Speakers exhort Oakland at pro-life rally

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

We need public servants who know the difference between serving the public and killing the public," Father Frank Pavone told the noonday gathering in the plaza in front of Oakland City Hall on Jan. 26.

The 11th annual StandUp4Life rally, sponsored by Rev. Walter Hoye’s Issues4Life Foundation, was buoyed on many fronts: a president of the United States who has pledged to advance a pro-life agenda; recent polls, including a Marist Poll that found Americans of all political persuasions favor substantial abortion limits; and locally, the closure of the Family Planning Specialists Medical Group in Oakland.

Hoye had been arrested on the sidewalk in front of the abortion provider in 2008. He faced a two-year jail term for violating the Oakland "bubble" ordinance, but was sentenced to 30 days in jail. On appeal, the charges were dismissed. While Rev. Hoye’s Oakland rally, on the Friday before the West Coast Walk for Life, draws a smaller crowd than its San Francisco counterpart, a trio of nationally recognized pro-life leaders delivered messages of hope.

"This is not the city for those who want the unborn to be killed, who think abortion is some kind of right," said Father Pavone, head of the national Priests for Life ministry. "It is the American people who live in these cities. As polling continues to tell us, the American people are pro-life."

Pro-life activist Shawn Carney, CEO of 40 Days for Life, said: "You don’t have to learn how to be pro-life," he said. "You’ve got to learn, study, practice how to be pro-choice."

But he cautioned against demonizing those who work in the abortion clinics. "They are not the enemy," he said. "They are captives of the enemy."

A similar theme was echoed by Shawn Carney, CEO of 40 Days for Life. During the twice-yearly vigil outside abortion clinics, "They are not the enemy," he said. "They are captives of the enemy."

On our cover

People gather outside City Hall during the 14th Annual Walk for Life West Coast. On Jan. 27 in San Francisco. More on this page.

Catholic Daughters make gift to bishop

Michele Jurich
Staff writer

The motto of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is unity and charity. They demonstrated both in a recent visit with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ.

The organization, founded in 1903, supports the clergy, encourages vocations, participates in pro-life activities, offers scholarships, promotes patriotism and makes a difference by supporting community organizations. The California Daughters had owned and operated a retirement residence in Monterey County for five decades. It was sold to a senior living organization in 2016. The statewide organization put the proceeds to the bishop.

(Continued on Page 11.)

Day of the Sick

Staff report

The annual World Day of the Sick will be 11 a.m. Feb. 10 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 are invited to observe this day with the joyful 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, initiated by Pope St. John Paul II and held annually worldwide near the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, is a ministry of the Diocese of Oakland supported by the Order of Malta. No RSVP is necessary. This year there are three handicapped drop-offs: in front of the cathedral on Harrison Street, on 21st Street in front of the Chancery/Malta Clinic offices and on Kaiser Plaza near Speciality’s Café. There is general parking in the Kaiser Garage, turn right from Harrison onto 21st Street.

Tours of the Malta Health Clinic and legal advice from the Pope Francis Legal Clinic will be available.

(Continued on Page 14.)

Being a kidney donor affirms respect for, dignity of life

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

For Rev. Brandon Macadaeg, the opportunity to become a kidney donor for his mother has been a spirit-filled journey.

The surgery, which took place Dec. 27 at Stanford University Medical Center, was successful. "Everything went well," Father Macadaeg said. Both the son and his mother, now out of the hospital four days after the surgical procedure.

The surgery took place on the Feast of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist, who is best known as the beloved disciple who stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus was being crucified. Jesus said to him, "Behold your mother," speaking of His own mother as she stood next to the saint.

For Father Macadaeg, undergoing the surgery on this particular feast day is providential. To be able to show love for one’s mom is ‘a very powerful thing for me to do,’ he said.

The new kidney, which began to immediately do its job of removing waste products and excess fluid from the body, means that Cindy Macadaeg no longer has to undergo dialysis three times a week.

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**BISHOP BARBER’S SCHEDULE**

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**THE CHURCH**

**THE DIOCESE**

Retreat at St. Joachim’s


**Turn to Mary**

A relationship with Mary, the mother of God, is not “optional” for Christians, Pope Francis said, because Jesus points to her as a source of protection and guidance. When ever people have opened their doors to Mary, “the devil doesn’t come in; fear doesn’t come in; the Mother Mary is, turmoil will not prevail, fear will not win. Who among us is not sometimes in distress or worried?” he asked in a morning homily Jan. 28.

**Training for mission**

Catholic universities program in philosophy, theology and canon law courses in seminaries and pontifical universities.

**Fight hatred, violence**

Individuals and governments must fight indifference and be actively prepared to respond to discrimination, hatred and violence, particularly anti-Semitism, Pope Francis said. “May we help one another in turn to grow a culture of responsibility, of memory and of closeness, and to establish an alliance against indifference, against every form of indifference,” he told leaders and experts attending a global gathering on anti-Semitism.

