Bishop marks fifth anniversary

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, marked his fifth year as Bishop of Oakland on May 25. The photo is from his episcopal ordination. Bishop Barber discusses his time here and the future on Pages 10 and 11.

Coming of age at the Richmond detention center

By Carrie McClish

While the national discussion on U.S. immigration policy took place on social media, editorial pages and cable news stations, it also played out in stark fashion June 9 in Richmond where a teenage girl danced without her father.

Alexa Lopez danced on the concrete plaza outside the West County Detention Facility in Richmond where her father, Raul, has been detained for 16 months. Her daughter, who was born in the United States, was dressed in a fancy pink gown, her head crowned with a tiara, as she danced with her cousin Ivan Reyes to mark her quinceañera.

“The crisis was spawned when Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a “zero tolerance” policy for border crossers. Under the policy, adults would be charged with a felony rather than a misdemeanor for crossing the border. Under federal statute, those charged with felonies cannot have their children detained with them.

On our cover

St. Columba parishioner Bernadine Nelson meets Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, in line.

Trump orders stop to family separation

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed an executive order June 20 that halts his administration’s family separation policy for families who have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. The executive order seeks to work around a 1997 consent decree that bars the federal government from keeping children in immigration detention — even if they are with their parents — for more than 20 days. The policy and its upshot stirred some of the most hostile reaction yet against the Trump administration.

St. Columba 120th

What: Anniversary Mass
When: 10 a.m. Dec. 2
Where: St. Columba Church
6401 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
For more information: www.stcolumba-oak.com

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Alexa Lopez dances with her cousin Ivan Reyes outside the West County Detention Facility in Richmond. Alexa wanted to celebrate her quinceañera near her father, who has been held at the center for 16 months.
**THE VATICAN**

**How little they know**

Scientists and people of faith always must admit they don’t know everything, and they must never be afraid to explore and learn. Pope Francis said.

Francisco; author George Weigel; Janet
Smith, author and chair of Life Ethics at
Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit;
author Christopher West, who writes on
Theology of the Body; and Patricia Collins, 
host of “Catholic Answers Live” on EWTN radio.

Information and registration information are available at www.CelebrateHV50.com.

The rate for an event pass is $184, and is available at www.CelebrateHV50.com.

**Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints Causes, the pope signed a decree recognizing the miracles attributed to the intercession of Venerable Concepcion Cabrera Anis, thus paving the way for her beatification. The pope declared that if it is good, he said June 14. The pope spoke to dozens of people who were taking part in a monthlong summer school sponsored by the Vatican Observatory.

**Stolen Columbus letter**

With the help of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, a 15-year-old document, estimated to be worth $1.2 million, had been secretly replaced with a forgery, while the true document eventually ended up in the hands of a U.S. collector from Atlanta. The late Robert Parsons, Holy See’s archivist, 57, rector of the Lateran in 1983.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: The Catholic Voice, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612.

July, August and December (when one issue is published) for $25 a year (outside the diocese, $30). Copyright 2018.
The science of fertility

By Mary L. Davenport, MD

The rhythm method calculated a woman's fertile and infertile periods according to cervical mucus. However, the rhythm method has failure rates of 20 percent per year in preventing pregnancy because of variations in a woman's cycle. In contrast, modern NFP relies on a woman's own observations of her biomarkers such as cervical mucus and temperature.

In 1968 Pope Paul VI in “Humanae Vitae” (“Of Human Life”) called upon “men of science” to develop a “secure and reliable means of birth control grounded on the observance of natural rhythms.” In recent decades there has been a flourishing of the science of natural fertility by scientific organizations. Sometimes the term NFP is used (Natural Family Planning or Fertility Awareness Methods or Fertility Awareness Based Methods) are used more interchangeably with NFP. NFP usually implies abstention at the fertile days of each menstrual cycle.

For NFP/FAM to be effective, it is important to identify the fertile and infertile times in the cycle. The time of fertility begins with the rise in estrogen production from the ovary that occurs after the end of the menses. The cervix (mouth of the womb) opens somewhat, and cervical mucus becomes more copious and eventually stretchy. The preliminary hormone LH triggers the release of the egg from the ovary. Most NFP methods use a variation of these criteria to determine the “peak” day of the highest fertility. Following the “peak” day, the egg, or ovum, starts to secrete progesterone, which thickens the cervical mucus and raises the body temperature. If pregnancy does not occur, the hormones decline, temperature falls, and menses follow with the start of a new cycle.

The different methods vary by the signs that are followed to determine the beginning and end of the fertile phase. The models range from the one-day survival of the egg after it is released, and sperm survival up to 5 days in ideal conditions. The Billings, FertilityCare (Creighton) and Family of the Americas methods rely on observations of cervical mucus to determine the onset of fertility, and determination of the “peak” day to determine ovulation. The symptothermal method taught by Couple to Couple League include several signs but relies heavily on temperature rise. The Marquette Method relies on direct measurement of LH hormone. The Billings, FertilityCare and Marquette methods rely on a woman’s own observations of her signs such as cervical mucus and temperature.

Procreative Technology (FEMM) is a variation of these criteria to determine the fertile days of the menstrual cycle. FEMM calculates a woman’s entire reproductive potential. The various methods vary by the signs that are followed to determine the start of fertility. The Billings, FertilityCare and Marquette methods rely on a woman’s own observations of her signs such as cervical mucus and temperature.

More resources

Naprotechnology

www.naprotechnology.com

NFP Research

http://reproductive-reproductive.com

FACTS Review of Apps

www.factsaboutfertility.org/rating-of-apps-avoiding-pregnancy

User’s experience


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July 15th | 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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FEMA

https://femmhealth.org/

More resources

Marquette

https://femm.marquette.edu/

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School friends’ movie
WASHINGTON — A group of Catholic high school friends has kept in touch — literally — since grade school for more than 30 years from Gonzaga Preparatory School in Spokane, Washington. The way they’ve stayed in touch is through essentially continuing a version of tag they started in high school — having received mixed reaction from people over the years, but that all changed five years ago when The Wall Street Journal ran a front-page article about them. The piece gave the group almost instant notoriety, as it was followed up by an ESPN segment and a group almost instantly notoriety, as it was followed up by an ESPN segment and a slew of other interviews. The group of 10, who call themselves the “tag brothers,” followed up by an ESPN segment and a slew of other interviews, is now on the big screen in the movie “Tag.”

Cardinal abuse alleged
WASHINGTON — Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, DC, said June 20 he will no longer exercise any public ministry “in obedience” to the Vatican after an allega- tion — because the story of the elaborate and now, they’re “it” — to use a tag expres- sion — is now on the big screen in the movie “Tag.”

Feast of St. Anthony
WASHINGTON — One week before President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un shook hands at the historic summit on Singapore’s Sentosa Island, 100 Catholics representing different perspec- tives huddled at Georgetown University in Washington. They were there to share ideas on reconciling polarization in the church and in U.S. society. “That work is more important now than ever,” said John Carr, director of the university’s Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, which convened the June 4-6 con- ference titled “Overcoming Polarization through Catholic Social Thought.”

Advisory council
WASHINGTON — In the spring and fall, some days are longer than oth- ers for Margaret Simonson, immedi- ate past chair of the U.S. bishops’ National Advisory Council, a group that advises the Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For the past few years, she has set out twice a year — in the group of 10, who call themselves the “tag brothers,” hired an agent and started talking about movie potential. Past forward years later and now, they’re “it” — to use a tag expres- sion — because the story of the elaborate and now, they’re “it” — to use a tag expres- sion — is now on the big screen in the movie “Tag.”

