Catholic Church defends the Dreamers

Staff report

The day after the Trump administration announced the end of DACA — Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals — 200 people gathered at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland to pray the rosary, attend a Spanish-language mass, hear a message from Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, and learn from immigration attorneys from Catholic Charities of the East Bay.

The bishop said he was “very saddened” by the news from Washington. “I think it is unfair to penalize children who came here with their parents, who form stable and solid families in our community, who have worked hard in school and are now contributing members of our society — to face the fear of sudden deportation,” he said.

“St. Teresa brought the love of God to those suffering in the streets,” the bishop said. “Millions came to believe in God due to her loving gaze.”

I am happy to be here almost one year after she became a saint and 20 years after her death, the bishop said.

He thanked the Sisters of the Missions of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa, who works in St. Mark Parish, in the heart of Richmond. The diminutive Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic Sister and missionary devoted her life to charitable work. Besides vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, Sisters of the congregation she formed profess a fourth vow of mission and murmuring as Mother Teresa and another Sister entered the church from a discreet side door, he said. “Then the growing sound of clapping turned into a standing ovation as the people knew this woman radiated the presence of God.”

At the end of mass, Rev. Ramiro Flores, parochial administrator, thanked the bishop, parishioners and Sisters: “Thank God for all the blessings the Sisters have brought the poor and our community,” he said.

A long line formed as people came up to kiss the foot of the altar, which portrays the Last Supper. A long line formed with people wishing to venerate a relic of St. Teresa. Right. St. Mark’s altar servers; below, the gifts were placed at the foot of the altar, which portrays the Last Supper.

40 Days for Life vigil to begin September 27

By Michele Jurich

It was at the West Coast Walk for Life, which for the past 13 Januaries has drawn tens of thousands of pro-life supporters to San Francisco, Linda Mertes first heard of 40 Days for Life.

The Texas-based campaign uses the power of prayer, fasting and standing vigil near abortion providers in an effort to end abortion worldwide.

Over the course of 20 campaigns since its founding in 2007, the organization says 13,305 lives have been saved, and 86 abortion facilities closed. It says 750,000 people in 44 countries have been involved in those efforts.

Linda Mertes’ involvement began with an hour, on July 5, 2013, when she and her future daughter-in-law stood in front of the Planned Parenthood office in Mertes’ San Ramon neighborhood. They found the location by using Google.

“We saw several young couples going in,” she said. “It broke our hearts.” On a later visit, Mertes worked up the courage to offer a brochure to a young woman, whose eyes, she recalled, “filled with tears.”

She launched a 40 Days for Life campaign on the public right-of-way near that San Ramon Planned Parenthood location. It was a 16-hour-a-day effort for 40 days.

“We met the most incredible people, she said. “They’re so feisty, so humble and so prayerful. They have such faith.”

The campaign has since moved to the public right-of-way near the Planned Parenthood office in Walnut Creek, where medical and surgical abortions are offered. A group has stood vigil at that office (Continued on Page 11.)

On our cover

Photos from the Catholic high schools in the diocese mark our annual Catholic High School Information Guide, with news of the schools on Pages 7-12 and the special pull-out guide inside.
Voice collection

The annual collection to support the publication of the Catholic Voice, El Heraldo Católico, the diocesan Directory and affiliated websites will take place in most parishes Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, and in other parishes later in October. The money donated in this collection can be given in each parish to offset the parish’s assessment for the Voice and affiliated operations. The money is entitled to receive the Voice as part of the communication ministries of the diocese. The Voice has 21 issues a year and is mailed to 90,000 households. The Voice is published for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland twice monthly except in July, August and December.

This year, the Voice publishes only one issue in July, August and December.

BISHOP BARBER’S SCHEDULE

Sept. 19: 10 a.m., Eighth Grade Mass (Group 1), Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Sept. 20: 10 a.m., Eighth Grade Mass (Group 2), Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

3 p.m., Catholic Charities of the East Bay quarterly meeting, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Sept. 29: 8:30 a.m., Catholic Charities of the East Bay board meeting

Sept. 30: 10 a.m., Health Care Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Oct. 1: 10:30 a.m., Mass and shrine blessing, Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Motherhouse, Fremont

THE VOICE

THE DIOCESAN SUNDAY GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Payable by check to the Diocese of Oakland Accounting Office/Circulation Manager: Sandi Gearhart. All checks forwarded from the parishes or via email at circulation@oakvoice.org. If sending directly to the diocese, make the checks payable to your order of Malta Clinic of Northern California. All funds forward from the parishes or sent to the diocese will be sent to the port of the Order of Malta Clinic in Oakland, Calif. The clinic is in its 10th year of serving the sick and the poor of Northern California. The board of the Order of Malta Clinic of Northern California is honoring the board members and visionaries of the clinic as champions and most deserving of the award. For ticket information, contact 510-626-9290.

Help storm victims

Give in your parish or send directly to the Chancery.

The Voice access subscribers have a monthly option, as are paid gift subscriptions online. A subscription to the Voice is also available at $30 a year. A voice is printed with respect to the typical Latin translation of the books. The Vatican produces them. Archbishop Arthur Roche, secretary of the worship congregation, said under the new rules, the Vatican’s cardinal of a diocese is “ordinarily granted based on trust and confidence,” and “supposes a positive evaluation of the faithfulness and congruence of the texts produced with respect to the typical Latin text.” Pope Francis made no announcement of immediate changes to the translations currently in use. The document is titled “Magnificat Principium” (“The Great Principle”) and refers to what Pope Francis called the “great principle” of the Second Vatican Council that the liturgy “should be understood by the people at prayer, and therefore priests were asked to prepare and approve translations of the tests.”