**Persecution unacceptable**

All people have a right to freely profess their own religious beliefs without fear of duress, Pope Francis said, calling on the world community to do more to protect the Yazidi minority. “It is unacceptable that human beings are persecuted and killed because of their religion,” he told a group of Yazidis during a private audience at the Vatican Jan. 24. — Catholic News Service

**Day of Renewal**

People meet and greet at the groundbreaking opening session of a Day of Renewal hosted by the Faith Formation and Evangelisation Department of the Diocese of Oakland at Sun Damiano Retreat in Danville. The free event brought together youth ministers and confirmation coordinators.

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Pope Francis offered Mass at Lima’s Las Palmas Airbase on Jan. 21, his last day in Peru, bringing an end to his 16-21 tour of South America, which also included a three-day visit to Chile.

After Mass, Pope Francis thanked all those who helped organize his visit, including Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, the country’s civil authorities and the many volunteers who dedicated their time.

Francis noted that he began his trip by speaking of Peru as a land of hope, which he said comes from the country’s rich biodiversity, its various cultures and traditions, and because of its youth, “who are not the future but the present of Peru.”

Pope Francis greets dancers upon his arrival at the international airport in Trujillo, Peru, Jan. 20.

‘Be the saints of the 21st century’

**THE VATICAN**

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The Catholic Church doesn’t do ‘paradigm shifts’

By George Weigel

Ever since Thomas Kuhn popularized it with his 1962 book, “The Structure of Scientific Revolutions,” the notion of a “paradigm shift” has led to fascinating arguments about whether this or that break with previous scientific understanding counted as one.

But that a “paradigm shift” — like the “shift” from Sir Isaac Newton’s cosmology to Albert Einstein’s, or Newton’s cosmology to the germ theory of disease — is a rupture is not in much dispute. A “paradigm shift” signals a dramatic, sudden and unexpected break in human understanding — and thus something of a new beginning.

So are there “paradigm shifts” in the Church?

We seem to have biblical evidence for one in the first chapter of Galatians, where St. Paul describes, very telegraphically, how he came to grasp an astonishing truth that the salvation promised to the People of Israel in the covenants with Abraham and Moses had been extended to the Gentiles. Some might find another “paradigm shift” in the first chapter of John’s Gospel (as which Jesus of Nazareth is identified as the “Word” who “was in the beginning with God”).

These are matters of divine revelation, however, and as the Church has long believed and taught, revelation ended with the death of the last apostle. So the evolution of the Church’s understanding of the Gospel over the centuries is not a matter of “paradigm shifts,” or ruptures, or radical breaks and new beginnings; it’s a question of what theologians call the development of doctrine. And as Blessed John Henry Newman taught us, authentic doctrinal development is organic and in continuity with “the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1.3). The Catholic Church doesn’t do rupture; that was tried 500 years ago, with catastrophic results, for Christian unity and the cause of Christ.

So it was unfortunate that Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Secretary of State of the Holy See, recently described “Amoris Laetitia,” Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation on marriage and the family, as a “paradigm shift.”

Perhaps Cardinal Parolin meant “paradigm shift” in some other sense than Thomas Kuhn’s (although Kuhn’s notion of paradigm-shift-as-rupture is the common understanding of the term). Perhaps the cardinal was suggesting that “Amoris Laetitia” asked all the people of the Church to treat those who have not been married “in the same way that the Church treated the faithful in the days of Cyprian and Augustine — not to mention Peter and Paul.”

But whatever he may have intended, the cardinal cannot have meant that “Amoris Laetitia” is a “paradigm shift” in the sense of a radical break with previous Catholic understandings. For the Catholic Church doesn’t do “paradigm shifts” in that sense of the term, and the pope himself has insisted that “Amoris Laetitia” does not propose a rupture with the Church’s settled doctrines on the indissolubility of marriage and worthiness to receive Holy Communion.

Where something similar to a Kuhn-type “paradigm shift” is underway, however, is in the reception of “Amoris Laetitia” in various local churches — and this is ominous. The pastoral implementation of “Amoris Laetitia” mandated in Malta, Germany and San Diego is quite different than what has been mandated in Poland, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, England, and Edmonton, Alberta.

Because of that, the Catholic Church is beginning to resemble the Anglican Communion (itself the product of a traumatic “paradigm shift” that cost John Fisher and Thomas More their heads). For in the Anglican Communion, what is believed and celebrated and practiced in England is quite different from what is believed, celebrated, and practiced in Nigeria or Uganda.

This fragmentation is not Catholic. Catholicism means one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and unity is one of the four distinctive marks of the Church. That unity means that the Church embodies the principle of non-contradiction, such that a grave sin on the Polish side of the Oder River can’t be a source of grace on the German side of the border.

Something is broken in Catholicism today and it isn’t going to be healed by appeals to paradigm shifts. In the first Christian centuries, bishops frankly confronted and, when necessary, fraudulently corrected each other. That practice is as essential today as it was in the days of Cyprian and Augustine — not to mention Peter and Paul.