Church praised
NEW ORLEANS — Despite ground- breaking steps the U.S. Catholic Church has taken to prevent the sexual abuse of minors in the past 16 years, a potential “complacency” in following safety protocols could pose a challenge to those hard-won advances, Francesco Cesareo, chairman of the National Review Board, shared that view with diocesan safe environment and victims’ assistance coordinators attending the Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference in New Orleans. The 13-mem- ber lay board advised the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on safe environment proto- cols for children in Catholic parishes, schools and organizations.

Catholic schools excel
WASHINGTON — A new study conduct- ed by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute found that children in Catholic schools are less disciplined and have more self-discipline than their peers in non-Catholic or public schools. The study found that more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools were more than 1 in 5 of the students attending Catholic schools. The study’s author, Andrew J. Cresap, recommended that examining students’ self-discipline is particu- larly important in light of the ongoing debate about externally imposed discipline, such as detention and suspension, and methods of punishment used in public schools. “Clearly, an approach that fosters self-discipline is preferable to one that relies on externally imposed discipline, so if Catholic schools have succeeded in developing such an approach, we ought to pay more attention to what they are doing and how they are doing it,” said the report, released May 31.

Forgiveness sought for abuse
WASHINGTON — Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta speaks during a press conference in Santiago, Chile, June 12. He is accompanied by Father Jordi Bertomeu Farnos, right, an official of the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation. Arriving on his second visit to Chile, Archbishop Scicluna said his mission to the country was a sign of Pope Francis’ closeness to the local church following devastating reports of sexual abuse and cover-ups by members of the clergy. Father Bertomeu told journalists, “We have come to ask forgiveness (in the pope’s name).”
Catholic Voice, El Heraldo garner five national awards

Staff report


El Heraldo Catolico won a first place award for best news writing for a story about the annual “Greenpeace” government to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, which went past the San Francisco Ship House one day to a throng of 36 people.

The judges wrote: “This story embodies a perfect combination of religion and service. It includes data, faith and a call to action. The story is not only news, but also explains how faith can play a role in assisting immigration.”

The Voice’s Carrie McGlash won a second place award in a new category, Best Coverage of Violence in Our Communities. The judges wrote: “The Voice’s coverage of violence is important, needed and well written.”

By Christina Gray

Catholic San Francisco

The episcopal ordination of Bishop Robert F. Christian, OP, as San Francisco’s 18th auxiliary bishop on June 5 at San Francisco’s St. Mary’s Cathedral cast the role as one of service over honor and achievement.

Priests and deacons numbering almost 100 including some 100 Dominicans and more than 20 bishops joined with family, friends and women religious for the ordination of Bishop Christian. A fourth-generation San Franciscan and Dominican priest for 42 years, Bishop Christian, 69, was master of students for the Dominican Western Province at St. Albert’s Priory in Oakland and a lecturer at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley when he was appointed to the role of bishop by Pope Francis in March.

“Father Robert, your diligence in teaching the faith of the Apostles through instruction and formation of future church leaders will serve you in your new episcopal ministry among us,” said San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone in his homily.

Bishop Christian is the first Dominican bishop since Dominican Father Joseph Sadoc Almeyna became the first Archbishop of San Francisco in 1850. Archbishop Cordileone thanked the Order of Preachers for what he called the “exemplary leadership and tireless pastoral care” that it provided to the people of the Archdiocese of San Francisco and beyond.

Joining the archbishop on the altar was the Archbishop of Santa Fe John C. Wester and the Bishop of Oakland Michael C. Barber, SJ. Also present was retired Los Angeles Archbishop Cardinal Roger J. Mahony and apostolic nuncio to the United States Archbishop Christopher Pierre.

The ordination of Bishop Christian embraced his large family, whom he credited in his remarks at the end of the Mass for helping shape any of his better “human qualities.”

Readers included his cousin, Dominican Sister Maria Sagual and Notre Dame Sister Sharon McMillan, a classmate of Bishop Christian’s at Santa Clara University. Insignia bearers included nephews Robert F. Christian III, Thomas Christian, cousin Paul Mendez and John Christian, cousin of Bishop Christian’s five brothers. The remaining four — Joseph, Michael, James and Thomas — brought the gifts. A cousin from Marin County, where the Christian family summered as a family, it making a redwood crosier for him as a gift.

New Bishop Christian stresses service

LGBTQ Day of Dialogue with San Damiano Staff, 7/8

“The World Will Be Saved by Beauty” (Silent Contemplative Retreat)

From San Damiano Center, 7/7-7/8

“The Beatitudes: Jesus’ 8-Step Program for Happiness” (Silent Retreat) with Fr. Patrick Foley, 7/7-29

Christian Meditation Day with Claire Scola, Donna Lack & Jane Pangelinan, 7/7-18

More information or register

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Catholic San Francisco

www.sandamiano.org

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July 8-29

Fr. Joseph Nazzal, CPPS
Mary’s Magnificat Proclaiming Parish

August 17-19

Teams of Our Lady

October Project, OP

Women’s Silent Retreat

Silver Angels (Fresno)

Men’s & Women’s Marian Silent Retreat

More for information:

831-423-8093

E-mail: stclaresretreatcenter@gmail.com

Web site: www.stclaresretreat.com

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innerchildhealing.com


Photo Credit: MARY VAUGHAN
St. Columba . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

“We wanted the elderly, the young,” she said. Church members who could, brought seats at the tables for those whom the price of admission — $120 — might be beyond their reach.

“It’s so St. Columba, the giving back,” said Peters, who, with her husband of almost 45 years came to the church about 29 years ago after reading a newspaper article about the African-American liturgies.

Paula Mitchell, a member for 10 years, said she lives the parish doctrine and prays, “It’s exciting to be there every Sunday,” said Mitchell, who serves as principal at St. Martin de Porres School from 2012 to 2014 and is vice principal at Holy Names High School.

“It’s a joy to be a home,” she said, “the parish, where the commitment to social justice and opportunity to hear many guest homilists enrich the faith experience.”

“It’s not just vision,” Mitchell said, “it’s action.”

Elena Gaudet is part of that action. She was married at St. Columba in 1961. When her children were ready to start school, she learned she actually lived in the borders of St. Joseph the Worker Parish and they went to school there.


Gaudet is active in the Hope for Haiti Education Project, which each year plans to support 50 children at St. Mary Magdalen’s Haitian Center, one of the schools the organization began supporting eight years ago after the devastating Haiti earthquake.

Tom Luce, another of the organizers, said this year’s event will also focus on ways to curb gang violence in the Italian school’s parish, which causes the school to close for days at a time.

One of St. Columba’s closer-to-home ministries is a St. Joseph Living & Resources Center, which was built in 1960, look more like a home, when a renovation, much of it do-it-yourself made the church, which was constructed in 1906, a wooden cross hangs behind the altar. The statues of Mary and Joseph, once European in appearance, are now black — a reflection of population changes in the parish.

The 120th anniversary is a milestone for the parish, and an opportunity to plan for its future. Parishioners have been responding to an online survey to help them create a five-year plan for the parish.

What Father McAleenan sees as needs in the future: As gentrification advances, there’s the need to continue with African American spirituality and the commitment to social justice, the interests of the beloved community.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the parish will hold a Mass for the homeless, a Mass for the homeless, a Mass for the homeless, a Mass for the homeless.