THE VATICAN

Pope amends church law

In changes to the Code of Canon Law regarding translations of the Mass and other liturgical texts, Pope Francis highlighted respect for the responsibility of national and regional bishops’ conferences.

The changes, released by the Vatican Sept. 9 as Pope Francis was traveling in Colombia, noted the sometimes tense relationship between bishops’ conferences and the Congregation for the Sacraments and the Sacraments over translations of texts from Latin to the bishops’ local languages. The heart of the document, which applies only to the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, changes two clauses in Canon 838 of the Code of Canon Law. The document says the Pope’s “review” translation is to be submitted by bishops’ conferences, but will “recognize” them. And rather than being called to “prepare and publish” the translations, the bishops are to “approve and publish” them. Archbishop Arthur Roche, secretary of the worship congregation, said under the new rules, the Vatican’s “cardinal of a diocese is “ordinarily granted based on trust and confidence,” and “supposes a positive evaluation of the faithfulness and congruence of the texts produced with respect to the typical Latin text.” Pope Francis made no announcement of immediate changes to the translations currently in use. The document is titled “Magnificat Principium” (“The Great Principle”) and refers to what Pope Francis called the “great principle” of the Second Vatican Council that the liturgy “should be understood by the people at prayer, and therefore priests were asked to prepare and approve translations of the tests.”

Movie on papal election

By virtue of its definitive marriage, marriage can only be between a man and a woman, Pope Francis said in a new book-length interview. “We cannot change this. It is the nature of things,” not just in the church, but in human history, he said in a series of interviews with Dominique Wolton, a 70-year-old French sociologist and expert in media and political communication. Published in French, the 417-page book, “Politique et Societe” (“Politics and Society”) released Sept. 6.

‘Cry of the earth’

Environmental destruction is a sign of a “radically decayed scenario” in which too many people ignore or deny that, from the beginning, “God intended humanity to cooperate in the preservation and protection of the natural environment,” said the leaders of the Catholic and Orthodox churches. Marking the Sept. 1 World Day of Prayer for Creation, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople issued a joint message.

“The Catholic voice . . . be spread in every diocese, in every parish, in every association, in every family.”

— Pope Paul VI

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*The Catholic Voice — Publication theme subject to change.

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Dream big, don’t listen to cynics

Pope Francis greets pilgrims at his weekly audience Aug. 30, at the Vatican, where said God wants people to live with hope and joy — but not bitterness — and to dream with him of a better world. “Please, make sure we do not listen to disappointed and unhappy people; let us not listen to those who cynically plead not to cultivate hope in life,” he said.

— Pope Francis
By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

Folks, I’d like to share the short remarks I made at the Mass and Prayer Vigil in support of the DREAMERS affected by the recent DACA decision by the White House.

I am very saddened by the decision taken recently to end the provisions of the DACA program. I think it is unfair to penalize children who came here with their parents, who form stable and solid families in our community, who have worked hard in school and are now contributing members of our society — to face the fear of sudden deportation.

To the 800,000 young people, DREAMERS, affected by this decision I want to say: “The Catholic Church stands with you. The Catholic Church supports you. The Catholic Church will do everything we can to defend your human rights and your human dignity.”

To my brothers and sisters in the Catholic Faith I want to say: Jesus Christ is our model and guide in life. As a child, Jesus was taken by Mary and Joseph to a “foreign country” when they had to flee into Egypt to escape persecution. The Son of God was an immigrant, who obeyed his parents, whose family was welcomed in a “foreign land.”

The Church teaches that ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE CHILDREN OF GOD FIRST.

We are made in the image and likeness of God — that gives all of us a dignity that no government can ever take away.

To my fellow Americans, I’d like to say: Many of our family ancestors came to this country as immigrants from overseas. For many, the first view of our country was the Statue of Liberty: a proud symbol of freedom and welcome and opportunity and hope. This is why so many people still want to come here, for the values for which we stand. We must live up to those values.

The one glimmer of hope that comes from the Sep. 5 announcement is that it gives Congress the opportunity to pass legislation that will make the provisions of DACA law. Congress has the duty and legislative authority to resolve this issue.

Since I made the above remarks on Sept. 6, I’ve received some respectful emails from Catholics observing that bishops should encourage citizens to follow the “rule of law” and noting the historic pitfalls that flow in many countries when leaders fail to follow the law. The Catholic bishops of Nebraska issued a good statement on DACA, a portion of which I would like to quote and add my approval:

“While reasonable people may disagree about the nature and scope of former President Barack Obama’s executive action that established DACA, we can all agree that DACA is not a permanent solution. Our DACA youth’s precarious legal and political situation overshadows their daily life and work. Their situation demands a resolution that is befitting of their human dignity.

We call upon our elected officials at the federal level to move forward and find permanent legislative solutions to ensure that DACA youth remain in the United States, where they may continue to reach their God-given potential. We promise to work with lawmakers from all parties to ensure that DACA youth are able to stay in this country and live in peace. We acknowledge that addressing immigration policy can be daunting and difficult. It is a task that requires prudence analysis and charitable dialogue. But we are certain there are opportunities to assist and advocate for our DACA youth.”