(Read it yourself: http://bit.ly/1UN7CCU)

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School network closing

WASHINGTON — A trust fund that supports a Catholic school network in inner-city Memphis, Tennessee, is currently urging diocesan officials to announce that the schools will close at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. Vince Higgins, director of communications for the Diocese of Memphis, said the closing of nine Jubilee Catholic Schools as well as affiliated St. Michael School is “a long time coming. Without some great benefactor coming forth saying, ‘We’ll fund the schools,’ we can’t face that cost.”

The diocese expects that a separate network of charter schools will take over the education of children attending the schools that will keep “the same schools, same curriculum, same teachers, same student pool,” in place, allowing for a high level of academic achievement to continue.

Dismantling racism

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virigina — Just over five months after a violent white supremacy rally shook Charlottesville — and the nation — to its core, more than 80 area Catholcs gathered to discuss racism and how to talk about it, dismantle it and advance toward equality for all. “The sin of racism is that it attempts to deny certain individuals’ image and likeness of God,” said Greer Gordon, a theologian, activist and retired departmental director of the Office of Evangelization for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. “We have never had such revelations from God in Scripture. We have to be able to stand in front of people and witness to this. Like Paul, we must be courageous.”

Bishop gives absolution

HONOLULU — Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva gave general absolution to about 40 people in a diocesan formation program in response to the alert of an imminent ballistic missile attack that put Hawaii in a state of panic shortly after 8 a.m. Jan. 13. It was the first time he had ever performed the rite. The absolution of sins given to a group of people at one time is allowed only in grave circumstances, such as situations of great danger or imminent death, or for soldiers going into battle, when private confessions are logically impossible.

Young adults study

LINTHICUM, Md. — It’s no secret that for years, teenagers and young adults have been leaving the Catholic Church, putting aside organized religion for a more personal spirituality, another faith tradition or no faith at all. A new study by St. Mary’s Press looks at the reasons for such religious disaffiliation, asking teenagers and young adults ages 15 to 25 a basic question: Why did you leave the church? The answers reported in the study, titled “Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Religious Disaffiliation, asking teenagers and young adults ages 15 to 25 a basic question: ‘Why did you leave the church?’” said most of those affected by the eruption of Mount Mayon in Albay province.

Philippines has appealed for donations for the relief and rehabilitation of families affected by the ongoing eruption of Mount Mayon in Albay province. More than 75,000 people have been evacuated to temporary shelters as the volcano started spewing columns of ashes as high as one mile.

**Catholic News Service**
By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Maybe you pick one up in the back of the church on Ash Wednesday. Maybe your children bring one home from school. However CRS Rice Bowl enters your home, the annual Lenten program of education, prayer, fasting and almsgiving brings the world a little closer. Twenty-five percent of the collection, which is usually taken up on Holy Thursday, stays in the diocese to support organizations that feed the hungry. The remainder goes to work in the world.

Cassandra Bissainthe came to Oakland last month to give school children and parish leaders an opportunity to learn how Catholic Relief Services puts those donations to work. Bissainthe, 32, was born in Haiti but moved to the United States with her family when she was 16, during a time of political unrest in her country. She graduated from high school and from Florida International University, where she earned a degree in international relations. In 2012, two years after the earthquake hit Haiti, she said, “I was wondering what I can do that would be meaningful?”

She and her husband returned to Haiti, where she began working with Trocaire, the Irish-based agency similar to CRS. When Trocaire closed its services in Haiti, she went to work for CRS.

“Our strength is working through our partners,” Bissainthe said, “empowering them. We give them tools.”

Among the projects she is working on in Haiti — where she and her husband are raising their children, ages 6, 4 and 1 — is early childhood literacy. The program, approved by the country’s ministry of education and the Catholic bishops’ conference of Haiti, is being used by first- and second-graders in Catholic schools in northern Haiti.

The literacy program uses Creole, the language of the people of Haiti. CRS has helped teachers and principals learn how to introduce the program in their schools.

The children are learning about the language and teacher use different ways to engage them,” she said, including songs. “The kids truly grasp what they’re learning,” she said. There’s an added benefit of teaching the language the children speak at home. “When they go home, their parents can support their learning,” Bissainthe said.

When needed, CRS provides a hot meal for the students. Bissainthe said that is often not needed in the Catholic schools, because the parish priest provides lunch for students.

Haitians, she said, are accustomed to living with earthquakes and hurricanes. “We do have resilient, smiling faces amid the chaos of challenges,” she said. “We are a strong people.”

Joseph Andrise, 29, a teacher from Notre Dame de Lamuraie de Noéhild school, in Nord Department, Haiti, reads the workbook of “Haït Réalités” program presented to Creole public school with her first-grade students. Catholic Relief Services in partnership with the diocesan office of the Catholic Education Commission, are implementing the program “Haït Réalités” “Education is the foundation of everything,” Andrise said. She has been teaching at the same elementary school she graduated from for 11 years.
Alveda King: Hoye’s work ‘sacrificial’

By Michelle Jurich

Staff writer

Nine years ago, Rev. Walter Hoye went to jail for violating a ‘bubble law’ that regulates the distance between abortion clinic, a violation later struck down by the courts.