For the next 10 years, there was quite an influx of blacks into the Berkeley section of the parish. The number of African Americans would continue to grow during World War II.

A church renovation in 2014 that spiritual home, which is a reflection of population changes in the future: As gentrification advances, there’s the need to continue with African American spirituality and the commitment to social justice, the interests of the beloved community.

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SPRED the Word spreads the joy, too

By Michele Jurich

At a full church of the Transfiguration in Castro Valley, participants in the special religious education ministry — SPRED — and their catechists and families gathered June 9 for SPRED the Word, an annual event that begins with Mass, includes a delectable dinner, and ends on the dance floor where “YM-C-A” is a perennial hit.

Michelle Martinez-Kitty, coordinator for SPRED welcomed the gathering before Mass. Liturgical gestures and the simplicity of the homily are hallmarks of a SPRED liturgy, she said.

What followed was a Mass meaningful not only in its simplicity, but the participation of the adult participants — called friends — and the SPRED’s youth and catechists accompanied the readings with liturgical gestures.

The homily was given by Rev. Alexander Castillo, director of the Department of Faith Formation and Evangelization. Father Castillo, who also serves as episcopal secretary to Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, conveyed the bishop’s greetings to the gathering.

In keeping with the SPRED liturgy, the homily began with one line: “Jesus says to you today, ‘Come to me with your heart open so you can always be part of my family.’” Father Castillo said.

He repeated this three times, moving from the right to the center to the left of the church.

At the conclusion of Mass, Rev. Mario Borges, pastor of Transfiguration, thanked the SPRED community for sharing its worship with the people of the Castro Valley parish.

Afterward, the party was on in the parish hall, as the Knights of Columbus from St. Raymond Parish in Dublin prepared dinner for the gathering.

SPRED the Word is the biggest fund-raising event of the year, for SPRED. It raffle features baskets created and contributed by various SPRED centers, with themes ranging from baby shower to chocolates galore to car-clearing devices.

But the biggest stars of the night are the SPRED friends, adults who dine together at tables with their catechists and family, and then move on to the dance floor.

Michael McCarthy, grand knight of the Knights of Columbus of St. John the Baptist Parish, Father Walter O’Brien Council, presented an oversize check to SPRED for $2,966.3; the San Lorenzo Knights had joined forces with their fellow Knights from nearby Our Lady of Grace and Transfiguration parishes in Castro Valley.

Janet Fortuna and Arlene Bustamante, SPRED catechists, lead the congregation in sacred dance-gestures blessing the Mass at the Church of the Transfiguration.

SPRED is a one-to-one ministry, with each participant — a friend — paired with a catechist.

The science ...

(Continued from Page 3) leading. The best apps are connected to well-established NFP and FAM organizations, FACTS, it’s an organization promoting all NFP methods and NFP education, recently did an excellent review of current apps (see below). Also, although apps can be useful for charting, no app or web site can replace an experienced NFP teacher in helping a couple navigate an NFP method.

All methods of NFP have the virtue of avoiding major and minor risks associated with artificial contraception. To name a few, NFP users avoid increased risk of serious cardiovascular complications such as stroke, pulmonary embolus and thrombophlebitis attributable to the pill and other hormonal contraception, as well as higher rates of breast cancer. Because they reject aggressive promotion of the IUD (intratoneuterine device), NFP users avoid uterine perforation, elevated rates of pelvic infections, and painful, heavy menstrual periods. Women who undergo surgical sterilization can experience serious complications for up to 20 years, with uterine abnormalities, stenosis of the blood supply to the ovaries, and undergoing more hysterectomies. So in addition to avoiding problems associated with contraception and sterilization, NFP users are potentially graced with better physical health in addition to experiencing the spiritual, ethical and relational benefits of NFP with their spouse.

(Dr. Mary L. Davenport is a physician in El Sobrante with more than 20 years of experience, a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, medical director of the Magnifical Maternal Health and has specialties in holistic and integrative medicine and NaProTECHNOLOGY).

What is SPRED?

Special Religious Education — SPRED — assists parishes in the Diocese of Oakland reach out and integrate children, teens and adults with special needs into the parish family. Volunteer catechists play a vital role in assisting individuals with autism, intellectual disabilities, severe cerebral palsy and severe epilepsy so they may grow spiritually among friends, receive ongoing faith formation and participate in the liturgical and community life of the Church.

Information: 510-635-7252 or info@spredoakdiocese.org

Grants for poverty-fighting organizations

Staff report

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has money available to fund East Bay non-profit groups engaged in community organizing and/or economic development with low-income residents. Grants from $5,000-$10,000 will be made in October.

The deadline for submission of proposals is July 31.

Qualifying organizations must show that low-income people are engaged in the organizations’ decision-making process, and that the funded project will empower people at or near the poverty level to work toward changing the conditions that negatively impact their lives.

Organizations applying for community-organizing proposals must have at least 50 percent low-income membership on their board; 33 percent for economic development institutions.

If the organization does not meet this criterion, an independent project board with low-income control needs to be created, or a plan for having low-income participants assume leadership and control of this project needs to be included in the application.

Because this grant program is an initiative of the Catholic Church, the organization may not be involved in activities that are contrary to the teachings of the Church. Groups do not need to be Catholic to apply. The funds for these local grants come from an annual collection taken in all the Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Oakland in the fall.

In 2017, grants were awarded to East Bay groups including Alameda Renter’s Coalition; Bay Area Community Resource Group for Independent Living; Monument Impact Parish in Oakland; Columbus Community Health Cabinet; St. Mary’s Center; Sustainable Economics Law Center; United Neighborhoods of Oakland and Alameda; Urban Peace Movement; and Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay.

A workshop on how to apply, detailing CCHD criteria, is planned at 1:30 p.m. July 11 at Catholic Church of the East Bay, 433 Jefferson St., Oakland. For information or to RSVP contact: Mary McCarthy, 510-768-3176 or mmckimmy@cccb.org.

Veterans and scholars

Three military veterans who attend Las Positas College in Livermore received $5,000 scholarships from the Livermore Knights of Columbus. Knight David Gaffney presents scholarships to Destiny Guadala, top, Marisun, and Huy Burnett, bottom, with Army, Thomas Gaffney is the third recipient. All have outstanding academic records and a recent history of superior performance to our country. They are leaders of the college’s upcoming Veterans Vocational First Program, which serves as a liaison between veterans and the college to direct individuals to appropriate resources and services. The Livermore Knights established these scholarships in memory of Brother Leonard M. Gudino and Ken Logudoro, USMC, a fourth degree Knight and charter member of the local council. Logudoro’s selfless devotion to his country, community and church benefited countless thousands over more than half a century. His contributions are remembered in perpetuity by these annual scholarships.

The 2018 Oakland Diocesan Directory

How can we help? Let us know. (510) 267-8334

Every other month (facilitated) survivor 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 August

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By Bill Ford

Special to The Catholic Voice

In a gym filled with cheering fans and families, the 2018 Girls’ CYO Basketball Playoffs finals were two nights of exciting conclusions to the Girls’ CYO basketball season. The four days of playoffs in May ended with a final game in each grade, fourth through eighth, at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward.

Fewer than eight points won championships in four of the five final games with two finals decided by one point. One of the teams accomplished a “four-peat,” winning four years in a row, but new championship crowns were awarded to three teams. One CYO parish, St. John the Baptist, San Lorenzo, sent four teams to final games.

