominican Motherhouse in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. Burial followed in the Motherhouse Cemetery.



YLI Communion

The Young Ladies Institute Livermore 44 celebrated its annual district Communion Mass at St. Michael Church in Livermore. The Catholic women’s organization, founded in 1887 on the principles of faith, hope and charity, provides financial support for seminarians and scholarships for young women. Members of the Livermore group, affiliated with St. Michael Parish for 122 years, from left, Corrine Delapena, Virginia Brown, Jennifer Piazza, Martha Zeyen, Peg Frydendal and Shirley Garcia.



COURTESY PHOTO

Visit from St. Nick

St. Peter Martyr School pupils, from left, Kaitlyn Beratta, Louis Pelayo, Luciano Maghuyop, Monica Ceja and Fatima Cardona enjoy a visit from St. Nikolaus (Rev. Helmut Richter) who explained St. Nikolaus’ origin, and the children sang him the Dutch song, Sinterklaas Kopoentje in honor of his feast.



COURTESY PHOTO

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◆ NEW EVENTS

Friday, Jan. 11

All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry, Grilled Cheese and Pasta Too. 5 to 7 p.m. at St. Raymond Parish, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin. \$7 per person; \$7 per takeout box; \$3 for kids 6 to 12; free for kids 5 and under. Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus, Council 7987.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Italian Catholic Federation Polenta Dinner. 6 p.m. (social hour), 7 p.m. (dinner) at Msgr. O'Brien Hall (adjacent to St. Philip Neri Church, High Street at Van Buren Street in Alameda. Price: \$25 for adults, \$12 children age 12 and under. Reservations: contact Jeanette Zugnoni, 510-523-8005 or jeanette@zugnoni.net. Send checks made payable to ICF Branch 10, St. Philip Neri-St. Albert the Great Parish Office, 3108 Van Buren St., Alameda 94501. Proceeds benefit education of seminarians, Cooley's anemia research, student scholarships and other charitable causes.

Concert: University of Notre Dame Glee Club. 7:30 p.m. at St. Isidore Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Concerts are free and open to the public; offerings will be taken. Information: 574-631-9457 or email dstowe@nd.edu.

Saturday, Jan. 19

7th Annual Knights of Columbus Crab Feed. 5:30 p.m. at St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish Hall, 3351 Contra Loma Blvd., Antioch. \$50 per person. Contact: Steve Rojek at 925-642-2329. No tickets sold at the door.

Sunday, Jan. 20

Sunday Pasta Dinner at San Damiano. 4:30 p.m. at 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: \$20 for adults, \$10 kids 12 and under. Reservations: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

Feb. 1 and 2

You Too Go Into My Vineyard — The Role of the Laity in the Church Today. The 10th Annual Convocation of the College Fellows. At the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, 2301 Vine St., Berkeley. Guest speakers include: Bishop Jaime Soto, Diocese of Sacramento; Gil Baillie, DSPT Fellow, writer; Paolo Carozza, director, Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame. Information: visit www.dspt.edu/events.

◆ SPIRITUALITY

Jan. 7, 14, 21

Weekly meditation groups in the John Main, OSB, tradition. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Mondays in the Keeley Center, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Claire La Scola, 925-447-9800 or clairelascola@gmail.com.

Jan. 8, 15, 22

Men of St. Joseph meeting. 7 to 8 a.m. Tuesdays in St. Anthony room at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Information: michaelgallagher1025@outlook.com.

Jan. 8, 22

Fil/Am ministry. 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays, St. Clement Parish Center, 750 Calhoun St., Hayward. Simon Medrano, 510-303-2965.

Jan. 9, 16, 23

Perpetual Help Devotion Baclaran format. 8:15 a.m. Wednesdays after last morning Mass, Our Lady Queen of the World Church, 3155 Winterbrook Drive, Bay Point, 925-550-0679.

Mondays

Rosary in Spanish. 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Parish Center, 2100 Pear St., Pinole. 510-741-4900.

Wednesdays

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit). 9 to 11:15 a.m. at St. Raymond Parish, Moran Hall, 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin. A different faith topic is presented each week followed by discussion and sharing in small groups. Kathy Morte, 925-833-7819.

Divine Mercy Devotion. 7 to 8 p.m. at Divine Mercy Parish, 3725 High St., Oakland. We celebrate the Divine Word devotion which includes praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song, adoration and Confession in both English and Spanish. 510-530-0761.

Meditation of the next Sunday Gospel and Coronilla in Spanish. 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Center, 2100 Pear St., Pinole. 510-741-4900.