On a webcast broadcast on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Dr. King was able to share the news that the place where that protest occurred, Family Planning Specialists Medical Group, had closed its doors.

The doctors who ran the clinic for 33 years have retired, according to a post on the medical group’s website. This is the eighth abortion business to close in California within the last year, pro-life advocates say.

Rev. Hoye, the name came as part of a search to help keep his issues. Life Foundation doing its work, primarily in educating black pastors and in drawing attention to the disproportionate amount of abortions performed in communities of color.

Rev. Hoye’s Life Foundation set a modest goal — 100 new volunteers at $20 a month — for the webcast, which drew leaders of the pro-life movement, including Alveda King, the niece of the man whose birthday was celebrated that day.

“Walter and Lori are both sacrificial people,” she said. “They’ve both sacrificed.”

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco said, “I remember so well” meeting Walter and Lori Hoye, “witnesses to the sanctity of life.”

“Walter was going to trial,” the archbishop recalled. Still, he found “such a peace about him.”

In April of this year, on his way to Oakland, where he had been named bishop, he stopped at Santa Rita Jail to visit Hoye. “We had a prayerful visit,” he recalled. The phone connection wasn’t working. He and his “brother in Christ” had “to yell through the glass.”

He said he had “no idea” of the harm abortion has caused in the black community.

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life noted that “non-violence is not non-violence if you tolerate some violence.”

“Violence is not non-violence if you tolerate some violence,” said Linda Mertes, coordinator of the Walnut Creek campaign. The vigil will end March 24.

The vigil in Walnut Creek is one among hundreds scheduled in cities across the United States and in two dozen countries. Since 2007, 40 Days for Life participants report 13,305 lives saved from abortion during a campaign.

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, has endorsed participation in the peaceful vigil. “We are called to be a voice that calls out to mothers and fathers dealing with a difficult pregnancy to know they have support and an alternative to abortion,” he wrote in a Jan. 8 letter to priests, deacons and lally of the Diocese of Oakland and “to all people of good will.”

Sign up to participate in the 40-day vigils at 40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek. Questions may be sent to FriendsLifeRallyValley@gmail.com.

The group keeps vigil year-round on Fridays, the day surgical abortions are performed in Walnut Creek, Mertes said. “We have had many beautiful encounters, including one with a couple last week who decided to have their baby,” Mertes reported last month.

The participants in the vigil offer brochures to those entering the clinic. The brochures feature contact information for pregnancy centers and other organizations, such as Birthright and the Gabriel Project, that stand ready to assist them.

Sign up for the Friday vigils at www.signupgenius.com/go/100c9d4444a4a. Before the vigil begins, a kick-off rally will be held Feb. 11 in the parish hall at St. Mary Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Road, Walnut Creek. The gathering begins with appetizers at 1 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., Dr. Haywood Robinson will speak about his conversion story from abortionist to 40 Days for Life board member.

CALL FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS
Contact: Unitours, Inc. – Marianna Pisano
1-800-777-7432 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST)
Email: mphano@unitours.com or book online at http://bit.ly/Greece2018

To receive a mailed brochure contact: Camille Tompkins
At The Catholic Voice at ctmompkins@oakdiocese.org

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Includes 4 Days/3 Nights Cruise
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HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

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

Athens – We visit the famous Greek Orthodox Monasteries that are listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list and catch a glimpse of Mt. Olympus.

Visit the famous Temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. We also visit St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians. We celebrate Mass at the Virgin Mary’s house, where she is said to have lived with St. John, after the death and resurrection of Our Lord.

Piraeus/Corinth – Spectacular views of the Corinth Canal, and celebrate Mass amid the ruins of Corinth, where St. Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. We visit the legendary Acropolis, the Parthenon and so much more!

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IRELAND

October 8 – 19, 2018
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$50 Discount if booked by February 28, 2018
Sportsmanship wins at volleyball tournament

By Bill Ford

Special to The Catholic Voice

A special note is being made of the St. Elizabeth CYO girls’ volleyball players; their dedication and teamwork have earned them a place in the history of volleyball. These players have shown great sportsmanship on and off the court.

In the recent Jim Negri Tournament, St. Elizabeth won the championship title, 25-16 over the Pacific Christian School. The tournament was held at the Oakland Catholic School.

The tournament began with a special Mass in the gym, attended by more than 150 players and their families. Father John Fernandez, a retired priest of the diocese, celebrated the Mass. Players from the teams proclaimed the readings, and the prayers of the faithful and presented the gifts to the altar.

The tournament began with the first round of play, with each team divided into a division consisting of eight grades. St. Elizabeth won the championship title, 25-16, over Pacific Christian School. The tournament was held at the Oakland Catholic School.