The previous year’s diocesan champion, St. Martin de Porres, Oakland, tipped off against St. John, San Lorenzo, in the eighth-grade championship. St. Martin had gained entry into the final game by defeating Assumption, San Leandro, 50-44 in a see-saw, close semifinal. The championship game was also close, with St. Martin leading only by 4 points at the end of the third quarter, 28-24. Forward Jaron Tanye from St. Martin then had a breakaway fourth quarter, scoring 8 and leading St. Martin to a 44-31 victory. Jaron was the high scorer for St. Martin with 16 points, while Jaymonah Carter led St. John with 12 points.

The St. Martin de Porres team had won championships each previous year since the fifth grade. Although St. Martin de Porres School was closed at the end of the 2017 school year, the team was able to stay together to complete CYO participation for its eighth-grade season.

In the seventh-grade final, the Shamrocks of St. John, San Lorenzo, denied the Lions of St. Leo the Great, Oakland, a repeat championship, winning a close one, 34-31. Coming back from a 5-point deficit in the fourth quarter, St. John’s Perseas Gioukaris scored with 51 seconds to go to take the lead, 32-31. St. John held on with Isabella Santos adding a score for a 34-31 St. John championship win. Perseas was the high scorer for St. John with 17 points, while Jada Johnson scoring 12 points for St. Leo.

In the sixth-grade championship, the Hornets of St. Bede, Hayward, took on the Shamrocks of St. John, San Lorenzo, sent four teams to final games. The previous year’s diocesan champion, St. John de Porres, Oakland, sent four teams to final games.

The annual May weekend event, sponsored by the Oakland diocese CYO Office, concluded the basketball season for girls, with games played in gyms at Moreau Catholic High School (Hayward), St. Joachim (Hayward), St. Theresa (Oakland) and All Saints (Hayward).

CYO girls’ basketball teams playing in the eastern half of the diocese finished their season in March. More than 135 teams competed in the girls’ CYO basketball leagues in the season that began in February. For complete playoff results and for more information on Catholic Youth Organization basketball, visit the CYO website, www.oaklandcyo.org.

(Bill Ford is CYO director for the Diocese of Oakland.)

Eighth Grade champions: St. Martin de Porres, Oakland.

Seventh Grade champions: St. John, San Lorenzo.

Sixth Grade champions: St. Clement, Hayward.

Fifth Grade champions: St. Felicitas, San Leandro.

Fourth Grade champions: St. Bede, Hayward.

Fifth Grade champions: St. Felicitas, San Leandro.

Seventh Grade champions: St. John, San Lorenzo.

Sixth Grade champions: St. Clement, Hayward.

Fourth Grade champions: St. Bede, Hayward.
Warm weather, hot times at Track and Field Championships

By Bill Ford

With unseasonably warm weather on a Friday night in May, and at the start of the 2018 Oakland Diocese CYO Track and Field Championship Meet, seven sixth-grade boys stepped to the starting line for the 800 meter run.

Tyler Bergren, from St. Perpetua CYO, Lafayette, had set records in each year in the 800 meters since the third grade. Following the start, Tyler went out quickly and, on the second lap of the two-lap race, ran a rare “negative split” by running a faster second lap than the first. At the finish, he did not disappoint as he set his fourth straight record, with a run of 2:16.4, shattering the previous record of 2:19.9, set by Chris Dominic, St. John, San Lorenzo, in 1998.

Tyler was not finished with record-setting performances. He set a record the next day in the sixth-grade boys’ 400-meter race, running 58.62 seconds and breaking the old record of 58.8 by Carlyle Garrick, Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley, in 1998.

Another record-breaker was Isaiah Clendinen from Castro Valley, in 2005. Tyler also won the third-grade boys’ record of 1:09.6 set by Aaron Jackson of St. Ignatius, Hayward and at Granada High School, Livermore.

Runners, boys and girls in third through eighth grades, qualified to participate in the Diocesan Meet from around the diocese, including schools in the Oakland Diocese participating in CYOTrack and Cross Country. The regular season had weekly meets that featured a variety of exciting races and skilled field events: sprints, distance races, relays, long jump, high jump, shot put, softball throw and tetherball toss. This past season, more than 2,100 runners from 46 parishes and Catholic schools in the Oakland Diocese participated in CYO Track and Field.

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Tyler Bergren was presented with the “Golden Medal” for his dedication to the CYO Track and Field program. Tyler was one of more than 500 CYO athletes competing in May at the annual Diocesan Track and Field Championship Meet at Moreau Catholic High School, Hayward and at Granada High School, Livermore. Runners, boys and girls in third through eighth grades from around the diocese, qualified to participate in the two-day meet that included sprints, distance races, relays and a variety of field events.

Another record-breaker was Isaiah Clendinen from St. Leander CYO, San Leandro, in the third-grade boys’ 400-meter race. His time was 1:09.43, breaking the old record of 1:09.6 set by Aaron Jackson of St. Ignatius, Castro Valley in 2005. Isaiah also won the third-grade boys’ 400 meter, running 58.62 seconds and breaking the old record of 58.8 by Carlyle Garrick, Our Lady of Grace, Castro Valley, in 1998.

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Challenges and potential

The Catholic Voice asked Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, to talk to us about his first five years as bishop of Oakland, and what he wants to accomplish. He met with staff members Michele Jurich and Albert C. Pacciorini for this interview. We’ve added some photos from the last five years.

What about being in Oakland has surprised and/or delighted you?

When I arrived, I had priests tell me that Oakland had some of the biggest challenges of any diocese in the United States but also some of the biggest opportunities and potential.

I would agree with that. I am not just delighted, but uplifted by the warmth and kindness of people, everywhere I go. At every parish, after every Mass, people wait for me for a brief exchange. Sometimes it’s just a handshake but often people whisper prayer intentions in my ear. I appreciate that although we have never met, I have a pastoral relationship with them as their bishop. That kind of closeness means a lot.

Another one of my happiest discoveries is the cooperation of the presbyterate. From the very first conversation, there was a spirit of kindness. Men had different opinions and they could express that, but underlying is a spirit of cooperation. I very much appreciate that.

You speak of three goals: improving the Sunday Mass experience; building missionary disciples; and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. If you were sitting in the pews, what makes for an inspiring Sunday experience?

When Mass is conducted with reverence it is a sacred action. It conveys a sense of the transcendent; Mass is where heaven and earth meet. It’s not just another secular event.

Certainly, the parish experience — a welcoming community, warm, wonderful people — is important. But the Sunday Mass must be more than that, because we can find fellowship in other clubs and groups.

The liturgy must give people a connection with Christ and with God that they don’t get by staying at home, reading a book or listening to music on their iPhone, or by going to a book club or social group.

A reverential atmosphere is aided by sacred art, architecture and sacred music. The music can be familiar and folksy, like St. Louis Jesuit music, if it is sacred and done well. As Vatican II says, we can take advantage of the Church’s full treasury of sacred music, and not just one little part of it. One of my goals is to broaden people’s experience, so they aren’t limited by one type of music.

The other important aspect of Sunday Mass is that the homily is intelligent and challenging, that it helps bring people to love the Word of God, to experience Christ.

How can you help priests get better at preaching?