First Wednesdays

Catholic Men's Night. 7 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Adoration, Confession and rosary for men. Food and drink follow. Contact: michaelgallagher1025@outlook.com.

Thursdays

Holy Hour for Vocations. 7 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish, 37891 Second St., Fremont. 510-790-3207.

First Thursdays

Holy Hour-First Thursday (or Thursday before first Friday.) 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church, 1219 Excelsior Ave., Oakland. Every Thursday before the First Friday is a day of special prayer for the new vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for our priests, religious, deacons and seminarians. 510-482-0596.

◆ EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 13

Transformed People, Transformed Church, Transformed World. 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnysvale



Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration, the worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass, is done in parishes throughout the Oakland diocese, often in adoration chapels like the one in the photo at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg. At Church of the Good Shepherd, adoration is in the church on Fridays after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m., and 24-hours in the Adoration Chapel, adjacent to the church. A code is required to enter, dial the parish office for access at 925-439-6404.

The Confraternity of Eucharistic Devotion Diocese of Oakland (CEDDO) is the diocesan organization that promotes Eucharistic devotions. To learn more, https://bit.ly/2Bvit0c.

Here's a list of formal adoration times at various parishes. Always check with the parish beforehand to confirm the time and day.

St. John the Baptist Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel, 11152 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-230-4325; stjohns@sjtbc.us.

Holy Spirit Parish, 37588 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. 510-797-1660.

St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple St. at Fourth St., Livermore. To schedule: Adoration@StMichaelLivermore.com.

Daily

6 a.m. to 10 p.m. at **St. Agnes Parish,** 3966 Chestnut Ave., Concord.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **Most Holy Rosary Church,** 1313 A St., Antioch. 925-757-4020.

Monday to Thursday

2:30 to 3:30 p.m., **St. Felicitas Church Chapel** (inside St. Joseph Center/Office), 1662 Manor Blvd., San Leandro. 510-351-5244.

Monday to Saturday,

First Friday

9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to midnight every first Friday at **Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel,** 2500 Bermuda Ave., San Leandro. 510-614-2765.

Mondays

7 to 8:30 p.m. in the chapel at **St. Francis of Assisi Church,** 860 Oak Grove Ave., Concord. 925-682-5447.

Mondays, Tuesdays,

Thursdays, Fridays

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the convent chapel and 2 to 9 p.m. in the church on Wednesdays at **St. Bede Parish,** 26950 Patrick Ave., Hayward. 510-782-2171.

Mondays, Wednesdays

12:45 to 6:30 p.m., **St. Elizabeth Seton Church,** 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton.

Tuesdays

8 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. benediction in Mary's Chapel at **St. Jarlath Church,** 2620 Pleasant St., Oakland.

First Tuesdays

7 to 8 p.m., Eucharistic Adoration in Vietnamese, at **St. Joseph Basilica,** 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda. 510-522-0181.

Wednesdays

6 to 7 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Confessions: 6 to 6:45 p.m. at **St. Joseph the Worker Church,** 1640 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-

843-2244; www.stjosephtheworkerchurch.org.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at **St. David of Wales Church,** 5641 Esmond Ave., Richmond, 510-237-1531.

Thursdays

Immediately following 8 a.m. Mass until noon, in the Chapel at **St. Anne Church,** 1600 Rossmoor Pkwy., Walnut Creek, 925-932-2324.

Thursdays, Fridays,

Saturdays

7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays at St. Mary Church, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-891-8900.

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays, 9 a.m. to midnight Fridays, midnight Fridays to 8 a.m. Saturdays, **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church,** 500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood. 925-634-4154.

Thursdays, First Saturdays

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday (first Saturdays), **St. Isidore Church,** 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. 925-837-2122.

Fridays

Noon to 5 p.m. at **St. Catherine of Siena Church,** 606 Mellus St., Martinez. 925-324-3589.

1 to 8 p.m. at **St. Monica Church,** 1001 Camino Pablo, Moraga. 925-376-6900.

After the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m., at **Church of the Good Shepherd,** 3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg, and 24-hours in the Adoration Chapel, adjacent to the church. A code is required to enter, dial the parish office for access at 925-439-6404.

First Fridays

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **St. Philip Neri Church,** 3100 Van Buren St., Alameda. 510-373-5200.

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at **St. Raymond Church,** 11555 Shannon Ave., Dublin.

12:30 to 4:45 p.m. at **St. Felicitas Church,** 1662 Manor Blvd., San Leandro. 510-351-5244.