Each year, the RC-Camp Spiritus Award is awarded by a vote of the tournament referees to a team in each grade division displaying spirit, cheer and good sportsmanship. This year, teams from St. Elizabeth, Oakland, were voted the award in both the 7th and 8th grade divisions. In a tie vote, the 7th grade team from Assumption, San Leandro, was also voted the 7th grade award. The award is considered the highest honor in the tournament and is named after the late RC Camp, a long-time CYO referee.

In the eighth grade division, St. Elizabeth won the championship title, 25-16, with St. David as the runner-up. The Spiritus Scholarship was awarded to the team that demonstrated the best display of spirit and sportsmanship during the tournament. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Jim Negri Sr., a former CYO coach and athletic director from Corpus Christi School. Negri was one of the founders of girls’ CYO athletic programs in the Oakland diocese and began the tournament more than 40 years ago.

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In an eighth grade semifinal game, top photo, No. 7 Janie Herlich, St. Joseph, spikes the ball with No. 34 Annette Leahlah, behind her, Lindsay Borello, St. Patrick, Rodeo, defends the hit. St. Patrick won. Below, Victoria Gomula, a Seventh Grader from St. Elizabeth, Oakland, pass under a tunnel created by her teammates.

2018 Marty Mart CYO Volleyball scholarship awarded

By Bill Ford

Special to The Catholic Voice

In her scholarship essay, Daina Rodriguez, an eighth-grade CYO volleyball player from St. Cornelius Catholic School, wrote, “Volleyball has taught me that it’s OK to make mistakes. It has taught me that I need to let others make mistakes, too. Because I learned to trust my team and my team learned to trust me, I learned more about sportsmanship.”

Daina has been awarded the 2018 Marty Mart CYO Volleyball Scholarship. The award was given based on the candidates’ expression of Christian values experienced in sports and the ability to work with teammates and other teams in exhibiting those Christian values. Athletic talent is not considered.

The award is given as an application asking for their reflections on their “athletic abilities, sportsmanship, and the effects of their CYO participation on the daily life and their faith.” They are also asked to provide a reference from an adult who is significant in their lives. The top candidates are then invited to interview with the scholarship committee.

The CYO Office awards the Marty Mart Scholarship annually in the CYO Volleyball. This scholarship is named in honor of the late Marty Mart, former assistant diocesan CYO director, volleyball coach and referee, who passed away in 2002. The scholarship is $1,000 and used to support the CYO volleyball program.

In the Venezuelan tunnels created by her teammates. Elizabeth, Oakland, passes under a tunnel created by her teammates.

2018 Marty Mart CYO Volleyball scholarship awarded

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Convalidation

Convalidation offers the opportunity for couples who are civilly married to have their marriage blessed in the Catholic Church.

At St. Patrick Parish in Rodeo, six couples completed the convalidation process with a Dec. 30 Mass at which Rev. Larry Young presided.

In Alameda, St. Joseph Basilsca Parish is planning the fourth year of their marriage convalidation program. Preparation day is March 3, with the group Mass scheduled for July 28.

The marriage preparation program for the Office of Marriage and Family Life of the Diocese of Oakland provides three sessions for marriage preparation for couples seeking convalidation. Those dates are Feb. 10-11, June 2-3, and Sept. 29-30. All sessions will be held in Concord. Registration is required. Dial 510-893-4711 and ask for the Convalidation Program.

“Have we always wanted to be married in the Church. This wedding is the fulfillment of our dreams,” the couple said.

Jun and Dianne Asuncion’s fateful meeting in a relative’s home in Las Pinas led to the couple falling in love. They were blessed in the Catholic Church.

“God’s plan for marriage. Contact: www.couplesforchristusa.org. There are active chapters at All Saints Parish, Hayward; Holy Spirit Parish, Fremont; and St. Anthony Parish, Oakley.

Covenant of Love

This Catholic program has been developed to strengthen the couples’ relationship through a weekend retreat that includes practical tools to live out God’s plan for marriage. Contact: www.covenantoflove.org. Participating parishes include: St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Concord; St. Joseph Basilsca Parish, Alameda; and St. Michael Parish, Livermore.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

In 2012, they attended the Christian Life Program for Couples for Christ, which impressed them that, as true Christians, it was paramount to fulfill the sacraments even if they were legally married before a government official.

“Our love story of Danny and Genevieve Ramirez, both nurses, is like a movie plot.

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Anniversaries

Married September 7, 1968
Thomas & Barbara Brunetti
Proud parents of André and Tazia
Proud grandparents of 4 grandchildren

Married January 6, 1968
Charlotte and Mike Machi
were married August 10, 1968
Loving parents of Keith, Kevin, Michael Jr., Kimberly and six beautiful grandchildren

Married March 2, 1979
Sara and Roland Mendoza
True love endures.
Happily married for 39 years and blessed with 3 responsible adult children, a sweet daughter-in-law and 1 beautiful grandson!
Thank you Lord!