We start with constantly improving the homiletics program — the art of preaching — in our seminary. Homiletics teaches you how to speak. But to compose the homily, you need to be reading theology and you need to have a sense of the contemporary culture. You’ve got to read the news, understand what is influencing people, grasp what in the modern culture is conducive to our Christian way of life and what is attacking it, and understand how to counterbalance that with the Word of Truth, the Word of Christ.

It’s not easy to do it, but it’s certainly possible.

For the priests already ordained, continuing education is essential. Bishop Robert Barron is an excellent teacher; he offers a program every summer for priests. He rarely uses personal-referenced stories, which I confess I do all the time. He knows so many stories of the Scripture, he uses those as illustrations.

Also, we shouldn’t shy from considering some of the excellent programs offered by Protestants, such as Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Southern California. I heard him speak at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and I wish I’d recorded every word of it. It was folksy and familiar, but it was rich in Christian content. It showed me that Pastor Warren has a deep knowledge of American culture and the Word of God and how they interact.

For a reverential and deep Sunday experience to happen, it’s almost impossible for a pastor to just make it up all on his own. That’s why I recommend the Amazing Parish conferences by Pat Lencioni, who lives in our diocese. I’ve been encouraging our pastors to take their leadership team on one of these. It gets the pastor working with his lay leadership team.

When I was head of the San Francisco Archdiocese’s School of Pastoral Leadership, the best thing I did in three years was to help pastors go from a need-based ministry list to a charism-based process. By needs, I mean most pastors say, we need 10 Eucharistic ministers, we need five lectors, we need somebody to train servers. They have people sign up for the needs. And so sometimes you get people signing up to be a lector, and they have no talent for it, but they were “guilted” into doing it.

If you go to a charism-based model, you ask people to discern their charisms and their gifts. They assess their own gifts and then how they can use their gifts to build up the parish community. One could have the charism of listening, or administration, or music or hospitality.

You need the priest who’s like a conductor, who brings out the best. Our diocesan trainings can then give them more competence, whether as a catechist, youth leader or whatever.

The Mass “conveys a sense of the transcendent; Mass is where heaven and earth meet.”

Bishop Barber has ordained 14 priests of the Diocese of Oakland; among them is Rev. Luis Lopez, right.
This fall, two of your education initiatives open their doors: the Cristo Rey high school and the Lumen Christi Academies. What are you looking forward to?

I feel the wind of the Holy Spirit is at our back. We aren’t doing these things by ourselves. The Lord gave me and others some ideas of how to improve Catholic education. Then the Lord sent the right people along to form the diocesan lay leadership team. For example, Steve Wilcox, who is now our chancellor, volunteered three years of his time and money, flying across country to help launch the Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School, St. Elizabeth campus.

We have been blessed with Kathleen Radecke, the new school superintendent; Liz Gumertahne, who guided us in the transition for the Lumen Christi Academies elementary schools; and Rodney Pierre-Antoine, who was just hired to be executive director of the Lumen Christi Academies. I feel with the right people and the right spirit, it’s going to be a success.

The Cristo Rey was a particularly spiritual experience for me, trusting in the Lord. I made a promise, and I was so honored when the presidents and principals from the other schools, even those operated by religious orders, stood up to back me up. Under the good direction of Paul Bonigiovanni (diocesan chief financial officer) and some wonderful donors, I see signs of divine providence, divine approbation. This isn’t just Mike Barber’s idea. This was something our Lord wanted for his children in this part of our diocese.

Although we had a wonderful Year of Mercy, you’ve said that mercy doesn’t end with a date on the calendar. How are you keeping mercy in the forefront of the diocese?

We have some important programs, such as our immigrant resettlement program and Claire’s House, which will help children who are survivors of sex trafficking. I’m very proud of the refugee resettlement program. We have had so many parish groups raise funds and collect furniture that sometimes we don’t have enough refugees to go around! With Claire’s House we’re getting some opposition, but we also have tremendous support from the whole diocese. I’ve been talking about it at the end of confirmations. People come up after Mass and put money in my hand, “This is for your Claire’s House. We want to help.”

And then we have the quiet, daily works of mercy in which so many people participate but often are taken for granted. I want to shout out about these acts of mercy!

One example is the daily meal service at St. Vincent de Paul. I’ve had people say, “How come your big, rich, powerful church is doing nothing to help the homeless?” I respond, would you like to come with me to St. Vincent de Paul? Put on some gloves and help us feed the homeless, and clothe them, and give free medical care or legal help? People drive by all the time and don’t see it, but that’s all going on.

The St. Vincent de Paul Societies collect food donations; Catholic Charities assists with crisis counseling, support to families or seniors facing eviction and so much more.

And I should mention Catholic Worker, which is one of my favorites. I’m particularly fond of J.C. Orton. What one man can do? For 20 years, he’s gotten up early and prepared oatmeal and a full hot breakfast, which is served to the poor in People’s Park in Berkeley each Sunday morning.

After our deacons are ordained Aug. 4, they will meet me the next morning at 7 a.m. The first exercise of their diaconate is going to be serving the poor. This is how the early Church described it in Scripture; the preaching came later. These acts of mercy change our hearts and people’s lives.

What do you hope to see happen in our diocese in the next five years?

Re-energizing our parish life through our three priorities: the liturgy; corporal and spiritual works of mercy; and forming missionary disciples. The first two gets people energized, then they want to share that joy by inviting people to come into their church. Historically, Catholics are not usually very good at inviting others. I know we are losing people, but we are also receiving record numbers into the Church at Easter each year. There are many more people who have tried the world and it doesn’t satisfy and they’re looking for something else. A compliant parish just does not attract, however. People leave the Catholic parish and go to an energetic Protestant church next door because it’s alive, there’s some zeal there.

That begins with the priest and then with his leadership team. Then people will come. Corporal and spiritual works of mercy attract people to join our church. “Your church is doing this? Maybe I’ll go to Mass. Maybe these preconceived notions I have against the Catholic Church, maybe I need to look at those again.”

Parishes are real places people can encounter Jesus and have an experience with Him, through prayerful and meaningful liturgies, a warm community spirit and a missionary focus.

I wish I had had a capital campaign of prayer before we had a capital campaign of money. Everyone can pray. When we pray, things change. Vocations come out of the woodwork. Pews start filling up. Everyone feels moved to contribute to Christ’s work.

In 2016, Mercy, the Heart of Peace, a presentation of the Diocese of Oakland and the Community of Sant’Egidio, brought together local and international leaders of five faith traditions — Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian.
Help for seniors who want to stay in their homes

By Michele Jurich

A medical emergency, or a breakdown in household appliances, especially those affecting heat and water, can cause significant harm to those who have barely enough for everyday necessities. It can sometimes turn a person who has a home into a homeless person.

“It’s a very typical story,” said Mary Kuhn, communications director of Catholic Charities of the East Bay. “We’re seeing a growing impact on seniors.”

But “through the housing program, we’re helping people stay in their homes,” Kuhn said. That’s no small feat in the Bay Area’s housing market, where rents are rising and those dependent on Social Security can find themselves with few affordable options.

The six biggest estate planning mistakes

By Jeffrey Hall

If you’re like most people, you have the best of intentions with regard to how you want your estate distributed when you die, or how your affairs handled should you become incapacitated. Unfortunately, without proper planning, your best intentions may not be enough. Here are six of the most common estate planning mistakes people make:

1. Doing it yourself.

Bad idea. It is tempting to try to save money by using one of the do-it-yourself online services, such as Robotlawyer and LegalZoom or just writing something up yourself, but these poorly drafted documents may only cost you or your heirs additional money in the end.