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 7 to 10 p.m. at **St. Joseph Basilica,** 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda. 510-522-0181.

First Saturdays

Immediately following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 3:30 p.m. at **St. John Vianney Church,** Mullen Commons Library, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. 925-939-7911.

Every last Saturday

Immediately after 7 p.m. Spanish Mass; ends with benediction at 9 p.m., **St. Joseph Church,** 837 Tennent Ave., Pinole. 510-741-4900.

Jan. 11 to 13

Charting A New Course with Purpose and Meaning (trauma retreat) with Tom Gorham and Options Recovery Staff. At San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: \$245 (private room) or \$214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Renewal By the Sea Retreat. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Villa Maria del Mar Retreat, 21918 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz. In honor of the Holy Names Sisters 150th Anniversary presence and service in California the year, the Spirituality Program at Villa Maria del Mar is offering this free retreat, which includes presentations, prayer, quiet and sharing. Lunch donation: \$20. Information/reservations: 831-475-1236 or email villamaria@snjmuson.org. Website: www.villamariadelmar.org/spirituality-program.

Jan. 25 to 27

“Can a Franciscan Be Angry?” Franciscan Spirituality Retreat with Darleen Pryds. At San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: \$245 (private room) or \$214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

Feb. 1 to 3

St. Bonaventure's Women's Christian Fellowship's 25th Annual Women's Retreat — “Mercy Falls Like Gentle Rain.” At St. Clare's Retreat Center, 2381 Laurel Glen Road, Soquel. Father Richard McAlear, OMI, internationally known retreat master, returns with his special gifts of hope and healing through the Merciful Heart of Jesus. Register online at www.stbonaventure.net and at wcf2019retreat.eventbrite.com. Information, contact Andrea at 925-529-7675.

Feb. 8 to 10

“Marriage: A Transforming Friendship” — Married Couples Retreat with Father Rusty Shaughnessy and Karla and Richard Obernesser. At San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: \$350 per couple. Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

February 22 to 24

Retrouvaille — A Lifeline for Marriages. Do you feel lost, frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Retrouvaille helps married couples heal and renew their marriages. The next Oakland meeting will include follow-up sessions over six Saturdays (March 2, 16, 30, April 13, May 4 and 18) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or contact Gus and Edda Rivera, 510-709-6063.

March 9 and 10

Help After Abortion Healing Retreats. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of San Francisco Project Rachel Ministry. In English, led by the Contemplatives of St. Joseph. RSVP to 415-614-5567 or email Leslie at projectrachel@sfarch.org. All inquiries are confidential.

◆ TAIZÉ

(An ecumenical, candlelit service of prayer in simple chant, Scripture readings, silent worship and veneration of the cross.)

Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15

8 to 9 p.m. at **Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Chapel,** 43326 Mission Circle, Fremont, (off Mission Tierra). Third Fridays, Sept. to May. 510-933-6366 or tschmidt@msjdominicans.org.

Sunday, Jan. 20

7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at **Christ the King Church,** 199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill. Ecumenical services held every third Sunday at different worship sites.

Friday, Jan. 25

8 p.m. at **St. Joseph Basilica,** 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda. Every fourth Friday, (every third Friday in November and December). www.facebook.com/TaizeOnTheIsland.

◆ SUPPORT GROUPS

Jan. 10, 22, Feb. 12, 28

Grief Support. At St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Call 925-846-8708 for more information. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

Tuesdays

Divorce Support Workshops. 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Parish, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. This is a video series by DivorceCare. Questions/registration, email Rosemarie McKenney, RMcKenney@sjasr.org.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

St. John Vianney Grief Ministry. 7 p.m. in Mullins Common, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Facilitator: Rev. Padraig Greene. Information: Eileen Matthews, 925-939-8199 or etmatthews@sbcglobal.com.

Third Wednesdays

Military Peer Support Group. 7 to 8 p.m. in the rectory at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Veterans share life challenges and opportunities. Contact: Dom Pietro at 925-462-4665 or pie411@comcast.net.

Fourth Wednesdays

Family Caregiver Support Ministry. 7 p.m. in rooms 214 and 215 in the Ministry Center at St. Isidore Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Family caregivers are invited to our monthly meetings which include prayer, handouts on caregiving and discussion related to coping when caring for loved ones. Dave Clare, 925-314-5784.

Thursdays

Widows/widowers grief support group. 5 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood. Sandy Heinisch, 925-513-3412 or sandynca@sbcglobal.net.