Married March 2, 1979
Lilia and Jose Olmos
Feliz aniversario de bodas!
Con mucho amor de parte de sus hijos y nietos.
Olmos, Galindo, Regalo y Martinez

Married August 23, 1952
Richard and Olive Vargas
Celebrating 66 Years

Married August 23, 1952
Richard and Olive Vargas

Celebrating 50th years of blessed Marriage!
Renewing our vows on August 4, 2018
at St. Francis of Assisi.

Luisa & Eduardo Campos
Were married on July 27, 1968
Loving Parents of 2 children
Elianna Isabel & Fernando Eduardo.
And 4 grandchildren!
Valeria, Vanessa, Fernando E. & Bianca.

Married March 10, 1958
Leon and Rosina Watson
God is Good!
Wishing you Love and Happiness Forever.
Watson’s in Love for Life!
From your children Jose, Jorge, Lucia
and your St. Benedict Family

Congratulations to
Laura & Larry Monin
Parents of Jennifer, Daniel and Juliana
Grandparents of Hopi, Gianni, Nico, Leif, Juno and Evelina

Happy 68th Anniversary
March 10, 1958
Leon and Rosina Watson

Married on January 6, 1968
Congratulations to
Roger and Hospie Partido
who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary!
We love you, Mommy and Daddy!
God blessed them with wonderful daughters:
Roz (Roel) and Helena (Steve) and amazing grandchildren: Lisa, Jason, Christopher, Alyssa, Jonathan, Elizabeth, Angelena, and Joshua.

Colossians 3:14: “And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”
Pope marries couple on flight during Chilean trip

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

Love was literally in the air as Pope Francis performed an impromptu wedding ceremony at 36,000 feet aboard his flight in Chile.

During his flight to Iquique Jan. 18, the pope was approached by LatAm flight steward Carlos Ciuffardi Elorriaga and asked for a blessing for him and his wife, stewardess Paula Podest Ruiz.

The couple were supposed to be married in their home parish in Santiago Feb. 27, 2010. However, tragedy struck when an earthquake destroyed the church. Eight years later, they remained only civilly married.

Ciuffardi told journalists aboard the flight that, after he explained their story, he asked the pope for their blessing.

At that moment, the pope surprised the couple with offering to marry them right there on the plane.

Ciuffardi said the pope asked the couple, "Well, do you want to get married?" "I said, 'Well, yes. Are you sure?' Then the pope said, ‘Are YOU sure?’ I told him, ‘Yes! Let’s get married,’" Ciuffardi recalled excitedly.

The newlyweds said they asked his boss and president of LatAm airline, Ignacio Cueto, to be his best man and one of the Vatican prelates drew up a handwritten marriage certificate.

"The pope said it was historic! Never has a pope performed a wedding on a plane!" Ciuffardi said.

The pope was on his way from Santiago, Chile, to Iquique before heading to Peru later in the day.

Anniversary Mass scheduled Oct. 21

Staff report

One of the happiest days on the calendar will be celebrated at the 10 a.m. Mass Oct. 21.

Couples who have been married 25 years or longer are cordially invited to attend Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Mass on that Sunday morning. The liturgy will include a special blessing for the married couples.

Since the first of these biennial events in 2012, hundreds of couples — sometimes with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren beside them — have attended these Masses.

Bridal veils have been spotted in the crowd; as was a wedding gown made and worn by a bride of 50 years. The anniversary Mass is part of the ministry of the Marriage and Family Life Office in the Department of Faith Formation and Evangelization.

Details on registration and fees for the reception that follows in the Cathedral Event Center will be available this summer at http://bit.ly/2DCCn9i. In the meantime, select a wedding photo for inclusion in the slides show that will be shown during the reception. As with all good wedding receptions, there will be cake.

Celebrating over 60 years of marriage

Alfonso & Hildaliza Samaniego

Married on April 8, 1956

Loving parents of: Alfonso Jr., Richard, Bito, Oscar, Lisa and Beatriz and grandchildren: Rosalia, Shelby, Sami, Anthony, Daniel, Christina, Jacob, Joshua, Yasmeen, Lylah, Autumn, great granddaughter Adalyn

Wishing our parents 50 years of blessed marriage

Joe & Judy Livanag

were married on March 17, 1968 in the Philippines.

Loving parents to 2 daughters and son-in-law’s, 8 grandsons & 1 grand puppy!
Being a kidney donor . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

Father Macadaeg learned about his mother’s health problem when he was away at a convocation for priests in 2016. Faced with that news he immediately went into research mode to better understand the situation.

The diagnosis came out of the blue, he said, adding that there is no history of kidney problems in the family. She had been suffering from high blood pressure, which can affect kidney function.

Not long after the diagnosis, Cindy Macadaeg went on dialysis which, according to the National Kidney Foundation, can cause a number of side effects including low blood pressure, nausea and muscle cramping.