It is impossible to know, without a legal education and years of experience, what the right legal solution is to any particular situation and what planning opportunities are available. If there is anything about a family situation that’s not commonplace, using a DIY estate planning program means taking a LARGE RISK that can affect one’s family for generations to come. And only an attorney can determine whether a particular situation qualifies as commonplace.

The problems created by not getting competent legal advice probably won’t be borne by the person creating the will, but they may well be shouldered by the person’s children and grandchildren.

2. Failing to plan.

The biggest mistake is failing to create a plan in the first place. Without an estate plan, your assets will be distributed according to the law in the state where you live. Usually, if you are married, your spouse is entitled to a portion of your estate and the rest is divided among other relatives. If you are single, your estate may go to your children, parents or siblings.

If you have absolutely no living relatives, then your estate will go to the state. This is probably not what you want to happen to your assets. In addition, without an estate plan, you have no way to name who will be the guardian of your children or who will act for you if you become incapacitated.

3. Not planning for disability.

A properly drafted estate plan not only specifies what will happen to your assets when you die; it also plans for...
Help for seniors . . .

(Continued from Page 12.)

Kuhn related how a homeless senior veteran sought help from Catholic Charities. He had been approved for Section 8 housing, which guaranteed affordable rent. It took a long time to find someone to rent to him, even with a voucher, Kuhn said. The man spent months staying with friends. When he found a place of his own, Catholic Charities was able to assist him with move-in costs and furniture. “He ended up with a bed and a roof over his head,” Kuhn said.

Over the past three years, Catholic Charities of the East Bay has provided one-time assistance to help 900 people avoid homelessness. That help might be rental assistance, so they can stay in their home. It could be helping find new, affordable housing. In this case, the people usually need help paying the deposit.

Of those 900 people, 45 percent were senior citizens.

Those who may qualify for Catholic Charities’ housing assistance include a family or single parent with children under 18; seniors over 55; and individuals with permanent disabilities. The applicant must also be experiencing a housing crisis, such as loss of housing due to disaster, loss of employment or other documented crisis.

Additionally, the applicant must also demonstrate sufficient income to support the family and housing needs beyond this one-time help.

Requests for assistance with housing continue to rise. So far in 2018, Catholic Charities has received 5,495 requests for housing and rental assistance. In 2017, 8,467 requests were received.

Of the 156 people Catholic Charities has been able to help so far in 2018, 29 percent were seniors. Catholic Charities of the East Bay, Kuhn said, “is exploring ways we can increase these services.”

The agency provides one-time help with back rent, if you have an eviction or three-day notice has been received, deposit, if the person has identified a new place to live and have a Letter Of Intent to Rent. If the person is a Section 8 recipient, a passing Proof of Inspection report must be provided. Utility assistance is limited to those receiving rental or deposit assistance.

In addition to one-time financial assistance, Catholic Charities may provide budget review and planning, as well as referrals for additional services.

“Follow-up is really important,” Kuhn said.

Catholic Charities of the East Bay recommends that people seeking housing assistance call to verify that applications are being accepted. Ask for information on dates and times of upcoming housing clinics offered in Concord, Richmond and Oakland.

Central and East Contra Costa County residents should dial 925-825-3099; Richmond residents should dial 510-234-5110.


Losing your home

Factors that put seniors at risk of losing housing:

• Rents are going up, and Social
  Security alone is not enough to cov-
  er rent and other housing needs.

• Even one medical emergency can cause significant financial disrup-
  tion, and lead to homelessness.

• Lack of resources can cause a home to fall into significant disrepair — and lead to homelessness. Even appliance failures have a big impact.

Source: Catholic Charities
of the East Bay

6. Not reviewing the plan.

If you or someone you care about has been unable to pay for rent, if you have an eviction

Lifesaving ideas on electrical safety

Special to The Catholic Voice

If you or someone you care about is among the approximately 47 million Americans over 65 — or hopes to be someday — there could be good news for you.

Many older Americans may live lon-

ger, safer lives thanks to recent research indicating that elderly adults have the greatest risk of fire death and the sub-
sequent grant awarded to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. This grant comes from the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency to support fire prevention and safety efforts, prioritizing programs aimed at high-risk populations. The ESFI (www.esfi.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to pro-
moting the importance of electrical safety.

With funding from the grant, ESFI developed a new older adult safety cam-
paign consisting of video and radio public service announcements, infographics and brochures. This multifaceted home fire safety awareness program will equip at-risk older adults and their communities with knowledge to help prevent the lead-
ing causes of home fires: cooking equip-
ment, heating equipment and electrical equipment.

For example, it advises everyone, especially older adults, to have both smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Place the alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Don’t put alarms near windows or ducts, where drafts might interfere with their effectiveness, and keep them at least 10 feet away from cooking appliances to minimize false alarms. Test the devices at least once a month and change the batteries at least once a year.

The six biggest . . .

(Continued from Page 12.)

• Failing to fund a trust.

You should periodically review your retirement plan beneficiary designa-

tions to make sure they aren’t outdated. Retirement accounts do not follow your will or trust — they are distributed according to the forms you fill out with the insurance company. You need to make sure you have named a beneficiary and the beneficiary is who you want it to be.

6. Not reviewing the plan.

Once you’ve got an estate plan in place, it is important to keep it up to date. Circumstances change over time and your estate plan needs to keep up with these changes.

Major changes that may affect your plan include getting married or divorced, having children or experiencing an increase or decrease in assets. Even if you don’t have any major changes, you should review your plan periodically to make sure it still expresses your wishes.

(Attorney Jeffrey Hall is a specialist in elder law and a Certified Public Accountant. Contact him via www.HallLawGroup.com or 925-230-8002)

Thursday, July 12th • 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Join us in welcoming our new Executive Director, Micki Cianciosi. You may know her from her past three decades of leadership and service throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Micki is excited to strengthen the bonds of residents and associates within the community and she’s looking forward to ensuring each and every individual thrives. Stop by Bayside Park to say hello and take a look around our diverse, beautiful and extraordinary community.

Please call 1-510-982-4859 for more information.
Marymount Villa Retirement Center

At Marymount Villa retirement center we believe everyone can find meaning and joy in life, even when they need a little help with daily living. We offer a wide range of personal care options which include a custom tailored care-plan, memory care, assisted living, short term respite and hospice care. Importantly, unlike some independent and assisted living communities, we do not require long-term contracts or elaborate buy-in arrangements. Our large sunny veranda overlooks the beautiful, historic Casa Peraltta in San Leandro. We are located just around the corner from St. Leander Church. For a tour, please contact us at 510-895-5007.

Faith, compassion at Mercy Center

Established in 1872, Mercy Retirement & Care Center was founded on a deep sense of faith, dignity and compassion. Today, this tradition continues through its dedication to caring for every aspect of physical, emotional and spiritual wellness. Situated on a lush campus in Oakland, Mercy Retirement & Care Center provides a continuum of services to meet a variety of health care needs, including assisted living, memory care and a five-star rated skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. (Please visit www.eldercarealliance.org for more information or dial 510-534-8540 to schedule a complimentary lunch and personalized visit.)