For these reasons, I encourage all of us in the East Bay to encourage our elected representatives to stop postponing comprehensive immigration reform, and work together to find a permanent solution.
Pope calls for change of culture

CARTAGENA, Colombia — Pope Francis capped a five-day trip to Colombia Sept. 10 with a call for culture change in a country attempting to pursue a path of peace and reconciliation after decades of armed conflict and centuries of social exclusion. The pope called for Cartagena, on Colombia’s Caribbean Coast, where he remembered St. Peter Claver and urged the country to follow the example set centuries earlier by the priest, who tended to slaves arriving on ships by showing kind gestures and dignity.

The final Mass, celebrated at the docks and full of up-tempo music and worship, reiterated many of the themes Pope Francis raised throughout his trip to Colombia: peace, reconciliation and social inclusion, to name but three.

Meanwhile, Church leaders prayed for Mexicans and Guatemalans affected by the magnitude 8.1 earthquake that struck the Pacific Coast. At the end of Mass in Villavicencio, Colombia, Sept. 8, Pope Francis prayed “for all the people who are suffering because of the earthquake last night in Mexico.”

Pope Francis offered special prayers for Venezuela and its people suffering in the midst of a huge political and economic crisis. Venezuela has been torn by violence and strikes with severe shortages of food and medicine as its political crisis drags on. More than 100 people have died in protests as President Nicolas Maduro has attempted to consolidate his power.

Pope Francis called on Catholics to find their future priests and religious in rough and imperfect places. People from such places, he told an ecumenical gathering in Cartagena, are “the ones on the front line, the first to show that the church is there.”

During his trip to Cartagena, Colombia, Pope Francis cut and bruised his face on the popemobile window when he was greeting people.

Feinstein attacks Catholic

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, spurred outrage about possible religious tests for judicial appointees when she criticized a Catholic judicial nominee Sept. 6 about what impact her faith would have on her interpretation of the law. Reaction from Catholic leaders to the hearing for Amy Coney Barrett, nominee for a seat on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, was swift. Feinstein did not question Barrett about capital punishment cases, but rather the upholdings of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that made abortion legal. “When you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you. And — that’s of concern when you come to big issues that large numbers of people have fought for in this country.”

Father Hesburgh stamp

A postage stamp marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Father Theodore Hesburgh, a Holy Cross priest who served as president of the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, was issued Sept. 1 in the Joyce Center on campus by the U.S. Postal Service. The stamp features an oil-on-panel painting of the educational and civic leader standing on the Notre Dame campus by artist Tim O’Brien.

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Millions for relief

SAN ANTONIO — Catholic Charities USA presented a $2 million check Sept. 4 representing donations received to date for immediate emergency assistance for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and its catastrophic flooding. One hundred percent of the funds raised will go directly to immediate and long-term recovery efforts.

In addition, the Knights of Columbus has raised more than $1.3 million to help recovery efforts in Texas. Funds have been used to provide food and shelter for residents in Houston and surrounding communities, Corpus Christi, Beaumont and Ingleside.

Meanwhile, exhausted people in the Southeast and Caribbean suffered through Hurricane Irma, the first major hurricane to hit the United States in a dozen years. Other hurricanes were backing up behind Irma.

The destroyed St. Peter Church in Rockport, Texas, is seen Sept. 9 in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The parish is home to mainly Vietnamese-American Catholics.

Not on travel ban

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department said it would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court a lower court’s ruling that rejected the Trump administration’s limits on who can be allowed into the United States under the administration’s travel ban. The announcement came late Sept. 7, after a three judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously decided that grandparents, cousins and other close relatives of people in the United States should not be prevented from entering the country.

— Catholic News Service

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By Michele Jurich
Staff writer
The American Red Cross of the East Bay
has honored Rev. Jayson Landeza for his first-responder award at the scene of last December's Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, where 36 people died.

The award was one of six Alameda County Heroes Awards presented this month by the American Red Cross of the East Bay Area.

"It was humbling that," said Father Landeza, who served as pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Oakland and is chaplain to Oakland Fire and Police departments, as well as other agencies.

The award, he said, is not his alone.

"This award needs to go to those first responders who were there from the very moment of that fire and the work they did not to only make sure the victims in the Ghost Ship fire were cared for with dignity and respect, but that family and friends were also treated with a sense of compassion and respect."

"I was just one of many who were part of that process," said Father Landeza.

"It took an emotional toll on lots of folks," he said. "The Ghost Ship, for some, accentuated the toll, but provided others with an additional difficult incident they need to deal with. For all, it's all those, too."

"The Blue Mass offers some solace."

"Often times people wonder where God's presence is in the midst of some of the more difficult situations first responders face," Father Landeza said.

"The Blue Mass acknowledges God's care and blessing, and the community's support."

"It acknowledges, at least on some level, our gratitude, and it invites God's blessings for them and their work and their families and friends."

Blessing of the animals, 2017

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer
Oct. 4 is the feast day of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals. A tradition to observe his feast day the blessing of animals. Here are dates and locations of events for the first-responder community, as well as remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty in the past year.

In addition to an invitation to those who serve, the Blue Mass is also an invitation to those who are served.

Rev. Jayson Landeza serves as pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Oakland, as well as chaplain to the Oakland Police and Fire departments and other agencies.