Parents Who Have Lost a Child Grief Support Group. At Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood. Sandy Heinisch, 925-513-3412 or sandynca@sbcglobal.net.

Third Thursdays

Catholic Divorced Widowed and Separated of Contra Costa. 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Those who are struggling from a loss due to separation, divorce, death of a loved one or loneliness and depression are welcome to participate in these peer group meetings. Joan S., 925-939-1007.

Next Voice: January 21. Submissions by January 9 to Carrie McClish, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612; Datelines@oakvoice.org (text/photos); phone 510-419-1074; or by fax at 510-893-4734.

Comfort at 'Blue Christmas'

In its second year, the Blue Christmas service at the Cathedral of Christ the Light offered togetherness and comfort to those who due to the loss of a loved one, or personal tragedy, might not be enjoying the festivities of the Christmas season. The service was on Dec. 21, the shortest day and longest night of the year, and featured music, prayer, Scripture and quiet. Many in the audience participated in a somber, candlelighting ceremony. More photos at facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.



JOHN THOMAS BURKART/THE CATHOLIC VOICE



ALL: ALBERT C. PACCIORINI/THE CATHOLIC VOICE

Large crowd honors Our Lady of Guadalupe

Staff report

The annual event to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe at Queen of All Saints Parish in Concord did not disappoint.

On the evening of Dec. 12, her feast day, a large procession moved from Todos Santos Park in the historic center of Concord, down Grant Street three blocks to the church. About 1,000 people crowded the church and the sidewalks outside and spilled into the parish hall.

The procession of floats depicting the miracle of Guadalupe, dancers, musicians, members of different church groups and the faithful were led by Rev. Fabio Correa.

Inside the church, hundreds of roses were placed at the foot of a tall structure

that reached to an image of Our Lady.

Before the Mass began, there was music, dancers, singing and prayer. Parish children re-enacted the story of the miracle: Our Lady appeared to peasant Juan Diego at Tepeyac Hill, near today's Mexico City, in 1531, and asked that a church be built for her. She appeared several times, and Juan Diego reported the apparitions to the local bishop, who did not believe Juan Diego.

Eventually, Our Lady performed a miracle: her image appeared on Juan Diego's mantle, or tilma, and it was filled with roses, of a type not native to Mexico and blooming in December.

For more photos, see facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.



ALBERT C. PACCIORINI/THE CATHOLIC VOICE

Mass-goers pray the Our Father.

Mass, festivities begin Simbang Gabi

Staff report

Joined by two dozen priests and deacons, hundreds of the faithful participated in an opening Mass Dec. 11 to begin the Filipino Christmas novena, Simbang Gabi, at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland. The opening event would be followed in the nine days before Christmas at many parishes in the diocese with a Mass and breakfast.

The Filipino people "are great examples of family and faith," said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, in his homily.

The bishop recounted Jesus' story of the shepherd who leaves his flock to search for one lost sheep. "The poor lamb has nothing. It is the most innocent and defenseless animal and thus one of the most loveable."

It's no wonder then that Christ refers to us, his Father's children, as lambs," the bishop said. "It shows just how God thinks of us, as eminently loveable for our safety ... As long as we stay part of Christ's flock, the Church, we are safe."

To the Filipino people, he said, "family and faith are inseparable. ... If you are tight with the family, you are tight with the Church."

The evening began with the procession of parols, Filipino Christmas lanterns meant to illustrate the Star of Bethlehem.

After Mass, Rev. Ken Sales recapped efforts of the Filipino community as it ended the first of a four-year celebration of the 500th anniversary of Catholicism coming to the Philippines. More photos at facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.



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LETTERS

Crisis Nursery

This is regarding the news story by Michele Jurich (Voice, Dec. 10) concerning Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Despite the circumstances or whatever evaluation of mission and services the board recommends, it is reprehensible to treat Sister Weltz, a religious sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, with such callous disregard.

The board appears to usurp the executive and legal authority of the order of religious sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet to determine the viability of BACN or to propose any future strategic plan. This is Sister Weltz' lifetime career of four decades.

Lay people are constrained to acknowledge and respect the dignified status of religious sisters. It is tragic to learn of the maltreatment of an honored sister whose unique vision and vocation resulted in 40-plus years of faithful service to anonymous, "invisible" needy families.

If professional mediation, objective assessment and evaluation, with full consent and consultation of Sister Weltz was utilized, it would avoid the dysfunctional handling of a sensitive situation. While the president of BACN deems this a "business decision," it is a far more comprehensive matter.