Here in Northern California everyone in kidney failure is placed on a list to receive a kidney when one becomes available. Father Macadaeg said. The wait for a cadaver kidney when one becomes available, Father Macadaeg said.

Not only did the surgery get “the green light” in early December, Father Macadaeg turned out to be a near perfect match for the donor. This was good news because it meant the chances that his mother’s body would reject the kidney were “very slim.”

The priest said that as a result of this medical journey he has even more respect for the dignity of human life. “It is definitely a miracle,” he said.

“I’ve learned a lot about what it means to be generous, which is significant because the priesthood is defined by what we give away, not what we hold onto. Giving a kidney away is a very priestly act that I am very blessed in doing.”

Other blessings, in the form of prayers, have rained down on the Macadaeg family from the parish communities he oversees as administrator — St. Lawrence O’Toole-St. Cyril and St. Paschal Baylon, both in Oakland — and from Holy Spirit Parish in Fremont, where he was formerly assigned. “Even nurses at the hospital prayed for me and my mom, people we didn’t even know,” the priest said.

He also noted with gratitude the many people who have stepped forward in the diocesan community — including retired priests Fathers Jose Leon and James Pickett as well as Father Wayne Campbell, diocesan vocations director, among others who have worked to ensure that the day-to-day operations of the parishes continue while he recovers from surgery.

“People,” he said, “have been just wonderful.”

Re: Brandon Macadaeg and his mother, Cindy, on New Year’s Eve, four days after the surgery.
During a Jan. 26 funeral Mass that evoked laughter in one moment and tears the next, Rev. Michael P. Norkett was remembered for embracing his gifts of presence and humor that he skillfully used to accompany his fellow priests as well as parishioners and friends throughout his priestly ministry. 

Father Norkett, who was 78 and would have celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest in May, spent nearly three decades serving as pastor at parishes around the diocese at St. Columba, Oakland (1978-81); St. Joseph Mission (San Jose), Fremont (1981-90); St. Bonaventure, Concord (1994-96); St. Mary, immaculate Conception, Oakland (1991-93); and St. Pat’s, Clayton, Oakland (2001-2010). He also served as co-pastor with the late Father James Keeley at St. Mary-St. Francis de Sales, Oakland (1993-94). 

Bishop Emeritus John Cummins credited Father Norkett for helping to steer the reconstruction of historic Mission San Jose in Fremont, which included having to deal simultaneously with city and county officials as well as local historians and diocesan entities. “Michael loved you the freedom from want. I place every need and care in your hands. 

Thank you, St. Jude, for your close presence in the life of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of Jesus have mercy on us. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved, adored, and joyful times,” said Father Schexnayder. 

Rev. Michael P. Norkett 

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**EVENTS**

**Feb. 9 to March 16**

Lenten Scripture Study with Father Charles Talley, OFM. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. $25 cost includes lunch, coffee, and book. Registration: go to www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**Wednesdays, Feb. 14**

*Advent Day of Reflection with Father Rusty Shaugnessy, OFM.* 9:30 to 10 a.m. at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. $40 cost includes lunch, Mass and distribution of information. Registration: go to www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**Wednesdays, Feb. 14**

Lenten Day of Adoration at 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, 300 Marjorie Way, Los Altos. Silent retreat for men and women. Men and women come together to enter into Lent intentionally prayerfully and openly. A continental breakfast will be available at 9:30 a.m. and lunch at noon. Information: reservations@sjrclosaltos.org.

**Wednesdays, Feb. 14**

*Ash Wednesday Prayer Service,* 7:30 p.m. at Mercy Chapel at Center, 2300 Adeline Drive, Berkeley. 510-548-5900 or suzubacker@yahoo.com.

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Feb. 12 to 28**

*Rose in Spanish.* 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Center, 2100 Pear St., Pinole. 510-741-4900.

**Wednesdays**

*Meditation of the next Sunday Gospel and Collects 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, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Adoration, Consecration and rosary for men. Food and drink follow. Contact michelhughes1025@gmail.com or 510-529-5795.

**Thurdays**

*Holy Hour—First Thursday* (before first Friday) 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, 1215 Escolar Avenue, Oakland. Every Thursday before the First Friday is a special prayer day to call on all vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to pray for prospective, devout and seminarians. 925-482-0599.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Perpetual* St. John the Baptist Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel,* 11152 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-238-7000.


*San Rafael Parish,* 458 Maple St., San Rafael. 510-235-6847 or suzubacker@yahoo.com.

**Monday, Wednesdays, Feb. 12 to 28**

*Rose in Spanish.* 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Center, 2100 Pear St., Pinole. 510-741-4900.

**First Thursdays**

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*San Rafael Parish,* 458 Maple St., San Rafael. 510-235-6847 or suzubacker@yahoo.com.

**Daily**

6 a.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Agnes Parish, 3956 Chestnut Ave., Oakland. 510-541-4900.