His work with the first-responder community includes planning the annual Blue Mass, which has been celebrated at the cathedral since 2013.

"I think of the community in the East Bay, we acknowledge those men and women who really help to care for our community in some of the most difficult times," Father Landeza said.

It has been a challenging year for the first-responder community, particularly in Oakland, where the Ghost Ship warehouse fire claimed the lives of 36 people.

Father Landeza was, "continue to struggle about what the experience was for." For some, he said, the effect is cumulative, noting "the things Oakland emergency responders see.

"It's an emotional toll on lots of folks," he said. "The Ghost Ship, for some, accentuated for some, but for others, it was just another difficult incident they need to deal with. For all, it's all those, too."

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Red Cross honors Catholic chaplain as first responder

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer
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"I was just one of many who were part of that process," said Father Landeza.

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We celebrate Mass where Lydia, the first Christian convert, was baptized.

Athens/Piraeus 4 Days/3 Nights Greek Islands Cruise – Featuring Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete & Santorini.

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Visit the famous Temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. In Ephesus we recall St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians.

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A panoramic view of the Greek island of Santorini in the evening.

Walk with St. Paul on pilgrimage journey in Greece, Turkey

By Rev. Neal Clemens
Special to The Catholic Voice

“Always remember this: life is a journey. It is a path, a journey to meet Jesus. At the end, and forever. A journey in which we do not encounter Jesus is not a Christian journey.”

— Pope Francis

We are invited on such a journey described to us by Pope Francis. We will accompany St. Paul on his journey through Greece and Turkey. We will walk in his steps and stand in the very places where he preached the Gospel. We will enter monasteries and churches and walk among the ancient ruins.

Joining you on a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey is an answer to a personal prayer of mine for I have traveled many times through the Holy Land; lived in the historical city of Ur of the Chaldeans in Iraq; and journeyed with Saints Peter and Paul in Rome; and now we have the privilege to walk with St. Paul in Greece and Turkey.

As we begin our journey it is good to recall that St. Paul’s journey began with an encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Damascus. It was there that Paul realized that the Church is the living body of Christ.

At that, St. Paul constantly uses the phrase “in Christ” to express that the Church is the mystical body of Christ.

On our pilgrim journey through Greece and Turkey, through village and town, church and temples, ruins and modern structures, monasteries and shrines, we journey as that mystical body which St. Paul so boldly proclaimed.

(Father Neal Clemens is pastor at Queen of All Saints Parish in Concord)
Diocese’s newest high school seeking its founding class

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School is looking forward to welcoming its first students — the Class of 2022 — to its St. Elizabeth campus in fall 2018. The admission director’s goal is to create a class of 130 students “that reflects the diversity of Oakland, rich in culture and all that it has to offer.”

The first high school to open in the Diocese of Oakland in a half-century will offer personalized education, a corporate work study program and low tuition to students from families of limited economic means.

“We’re open to all public school and Catholic school students whose family income falls below 75 percent of the median income for the area,” said Mike Anderer, school president.

In the East Bay, the maximum qualifying income is about $73,000 for a family of four. The majority of students will have a family income of less than $53,000 for a family of four. Because of the income requirement, Anderer said he estimated more of the students would be coming from public or charter schools.

“We exist to take away the economic barriers to school,” said Damien Lamar McDuffie, director of admissions and community engagement.

It’s a school for students and families, McDuffie said, “who believe that Catholic school isn’t available or affordable to them.”

Principal Ana Hernández is responsible for developing the school’s personalized learning model. “Our goal is to provide our students with the opportunity to learn at their own pace, create their own learning path, with people who care for their needs, at a place that provides them with different learning modalities,” Hernández said.

“The idea is the teachers will have the opportunity to leverage the technology to support individual students’ learning needs,” she said.

Students will also have access to technology at home. “We’ll create an environment where they’ll be no barrier to having a device,” Anderer said, adding that help will be available for families to gain access to low-cost Wi-Fi service.

Hernández will work closely with John Coughlan, who is charged with directing the corporate learning program. “Our goal is to provide our students with the opportunity to learn at their own pace, create their own learning path, with people who care for their needs, at a place that provides them with different learning modalities,” Hernández said.

The corporate work study program is the defining element of a Cristo Rey education. Anderer explained how it will work at the Oakland school.

“A corporation or office or a nonprofit would pay Cristo Rey De La Salle $36,000 for a full-time, five-day-a-week position for 10 months out of the year, for the school year,” Anderer said. “Four students would share that job. Each student would come one day a week. On the fifth day, the students would rotate, so one week a month, a student would go two days.”

The annual tuition at Cristo Rey De La Salle is $18,000 per student. By participating in the work program, the student contributes half of the cost of education.

The family’s contribution will be on a sliding scale, based on income, between $500 and $2,500 a year. “We anticipate the average will be about $1,000,” Anderer said. “The remaining $8,000 we commit — and this is part of our model — to raise $8,000 per student,” Anderer said.

“It’s not a question of if,” he said. “It’s just what we’re going to do.”

The school will have on staff Christian Brother Richard Orona as the Lasallian animator. “The Lasallian anima- tor is the person in the building who helps animate the Lasallian charism” Anderer said. “The core values of faith, service, community, inclusion and social justice will be

(Continued on Page 8.)
Moreau Catholic Students incubate social justice ideas

Special to The Catholic Voice

Bryan Lorentz and Mary McInerney, social justice teachers at Moreau Catholic High School, forge new space on campus for students to become social entrepreneurs as they create capstone service projects guided by Catholic social teaching and Holy Cross values.