North Oakland Village

North Oakland Village (“NOV”), a local affiliate of the National Village Movement, supports seniors aging better in our homes as we grow older! We connect our members and volunteers with each other and with resources needed to remain active, independent, confident and meaningfully engaged. Our members enjoy social, cultural, educational and recreational events, tailored to their many interests and enlivened by our sense of friendship and community. A fee-based nonprofit organization, NOV offers a very cost effective alternative to retirement homes. Call us at 510-547-8500 or visit us online at www.northeastalondavillage.org. Arrange to attend our monthly potluck dinner at 5 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month, or attend an information session, time to talk about NOV at 10:30 a.m. on the third Friday of each month at the North Oakland Village office, 2500 Harrison St., Suite 15, Oakland, 94612.

Senior Helpers

Your care plan can be a combination of any of our service offerings, from transportation to preparing meals to helping with bathing and dressing. We have caregivers who will provide care anywhere from one hour a day to 24 hours a day, depending on what you want and need. It’s important that people needing care have caregivers who match them by personality as well as skills. Dementia care is a specialty of ours. And our respite care program provides care during family vacations. Senior Helpers, 510-524-6700.

North Oakland Village

Supporting Seniors with Healthy, Safe and Independent Living at Home

Creating Friendship, Community and Service through a Broad Menu of Activities, Seminars, Programs and Social Events

NOV, a local affiliate of the National Village Movement, is a nonprofit, fee-based membership community. Our Vision is to build and sustain a community where all are supported, valued and able to thrive as we age. We are seeking new members and volunteers to join our community and especially are looking to Baby Boomers and their parents. Join us for our monthly Potluck Dinners at 5 p.m. on July 29 and August 26, 2018 at the NOV Office, 2500 Harrison Street, Suite 15, CA 94612.

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

AEC Living

AEC Living is an award-winning, highly regarded Senior Services company independently owned by the Zimmerman family. Starting in 1971 with an Alameda nursing home, founder Christian Zimmerman and his wife, Darlene, became widely known for patient-centered care and progressive innovation. Today, daughter Lauren Zimmerman Cook and son, Stephen Zimmerman, have helped to grow AEC Living into a full continuum care company: home care, senior living communities, Medicare-approved outpatient rehabilitation and short-term stays. AEC Living employs 150 staff members, and serves 150 residents and 50 seniors through outpatient services and home-care. Two generations committed to a tradition of caring for seniors. For more information, call 510-748-8770.

Thrive Dining is changing lives by reducing unintentional weight loss and enhancing the dining experience,” says Rob Bobbitt, Watermark’s National Director of Dining Services. “The article “What is Thrive Dining?” details how this initiative is restoring joy to mealtimes for individuals for whom traditional dining can be a challenge.

Bayside Park innovation in memory care

Bayside Park recently received recognition in “Edible East Bay Magazine” for their innovative Thrive Dining. Written by Rachel Trachten and published on Feb. 15, 2018, the article “What is Thrive Dining?” details how this initiative is restoring joy to mealtimes for individuals for whom traditional dining can be a challenge. Thrive Dining is changing lives by reducing unintentional weight loss and enhancing the dining experience,” says Rob Bobbitt, Watermark’s National Director of Dining Services. “The article “What is Thrive Dining?” details how this initiative is restoring joy to mealtimes for individuals for whom traditional dining can be a challenge.

Home Care Assistance

Home Care Assistance is the only home care solution offering an innovative, science-based approach to aging. We have elevated the standard of care for older adults through our Balanced Care Method, a holistic approach to care for older adults that promotes healthy mind, body and spirit and is based on the scientifically studied lifestyles of the longest-living people in the world. Changing the Way the World Ages. Call a Care Adviser today to explore your family’s needs.

Marymount Villa Retirement Center

Independent, Assisted Living Community and Memory Care

Marymount Villa Retirement Center was founded in 1872 by the Sisters of Mercy and located on this lush campus since 1907; our current approach to wellness includes a diverse range of life enrichment activities, volunteer opportunities and best-in-class quality care.

- Daily mass
- Communion
- Full time spiritual staff

Call to today to schedule a visit. Complimentary lunch included.

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Faith, compassion at Mercy Center

Established in 1872, Mercy Retirement & Care Center was founded on a deep sense of faith, dignity and compassion. Today, this tradition continues through its dedication to caring for every aspect of physical, emotional and spiritual wellness. Situated on a lush campus in Oakland, Mercy Retirement & Care Center provides a continuum of services to meet a variety of healthcare needs, including assisted living, memory care and a five-star rated skilled nursing and rehabilitation center. (Please visit www.eldercarealliance.org for more information or dial 510-534-8540 to schedule a complimentary lunch and personalized visit.)

North Oakland Village

North Oakland Village (“NOV”), a local affiliate of the National Village Movement, supports seniors aging better in our homes as we grow older! We connect our members and volunteers with each other and with resources needed to remain active, independent, confident and meaningfully engaged. Our members enjoy social, cultural, educational and recreational events, tailored to their many interests and enlivened by our sense of friendship and community. A fee-based nonprofit organization, NOV offers a very cost effective alternative to retirement homes. Call us at 510-547-8500 or visit us online at www.northeastalondavillage.org. Arrange to attend our monthly potluck dinner at 5 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month, or attend an information session, time to talk about NOV at 10:30 a.m. on the third Friday of each month at the North Oakland Village office, 2500 Harrison St., Suite 15, Oakland, 94612.

Senior Helpers

Your care plan can be a combination of any of our service offerings, from transportation to preparing meals to helping with bathing and dressing. We have caregivers who will provide care anywhere from one hour a day to 24 hours a day, depending on what you want and need. It’s important that people needing care have caregivers who match them by personality as well as skills. Dementia care is a specialty of ours. And our respite care program provides care during family vacations. Senior Helpers, 510-524-6700.

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Just for Seniors

Events, activities and opportunities for seniors in the Oakland diocese. Events are subject to change. Please contact parishes or organizations to verify.

**SPIRITUALITY**

**First Saturdays**
Anointing of the Sick Mass at Holy Spirit Church, Starts at 11 a.m. at 37188 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. For seniors, those who are seriously ill or those anticipating surgery. A complimentary luncheon follows the Mass. 510-797-1660.

**SOCIALS/ LUNCHEONS**

**Thursday, July 12**
Senior Potluck Luncheon at St. Mary Magdalen Parish. Participants, who meet in the parish hall, from noon to 2 p.m., are asked to bring a dish to serve 10 to 12 people: sumptuous A — desserts; sumptuous H — ethnic sumptuous O — drinks (two bottles of wine, sparkling water or soda); sumptuous T — salads. The parish is at 2025 Berrymans St., Berkeley. RSVP to parish office, 510-266-8811 or online at marymagdalen.org/seniorlunches.

**July 27, Aug. 17, Sept. 21**

**Third Tuesdays**
St. Stephen Parish hosts a monthly Card & Games Party in the parish hall at 1100 Reaney Court, Walnut Creek. Beginning at noon on the third Tuesday monthly, parishioners and friends meet to play bridge, rummikub, dominos, etc. Attendees are asked to bring their own luncheons, though, beverages and snacks are provided. Those with questions can contact Walter Lang at 925-939-2430.

**Third Tuesdays**
St. Isidore Church’s Young at Hearts Group. Meets every second Tuesday at 605 Oak Grove Road, Concord. Information: 925-682-5447, ext. 2. Free.

**Second Tuesdays**
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Senior Luncheon. Meets every second Tuesday at 800 Oak Grove Road, Concord. Information: 925-682-5447, ext. 2. Free.