Ultimately, the charitable work of the Church is not served.

Donors tend to support founders, trusting them to make executive decisions regarding the mission, more so when the director is a religious sister. In the long run, the community suffers with this estrangement and respect due the Church is eroded.

Joan Batista
Walnut Creek

Weigel misses point

George Weigel's column (Forum, Dec. 10) misses the point, actually many points.

First, he argues that clericalism is not the cause of child sex abuse but he ignores the fact that there were two crimes, the abuse and the coverup.

The coverup is what the American bishops wanted to address in November and that is the most pressing issue for the February Rome meeting, and clericalism is certainly part of that problem. Second, he argues that we are using the wrong word: pedophilia instead of ephebophilia.

It seems to me this is just mincing words to make the crime look less serious. Parents are justifiably as upset by the abuse of a 17-year-old as a 7-year-old because in both cases the effect on the minor is devastating.

Third, he proposes that the cause of the abuse may be the climate of dissent in the '60s when abuse cases spiked in the US and Canada. Priestly dissent may have been a factor in any given priest's abuse, but it was the bishops' normal practice of locking away the accusations that allowed those priests to abuse more and more minors.

Fourth, he claims that a) celibacy is not the cause and b) good priestly formation is the solution. Those statements may be accurate but there is no scientific evidence to prove either.

Finally, he argues that lay oversight does not reduce the bishops' responsibility. However, lay action is the only alternative when bishops do not meet their responsibilities.

If Rome does not permit lay review of bishops' actions, the public has no recourse but to report every accusation to civil authorities in order to obtain protection and justice.

Barbara Cortese
El Cerrito

Voice of the clergy

I thoughtfully read and reflected on the Nov. 26 issue. I am always pleased when you highlight one of the many ethnic cultures in our diocese and their religious customs, like you did this time with the Vietnamese Catholics, (and the mention of Simbang Gabi). We are truly a culturally rich and diverse diocese. I only wish your article

would have delved deeper into Vietnamese church history.

Sadly, I was struck once again as to how strongly you are The Voice of the clergy, especially the head cleric, in our multifaceted diocese. (For example, pictures/activities of the bishop or priests appear 16 times in 20 pages. Almost no attention was paid to the non-clergy Catholics engaged in their own "priestly" work).

This is especially disappointing when the whole grotesque clerical culture that dominates the Church is being exposed, discussed and questioned. Let's spend more time writing about how the majority of the faithful are living their faith.

It would mean so much if you would lead the way informing and educating us on the two overwhelming moral issues that will determine the fate of the planet: the possession and use of nuclear weapons ending life in a nuclear holocaust; and the rapidly changing climate that could change human life as we know it on this planet.

If those moral issues are too risky to discuss, at least start addressing some "minor moral crises," like the genocidal war the U.S. is supporting in Yemen, or the separation of children from their parents and the gassing of babies, children, mothers on our border.

I know your budget is very limited, your guidelines are strict and you can't wander very far off the reservation. Much courage. Bless you for what you can do. Peace of Christ to you at this coming holy time.

Fred Zierten
Oakland

Change now

The Catholic church has a long history of wrong doings but still survives in spite of them. But change had to happen each time and change has to happen now. It can't be rushed but must be done with honesty and humility and transparency with justice for the victims.

Some of the cardinals and bishops are more interested in their position of power than they are of their mission as shepherds of their flock. It seems that they are more interested in maintaining the public reputation of the Church. And rather than getting rid of those who commit crimes against the very people they are supposed to be teaching and serving, the information is swept under the rug and the criminals get a slap on the wrist or even worse they are simply transferred to continue their criminal actions. There should be no secrets, no ... information that the people of the parishes cannot know about the activities of their dioceses.

We, the people in the pews, are the Church. The ordained priests, bishops and cardinals, and the pope are called to be our teachers and servants, but they are human beings and are not perfect. No one is perfect except Jesus Christ.

In Matthew's Gospel 23:3-6 Jesus says, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken the seat of Moses. Therefore do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues."

Also Matthew 23:27: "Woe you scribes and Pharisees, you are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead man's bones and every kind of filth. Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing."

What would Jesus say today about the actions of those who hide the truth.

I don't believe the problem of sexual misconduct is caused by homosexual priests. The problem is misuse of power and lack of self control of both heterosexual and homosexual priests.

There must be change with no secrets.

Letters to the editor provide a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily of the Catholic Voice or the Diocese of Oakland. While a full spectrum of opinions will sometimes include those which dissent from Church teaching or contradict the natural moral law, it is hoped that this forum will help our readers to understand better others' thinking on critical issues facing the Church.