“We are calling it Incubator Space,” McInerney said, referring to the new design area on campus where the boot and bright est minds share a space fitted with the right tools to match millennial creative intellect.

The architectural inspiration for the Incubator Space, which is more of a design center than a classroom, borrows from building design insights in Silicon Valley and Pixar’s Emeryville campus, designed by Steve Jobs,” Lorentz said. “Pixar’s building was made for open-space collaboration and unplanned interactions between different departments.”

Following suit, Moreau’s Incubator Space is shared by students in digital photography, yearbook, multi-media production and journalism. This spill-over conversation between groups of students and different faculty leads to innovation and new ideas that would not normally happen in traditional, industrial-style classrooms.

In this new space is Moreau’s social justice program. The program provides academic workshops and guidance from faculty mentors as the foundation for students to create original capstone service projects in their senior year that are practical responses to the most pressing needs.

“In one project, a student is bringing virtual reality technology to residents at a senior center as a novel way to encourage physical activity, recreation and relaxation,” McInerney explained. “Another group is using social media marketing to focus on women’s health and education with a club called “The Future of Medicine.” The students aim to eliminate stereotypes used by their peers on campus, advocate on behalf of women living in poverty, and educate fellow students about injustices that women face across the world.

“Another group is developing an app to help smaller non-profits and Catholic charities get more visibility and improve their online traffic,” Lorentz said. “The stage still needs some work, but meals served, lives saved,” Lorentz added.

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Facilitating life-long learning: De La Salle’s new Learning Center

By Shannon Danser

After five years of planning and a swift ten weeks of demolition and construction, the De La Salle Learning Center opened this past August. A state-of-the-art room comprised of three conference rooms, office space, a quiet room, and 20 carousel stations, the Learning Center is an area where students will be able to focus on their studies and, as the name suggests, to learn. “The biggest thing that excites me about the Learning Center itself is the atmosphere it creates with life-long learning,” says Jon Norfolk, the newly hired Learning Center Coordinator. “It’s really amazing to see students go through that learning process from their freshmen to senior year and learn not only academic skills but life skills, as well!” Norfolk will be in charge of managing the space — from overseeing conference room reservations for faculty and staff to coordinating with tutors and providing a structured testing environment for the students.

The Learning Center has not been open for very long, but already it has made a big impact on students. “It’s amazing what a new space — whatever it might be — does to your confidence. You see the new furniture, you see the offices, and you look around and everyone is working because they have the proper resources they need to focus and do well. When students walk through the door, they know that it’s time to work. They can see that people have made a significant investment in them,” observed Norfolk.

For Sean Bristol, the Learning Needs and Spartan Success Coordinator, this Learning Center is the culmination of many years of research and planning. “It couldn’t have turned out any better. You have a vision of what you want to accomplish, and the people have made a significant investment in them,” said Bristol. “I told the students that, as you walk through this door, you know that it’s time to work. You see the offices, and you look around and everyone is working. It’s incredible.” For him and Greg MacArthur, the Bishop Cummings Program Coordinator, the impetus was really about finding space.

With more and more students needing special services outside of the classroom — whether it’s make-up, extended test taking, or tutoring, for example — more high schools are realizing that they need designated space for testing and after school tutoring, said Bristol. “Concord is one of those high schools that has a designated space for testing and after school tutoring,” Bristol explained. “But the things we thought were most important and that we really wanted, like the conference rooms, we have now. It’s incredible.”

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The Learning Center provides students services outside of the classroom, like make-up and extended test taking or tutoring.

The other half trying to take a test — not the best environment for any of those students.” With more classrooms being built in the STREAM Innovation Center, the two of them realized that there might be an opportunity to move out of their tight quarters. And so, they put together a proposal that asked the school to convert some of those old lab rooms in the 400-wing to a dedicated learning space for students.

The school agreed. “We started looking at schools throughout the Oakland Diocese and the South Bay, such as Bishop O’Dowd, Semi, and Bellarmine. More and more high schools are realizing that they need designated space for testing and after school tutoring,” Bristol explained. “But the things we thought were most important and that we really wanted, like the conference rooms, we have now. It’s incredible.”

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Summer Academy hits the mark at Bishop O’Dowd

Special to The Catholic Voice
Students attending Bishop O’Dowd High School’s recently developed Summer Academy for middle schoolers not only had the opportunity to study, learn new skills and have fun. They had a chance to engage in meaningful community time with their peers and counselors, assimilating experiencing campus as O’Dowd student.

Dragon Community Time, a one-hour program that provided a safe space for students to work in small groups around topics that fostered inclusion and well-being, was introduced this summer. Guided by trained adults and team camp counselors, students had the opportunity to explore topics such as social media, inclusion and mindfulness with the goals of staying healthy, maintaining positive social practices and respectfully engaging in the world around them.

The program was crafted to intentionally reflect O’Dowd’s charism — core values. These include Community in Diversity, Strength of Character, Academic Excellence, Kinship with Creation, Social Justice and Joy. Such framing allowed seeing these young adults step up and for middle school students — regardless of what classes they were taking — could be together,” Kigar said.

The nice thing about O’Dowd’s middle school Summer Academy is that it offers something for everyone, Turner said. “Many other camps have specific focuses, like art, or are strictly academic or athletic,” he said, “Ours offers a broad range of options.”