**Monday to Thursday**

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at San Rafael Parish Chapel (inside St. Joseph Center/Office), 1626 M Check Ave., Richmond. 510-531-2247.

**Monday to Saturday, First Fridays**

9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, 2500 Boraic Av., Concord. 510-614-2165.

**Mondays**

7 to 9 p.m. in the chapel at St. Francis of Assissi Parish, 806 Oak Grove Ave., Concord. 925-699-5445.

**Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays**

6 to 9 p.m. in the convent chapel; and 2 to 4 p.m. at the church on Wednesday at St. Bede Parish, 28503 Patrick Ave., Hayward. 510-780-2177.
Pro-life walk draws tens of thousands to SF streets

By Valerie Schmalz

SAN FRANCISCO — Smiling and singing “Amazing Grace” and the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” hundreds of high school and college students led tens of thousands of pro-life supporters along San Francisco’s Market Street in the 14th Annual Walk for Life West Coast. The event, which begins each year with a rally in the Civic Center, is followed by the walk from City Hall to the waterfront behind a street-wide banner that proclaims, “Abortion Hurts Women.”

The House passed a measure, which prohibits a health care practitioner from allowing the death of a child born alive at the same gestational age, reasonably provided to any other child. This bill is one of the state measures that would require every state college and university student health center to stock the abortifacient RU-486, the legislation is on a fast track to passage.

We don’t want our centers of learning to become centers of killing,” Meehan said. The Walk for Life West Coast was founded on the feminist for Life of America slogan and principle that “Women Deserve Better Than Abortion.”

“In this sanctuary city also known for bridge-building, we are all stating loudly and clearly that every child deserves to live and grow to become a huge opponent of abortion. Also addressing the crowd was Joseph Scheidler, founder of Pro-Life Action League, who received the Gianna Molla Award; and the Rev. Cienard Childress, the walk’s traditional closing speaker.

Abortion does not just hurt women, and kill babies, “abortion also hurts the providers who give that service,” Bruchalski told the rally at the Civic Center in San Francisco. Bruchalski performed many abortions as a resident before realizing its harm. He said abortion darkened and hardened his heart before he was reconverted to his Catholic faith.

“We are here to take back the narrative of abortion, said Meehan. “We don’t want our centers of learning to become centers of killing,” Meehan said.

Also addressing the crowd was Joseph Scheidler, founder of Pro-Life Action League, who received the Gianna Molla Award; and the Rev. Cienard Childress, the walk’s traditional closing speaker. Rev. Childress spoke at the first walk and at almost every one since.

For many, the day began with a packed Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral, where San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone began his homily by noting that the U.S. Congress has been debating the Childress spoke at the first walk and at almost every one since.

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Youth and faith

Of the few months I have been able to listen to or speak with our young people, I have a number of concerns and observations, and I hope this forum will help us to better understand their thinking. The faith life is both tested and honed. In other words, it is through life’s journey that our faith grows. The inner struggle that helps solidify our faith. It is through this life that we come to see that today’s youth are now living in a world that is far different from that of the generation that came before. The acceptance of deity no longer satisfies nor does faith grow in their lives. For some of them, there is the beginning of an inner struggle that helps solidify our faith. For some of them, there is the beginning of an inner struggle that helps solidify our faith. It is through this life’s journey that we come to see that today’s youth are now living in a world that is far different from that of the generation that came before. The acceptance of deity no longer satisfies nor does faith grow in their lives.

Forum letters

I always enjoy reading thoughts expressed by others. The latest issue (Jan. 22) was no exception. Richard Jarrett was frightened and Michael Arata’s affectation is out of place. Sandy Mazza Clayton

Forum isn’t Scripture

I can’t help but wonder if Richard Jarrett (Forum, Jan. 22), appreciates the irony of using the Forum section of The Catholic Voice to argue that the Forum section of the Catholic Voice, I agree that unity in the Mass is important, but this page is no place to do it. They simply people’s opinions about issues that touch the church.

V Encuentro: A new encounter with Christ

LOS ANGELES (ENS) — Archbishop José H. Gomez urged the crowd at the archdiocesan “V Encuentro,” Jan. 27 to bring “the people of our times to a new encounter with Jesus Christ and the mercy and love of God.”

He addressed more than 1,000 Catholic lay leaders, clergy and religious from 52 diocesan-level encuentros and regional encuentros in the United States to a new encounter with Jesus Christ and the mercy and love of God.

Diocesan-level encuentros and regional encuentros are taking place around the country as part of a process of reflection leading up to the U.S. Catholic Church’s Fifth National Encuentro, or “V Encuentro,” to be held Sept. 20-23 in Grapevine, Texas.

The Oakland diocese held its Encuentro in October; the regional meeting is set April 27-29 in Fresno. For more information, go to www.vencuentro.org.

The archdiocese of Los Angeles gathered at the Pasadena Convention Center.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Funeral Homes</th>
<th>Cemeteries</th>
<th>Cremation Society</th>
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