Married priests would be one change that is worth studying. Women deacons is something to consider also. (Dare I even suggest women priests?)

Maybe we should look at the early Church and try to be more like them. They had married priests and women deacons. As St. Paul wrote, "We are no longer Jew or Greek, free or slave, MAN or WOMAN, we are one through Jesus Christ."

Maryann Schindler
Clayton

Rush to name

I fear some elements within the Church are reacting too slowly and others too quickly to the revelation of widespread sexual abuse within the clergy. Many dioceses and religious groups have caved in to the overreaction of some people and media. There is a rush to reveal the names of those ACCUSED of child abuse. I agree that those who are guilty should be identified. However in this current climate of accusation equals guilt some innocents will have their reputation and future destroyed along the way. Too many accusers have been found to be confused, e.g. what is improper touching? Others have been found to make the accusation to get on the money bandwagon. This is a huge disservice to those who are deceased and cannot defend themselves or face their accuser. I speak from experience having been accused of racial actions by one of my female employees. I insisted on a hearing in a formal state arbitration action.

I was allowed to hear the details of the complaint and question the accuser face to face. Once the facts came out she admitted she was wrong and made the accusation because she was angry. The arbitrator ruled in my favor, the accuser apologized and returned to her employment with me with no hard feelings nor repercussions.

Clifford R. Wiesner
Concord

Devil is real

I read Rev. Gerald Coleman's column on demonism and exorcism with interest (Voice, Nov. 12). A photo of Rev. Gary Thomas, an exorcist in the San Jose diocese, accompanied the article. I heard Father Thomas speak to a small group several years ago and once again since. He piqued my interest in the subject.

I have never seen the movie, "The Exorcist," but I did watch William Friedkin's 2016 follow-up video, "The Devil and Father Amorth" on NPR. I read Matt Baglio's "The Rite," Father Amorth's "An Exorcist Tells His Story" and "An Exorcist Explains the Demonic," and Rev. Fortea's "Interview with an Exorcist."

I have learned that well-trained exorcists work with a professional team including a psychiatrist, to rule out mental illness and discern the origin of the problem, as

well as possibly a psychologist, neurologist, sociologist and other therapists.

A prayer team that may include another priest should be on hand. Pope John Paul II recommended that every diocese appoint a trained exorcist. It is not something that just any priest is competent to deal with, as Father Coleman wrote.

Demonic possession is rare, as Father Coleman suggests. Cases of vexation, obsession and infestation are more frequent, but temptation and sin are the ordinary action of demons — and confession is the ordinary remedy!

Satan and demons are real — just look at the world around us and watch the news.

As young people turn away from religion, evil steps in. Witchcraft and satanic rituals take the place of worship in churches. Faithful, praying Christians are needed now more than ever. Eternal Father, have mercy on us and on the whole world!

Jack Hockel
Walnut Creek

Fruits of the Spirit

Remember the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit? They are: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control and Chastity. These fruits are our personal witness to the world as Christians. They represent the virtues good Catholic parents hope their children will adopt.

So very important, yet we rarely hear all 12 mentioned in homilies or emphasized in any way. The first eight fruits are still recognized as virtuous and desirable by most people. Who can argue with Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity or Gentleness? However, the last four (Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control and Chastity) were rejected decades ago by the dominant secular media and culture.

Do you think our own church's failure to preach, teach and embrace these virtues — and especially Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control and Chastity — has any connection to scandals involving unfaithful, abusive and promiscuous clergy?

If so, then maybe we should ask Pope Francis to declare 2020 another Extraordinary Jubilee Year — focused on these four virtues. Maybe it is time to shout them from the mountaintop instead of storing them for posterity on Page 450 of the Catechism.

Personally, I look forward to the day when our pope and bishops have finished their apology tours and mea culpas. I look forward to the day when we can stop cursing the darkness and instead turn on the light of Christ. I look forward to the day when Catholics can move from defense to offense — challenging the secular culture with a positive message and witness of strong virtues instead of timid submission to the virtues and values of this world.

Mike McDermott
Concord

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Want to write?

Contributions to Reader's Forum should be limited to 250 words. Letters must be signed and must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes. All letters are subject to editing. Writers are generally limited to four letters in any 12-month period.

Mail your letter to: The Catholic Voice, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Fax: 510-893-4734.

Our e-mail address is: Forum@oakvoice.org



Every other month: (facilitated) survivor support group meetings held at:

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11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The first Saturday of February

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