About 270 middle school students participated in the two-week sessions offered during July. You can register for Summer Academy 2018 at www.bishopodowd.org/academics/summer-academy-in-FEB.

SJND students make friends, serve in Chiloquin, Oregon

Special to The Catholic Voice
This July, 21 Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School students joined 45 other students in Oregon to participate in the Sierra Service Project. During the full week, the students served the community of Chiloquin, Oregon (population 734, per capita income $9,604) while exploring topics such as social media, practices and respectfully engaging in the world around them.

Examples of specific work included creating habitat for wildlife, removing invasive weeds and trees, restoring a rock wall, cleaning the promenade and 3-D modeling. SJND students immediately blended with the three other youth groups: SJND faculty member Michele Berrios said that watching high school students develop and deepen throughout the week was a true gift.

None of the students had access to technology, and surprisingly no one seemed to miss it at all! “There was a freedom we were given by being disconnected from the internet,” said Berrios. “We were free to shake off the masks we tend to wear in our day-to-day lives and just be ourselves.”

Middle-schoolers attending Summer Academy experienced the campus as would an O’Dowd student. New middle school courses introduced this year included 3-D Modeling and Animation, Brain Games, Reading the Write Way, Doing Good and Sports Medicine.

Doing Good was modeled on curriculum from the San Francisco-based non-profit The Forgotten International (Compassion Education Project), and focused on positive actions students can take locally, regionally and nationally. Its purpose is to encourage young people to care for others and work to make the world a better place,” Turner said.

Based on survey feedback, the middle school students’ families were quite pleased with the program and many are now seriously considering O’Dowd for high school. “Thank you so much for running such a great program. Our daughter fell in love with O’Dowd and is super excited at the thought of being an O’Dowd student,” Turner commented one parent.

Middle School program lead Hillary Kigar explained that students started the day with two academic sessions, had lunch, and then participated in Dragon Community Time before moving on to sports or art offerings.

Each day was built around a theme, which was introduced in a skit created by the counselors. Students then broke into small groups for discussions, where they had the opportunity to delve deeper on the topic. Sometimes, games or larger group activities were incorporated. “This structure created an intentional space where all the middle school students — regardless of what classes they were taking — could be together,” Kigar said.

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Students pose with 84-year-old Chiloquin resident Monte and his home, which they repaired.

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Students pose with 84-year-old Chiloquin resident Monte and his home, which they repaired.
Latinos to gather at V Encuentro

Staff report

V Encuentro — a not-to-be-missed opportunity for Latino Catholics to share their hopes, dreams and talents — is set for Oct. 28 at St. Elizabeth Parish in Oakland. The daylong event will include Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael O. Barber, SJ, followed by a gathering to present concerns. By Sept. 11, a half-dozen parishes had completed their preparation for the diocesan event. Each parish — St. Louis Bertrand and St. Patrick in Oakland, St. Felicitas in San Leandro, St. Edward in Newark, St. Bede in Hayward and St. Joseph in Pinole — had completed the process of discerning concerns and selecting its delegates to the diocesan event.

Each of the 35 parishes expected to attend V Encuentro will send a delegation — median size is expected to be 30 people — including people under the age of 35; emerging leaders; established leaders; a member of the clergy or religious; and a non-Latino delegate. At the diocesan event, the delegates will receive the results of the surveys, and decide which areas to put their efforts into for the coming two years. Also, delegates to the April 26 regional V Encuentro, to be held in Fresno, will be elected. The diocesan event expects to send 80 delegates to Fresno, and 34 to the national V Encuentro in Texas in September 2018.

DACA checklist

Catholic Charities of the East Bay offers free DACA renewal workshops from 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 18 and 25, and Oct. 2 at 217 Harbour Way, Richmond.

Bring to the workshop: work permit, two passport photos and a money order for $495 made out to the Department of Homeland Security.

Renewals of DACA work permit that expire between Sept. 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018 must be filed by Oct. 5.

DACA remains valid until its expiration date. DACA that will expire after March 5, 2018, will not be eligible for renewal.

Source: Catholic Charities of the East Bay, www.cceb.org

Catholic Church . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

Catholic Church . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

dutiful and valued members of our country, he said. He encouraged “all people of good will” to encourage their members of Congress in this action.

The bishop’s words echoed those of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which called on all Catholics to “join us as we unite our voices with all who speak in defense of human dignity and promise,” “The Church will not waver in her defense of our sisters and brothers of all faiths who suffer at the hands of merciless persecutors.”

During his trip back to Rome from his visit to Colombia, Pope Francis said that he hopes President Trump “retreats a bit.”

“I’ve heard the president of the United States speak; he presents himself as a man who is pro-life, a good pro-lifer,” the pope said. “But it’s not accurate. He understands that the family is the cradle of life and its unity must be defended.”

Pope Francis said people must be very careful not to dash the hopes and dreams of young people or make them feel “a bit exploited,” because the results can be disastrous, leading some to turn to drugs or even suicide.

40 Days for Life . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

faithfully on Fridays for about 20 years, Mertes said.

A kick-off rally on Sept. 24 in the gym at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish Gym, 2039 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek will (preceded) this fall’s 40 Days for Life.

Speakers will include Rev. Walter Hoye, the Issues4Life founder; Teresa Burgess of Silent No More, a program sponsored by Priests for Life; and Blayne Wittig, executive director of Options for Women of California, a pregnancy counseling center in Concord.

Wittig’s organization has an ultrasound bus, which rally-goers can have a look at on Sept. 24. That bus has been parked several times near the Planned Parenthood office, Mertes said.

The rally will begin at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and a chance to look at the bus, with speakers at 6 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

On Sept. 27, the vigil begins, on the public right-of-way on Sunday, through Nov. 5.

Mertes asks that vigil participants sign up at 40daysfor- life@walnutcreek.org or by email to friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com.

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IrishHelpAtHome.com
New collaboration offers cathedral music offerings

Staff report

The Catholic community at California State University East Bay will gather for the opening Mass of the new school year at 7 p.m. Sept. 24, in the Multipurpose Room, on the first floor of the New Student Union on the Hayward campus.

Eunice Park, campus minister, reports about 85 percent of the students she serves come from the Diocese of Oakland. The majority are second-generation immigrants of Latino and Filipino backgrounds. “The majority are also first-generation college students, which means that they face a variety of challenges in their academic endeavors,” she said.

The Catholic ministry to students, which is supported by All Saints Parish in Hayward, is looking for space for active, year-round events. Park said, is that the campus ministry building the Catholics had been using for the past four years is no longer available.

“As a result, the setting and nature of our events will change drastically,” she said. “We will have to figure out where we will be holding our activities. Some will be on campus, but because the campus is impacted and space is incredibly limited, we will not be able to hold all of our events there.”

Information on the ministry is available at its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CSUEBCatholicClub.

Neuman Hall fetes 50 years

Staff report

Berkeley’s Holy Spirit/Newman Hall Parish will celebrate 50 years of ministry to students and faculty from the nearby University of California, young professionals, families and neighbors near and far on its church home at 2700 Dwight Way on Sept. 30. The celebration will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. and will be followed by food and libation, silent auction and musical entertainment.

While the community can trace its start back to the 1890s when the Paulist religious order began to minister to students at the University of California, Berkeley, campus ministry only emerges as a formal ministry mark the 50th year of the parish’s move to the then new Mario Ciampi building, which houses the church, rectory and parish center, in 1967.

For more information or to RSVP online go to www.fopwalk.org. Select Walk for “Contra Costa County” or a local church to participate.

Walk or run to help the poor

Getting ready to take part in the Friends of the Poor Walk/Run for St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County are Dante Burri, Griffin Haust, Michael Burri, Dom Armanino, Isabelle Frasca and Sasha Williams. The teens, from Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek and Dublin, are among more than 2,000 Catholic school students who are impacted by the poverty of the communities they serve across the county.

The teen volunteers serve as team coordinators for the fundraising event that begins at 9 a.m. Sept. 30 at St. Ioseph Church in Danville. Friends of the Poor Walk will take place at St. Aloysius Church in Concord and St. Paul Church in San Pablo. Sign up to walk or run at www.fopwalk.org. Select Walk for “Contra Costa County” or a local church to participate.

CSU Catholics meet Sept. 24 in Hayward

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**NEW EVENTS**

**Tuesday, Sept. 19**

**Healing the Heart Workshop begins at St. Bonaventure Church, Concord.** 7 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Bonaventure Church, 3720 Goodwyn Rd., Concord. This six-week program is Christ-centered but you don’t have to be a Catholic to attend. No cost but registration is required by Sept. 6: Patrice Siemen, Op., and the Ndungu, Tanzania. Tickets: $20. Contact: Irene 37588 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. A benefit concert 7 p.m. at Holy Spirit Church, 604 Mellus St., Martinez. Enter hall on Henrietta Circle (enter off Henrietta St.); parking on residential streets near church. Contact: 510-837-9141.

**Saturday, Sept. 23**

Chanticleer: Heart of a Soldier. 8 to 10 p.m. at St. Michael Parish Fall Festival, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Claire La Scola, the Keeley Center, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 458 maple St. at Fourth St., Berkeley. All current and former parishioners and friends are invited to join us and to bring food for and food and drink follow. Contact: 510-933-6334. Information: 510-933-6334.

**Saturday, Sept. 30**

Bay Area Crib Nursery 2017 Fall Gala "Hug Celebration." 3 to 6 p.m. at SF Zoo’s California Adventure Museum, 777 Arnold Drive, Suite 200, Martinez. Benefit for children who have been honored as exemplary leaders or who have overcome great adversity. Information: www.eventbrite.com/e/hug-celebration-tickets-95873370473. **Eucharistic ADORATION**

Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Sunday, Sept. 24, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 25, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 28, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 29, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 30, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and veneration of the cross. At St. Joseph Church, 4025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Oakland. The event, which includes dinner, silent retreat for women and men presented by Jim Stijnstra, of Los Altos, 300 Manresa Way, Los Altos. Non- refundable registration required. Information: 510-351-5244.

**TAIZÉ**

An ecumenical sendoff service of prayer in short chant, Scriptures readings, antigol worship and communal communion. **Friday, Sept. 29 to Oct. 1**

Franciscan Retreat: "What Is Yours to Do" for Men, Women and Youth. 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 11152 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-234-2244 or pie411@comcast.net. Information: www.sandamiano.org or 510-837-9141.

**RETREATS**

Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, Thursday, Friday, Saturday **Every Last Saturday**

St. Catherine of Siena Church, 11152 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-234-2244 or pie411@comcast.net. Information: www.sandamiano.org or 510-837-9141.
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Father Mangini from the perspective of a seminarian and a friend

By Rev. Aidan McAlenane

At the recent diocesan meeting of the Pastoral Board, Father Richard was present. We need a pastoral year. I figured I had spent six years in the Irish Redemptorist formation system and now went on to work for 15 years with the Sisters of Mercy in San Francisco. What could a pastoral year teach me?

Father Jerry Kennedy, of happy memory, told me there were no exceptions and in fact that many a seminarian ended up being good friends if not lifelong friends as a result of such an encounter … I wondered.

I was appointed to St. Bonaventure in the Concord/Clayton area. Initially I was not that happy as I would have preferred an inner city parish. God had a plan and in His time.

What struck me most upon my arrival in far flung ends of the diocese was how welcoming Father Richard was and how the parish embraced me.

My first time giving a talk or reflection was a nerve racking experience to say the least. Given the technology at St. Bonaventure I decided I would do a Power Point to introduce myself to the parish. Father Richard was presiding and at some point during my talk (moments later) I looked up at the garage door where the screen was and noticed that the timing on the Power Point was not correct on “OH”, I exclaimed, “the PP is running slower than I am talking” and the retort from the presiders’ chair was “well you should just talk faster” and I responded “well if you weren’t so cheap I could have 2000 pointer devices and all would be well!”

The congregation roared with excitement.

Later that week he handed me a prayer book and said, “go do a vigil at Quimet’s (funeral chapel), I don’t even have time to say that I will do that before that”, next thing I had presided at a vigil service.

Father Richard kept throwing me into things. Much in the same way my dad had taught me. Being thrown, thrown into the deep end of the pool.

Once I went with Father Richard to an ecumenical meeting of the four Presiding bishop around Contra Costa County. A Mormon bishop introduced himself to me and I told him I was a seminarian for the wonderful prayer service I had delivered at the presidium before the week. At which time he looked at him, “I haven’t heard that you witnessed this”.

So I got to meet them all and that was with us at the opening of CYO — I have four of my kids go there. I was in shock. To a northern Irish Catholic the idea of a Mormon, and I have to be bold, sending his kids to a Catholic event of sort was out of my experience.

I got to share and exercise my gifts, talent and ministry. When Father Richard’s father passed, we were able, with the wonderful help of Rev. Padraig Greene, to begin a parish grief ministry that continued to this day.

Midway through my time I received a difficult report from the Seminarian Support Team. I was devastated. I did not sleep and met Father Richard before the 6 a.m. Mass, I burst into tears and he asked what was on earth wrong. I showed him the review. He said “if anyone can understand how you’re feeling it’s I. I was held back a year from ordination and we are going to get through this together.”

I had over reacted to some constructive criticism.

I loved the pastor that I saw, I loved the way he did ministry, I loved the way he loved the people and I loved becoming his friend.

On my last day in the parish I got to say goodbye at all the Masses that weekend. The week before my mother had passed away suddenly in Ireland and the parish had rallied behind me with prayer, love and financial support. I had been deeply moved.

I have an enduring memory of Father Richard standing at the back of the church during one of his homilies. I told him “Father Richard told me when his friend.”

He loved the people and I loved becoming his friend.

Father Richard was twice the priest I ever could wish to be. He has helped me celebrate the dream that God has for me and those I serve and those I will serve. Our loving friendship endures. Amen.

(Father Aidan McAlenane is pastor at St. Columba Parish, Oakland.)

Father Richard Mangini, left, with Father Aidan McAlenane, right, on a trip to the Philippines to visit a homeless shelter outside Manila.

How can we help?

Let us know.
(510) 267-8334
Every other month (facilitated) support group meetings held at:
Santa Maria Parish Library (upper tier)
40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The first Saturday of October

Letters to the editor provide a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and concerns in a climate of 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.

I lay much of the blame on the U.S. Catholic Bishops for not encouraging Catholics to weigh the moral aspects of all the relevant issues, rather than be doctrinaire. Consider just climate change. Trump stated that God is the creator, and “a “hoser,” Hillary Clinton never did. Would his opposition to abortion outweigh the catastrophic effects of abandoning the Paris climate-change accords? Did the USCCB forget the pope’s teaching on the morality of this issue? In my local church, I never heard of or read any guidance from the USCCB. It needn’t have worried about being political for it is not the business of the candidates’ names. The USCCB members should hang their heads in shame for how Catholics voted.

R. Zanker
Concord

A better way

May 28, 2017

By Marilyn Domic,
Catholic Voice

The Catholic Voice marked its 50th anniversary last year. It was with great sadness that I read the article about the Rippole School talking about the St. John’s troubles. No matter how it is spinned, no mention of God will be permitted there from 9-4 if Oakland public schools take over. Catholic doctrine interwoven in the fabric of all subject areas will be absent.

It would be lovely to have $3,000,000-$10,000,000 to spend, but Catholic schools have always produced superior results with less, especially in inner-city schools. The question of how much will the parish be reimbursed by the public schools take over. Catholic doctrine interwoven in the fabric of all subject areas will be absent. Catholic schools have always produced superior results with less, especially in inner-city schools. The question of how much will the parish be reimbursed by the public schools take over. Catholic doctrine interwoven in the fabric of all subject areas will be absent.

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.

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