**First Fridays**
60 Plus or Minus Club at Church of the Transfiguration. Third Fridays
St. Isidore Church’s “Classic Club.” Meets at 1 p.m. at 440 LaGonda Way, Danville. $3 includes lunch. To sign up, contact the parish office at 925-939-7911.

**First Fridays**
60 Plus or Minus Club at Church of the Transfiguration. Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass at 4000 E. Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-703-5997.

**Third Fridays**
St. Isidore Church’s “Classic Club.” Meets at 1 p.m. Fridays (except in July and August) in the St. Isidore Parish Hall at St. Isidore Church, 440 LaGonda Way, Danville, for a potluck dinner and social.

**FITNESS**

**Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays**
Wellness Class. 6 to 7 p.m. in the hall, St. Benedict Church, 2245 82nd Ave., Oakland. Led by Donna Cola. 510-632-1847.

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

**Wednesday**
Walks at Lafayette Reservoir. 4 p.m. at the west end of the parking area, near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. Bring quarters for parking meters ($1.50 an hour). Rain cancels. Sponsor: Catholic Divorced Widowed and Separated (C.D.W.S.) of Contra Costa. Contact Lee, 925-314-5787.

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

**Tuesday**
St. John the Baptist Parish Senior Luncheon and Speaker. Meets Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at El Centro Royal, 8000 Olney Drive, corner of Los Altos, in El Centro. Information: 510-230-5958. www.sjbp.deerfield.org.

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

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**First Tuesdays**
Life Transitions for Aging Adults (LTAA Community) at 2 to 3 p.m. in the hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomba Ave., Livermore. For information contact Moby Fisher, moby.moby@comcast.net or 925-499-8649.

**Fourth Wednesdays**
Family Caregiver Support Ministry at St. Isidore Parish. 7 p.m. in Rooms 214 and 215 in the Ministry Center. 440 LaGonda Way, Danville. Family caregivers are invited to our meetings which include prayer, handouts on caregiving and discussion. Contact Dave Clark, 925-314-5784 for more information.

**WORKSHOPS/ CLASSES**

Hope Inspires/ Home Health Family Caregiver Education Series. 9-45 a.m. (registration). Classes are held from 10 a.m. to noon at 4317 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin (second floor conference room). July 14: Essential Skills for the Family Caregiver; Aug. 11: Understanding Alzheimer’s Disease; Sept 8: Self-Care for the Family Caregiver. For more: www.homehealthcare.com or DeeDee Emerson at dub@HomeHealthCare.com.

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From our family to yours! Alameda County: 510-925-1942 Contra Costa County: 925-390-3259

We’ve Served the Bay Area for Over 15 Years!
Saint Mary’s Center plans 50 units of affordable senior housing

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Working out of the former St. Andrew-St. Joseph Church at Brooklyn Street and San Pablo Avenue in Oakland, Saint Mary’s Center describes itself as “a community of hope, justice and healing that serves at-risk seniors and preschoolers in the heart of Oakland.”

The center adds that it strives “to improve their quality of life through counseling, shelter, nutrition, advocacy and social support.”

The shelter part of the mission received a big boost last year when a long-held dream of buying a nearby retail property and converting it to affordable housing for seniors took a big step forward.

“Last year, we partnered with the San Francisco Foundation,” said Regan Murphy, director of development for Saint Mary’s Center, to purchase the property. The freestanding building, at 967 30th St., is on a 7,900-square-foot lot. The current building takes up about 6,800 square feet of the lot.

Online property records show the purchase price to be $14 million. The current building’s tenants leases are up soon, Murphy said. Plans call for the building to be razed.

“We hope to build at least a 50-unit building of single-room-occupancy-style apartments using modular construction,” Murphy said.

Murphy said Saint Mary’s Center hopes to use Factory OS, a Vallejo company whose work in building modular housing was profiled recently in the New York Times.

Saint Mary’s Center is working with a construction development company on the plan, and seeking ways to fund the construction.

“We’re excited about it,” Murphy said, “but there’s a lot to do.”

“There’s such a lack of housing in our seniors’ income range,” she said. That range is about $1,000 a month. “They need something deeply subsidized.”

Times, too, have changed, she said. Thirty years ago, more of the homeless were young; today, studies show half of the homeless are age 50 or older.

Saint Mary’s Center’s experience with the homeless gives the organization some insight into how great an issue homelessness is in Oakland.

At some point during the winter, 117 people stayed at the seasonal shelter at Saint Mary’s Center. The difference this year, Murphy noted, was that 56 percent of them were women. The number in past years has been about 30 percent.

“Shelter residents also had a little higher incomes than in previous years, she said. “That just shows how expensive it is to live here,” Murphy said.

We were able to find some transitional housing” for some of the winter shelter guests. Sometimes, Saint Mary’s Center has been able to help people find housing with family members, or in detox centers.

A neighborhood in North Berkeley is seeking to raise $1.4 million for Saint Mary’s Center to purchase the property.

The shelter part of the mission received a big boost last year when a long-held dream of buying a nearby retail property and converting it to affordable housing for seniors took a big step forward.

Some people need intensive social work and help with bill paying,” she said. “They need help reintegrating into regular life.”

Finding a place in subsidized housing is like a lottery, Murphy said. An applicant needs to have information verified. “If you’re lucky, you get put on a wait list.“

Then there’s a lottery. “You’ve got to be contactable,” Murphy said. “If your number comes up and they can’t contact you, you start all over again.“

It’s too early to project when Saint Mary’s newest housing for seniors would become move-in ready.

In the meantime, 41 people are housed under Saint Mary’s wing. Closer Home opened in 2008 on the Saint Mary’s Center property.

Not far away is Presentation House, which opened in 2015. The community of U.S. Province of Irish Presentation Sisters who bought the house in 2006, sold it at favorable terms to Saint Mary’s Center when they completed their ministry the area.

There’s A Friendly Manor, which includes 24 single-occupancy units for women who are coming out of rehabs. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet founded this program and passed leadership of it to Saint Mary’s Center two years ago. The population of senior women there is growing, Murphy said.
Deacon Frank Bustos
Deacon Frank Bustos, who served as a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Oakland for more than three decades, died May 27 at age 82.

Born in Tepatitlán, Mexico, Deacon Bustos moved to the U.S. in 1955. While living in the Brentwood area he was a farm worker before going into business for himself. He also worked for 20 years as a route salesman for Frito-Lay. Additionally he served on the Brentwood Planning Commission, school board, wrote a Spanish language column for the Brentwood News and was a volunteer firefighter.

On Dec. 11, 1982, he was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Oakland. Deacon Bustos was initially assigned to Hispanic Family Life ministry in the Oakland-Brentwood area. In addition to St. Anthony Parish in Oakland, he ministered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Brentwood, and at St. Anne Parish in San Leandro.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys; their children, grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

The funeral Mass took place June 5 at St. Theresa of the Sacred Heart Parish in Brentwood. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery in Antioch.

Sister Patricia Anne Cloherty, PBVM
Sister Patricia Anne Cloherty, a long-time educator who also held leadership positions in her congregation, died May 12 at the Presentation Motherhouse in San Francisco. She was 85 and was a Sister of the Presentation for 69 years.

A native of San Francisco, her baptismal name was Mary Dolores. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from the University of San Francisco, a master's degree in Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, and completed requirements for credentials in elementary education and special education.

For the first 34 years of her religious life, she served as a teacher and principal at schools in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose and New Mexico. In the East Bay she served at Berkeley's St. John Vianney from 1957 to 1958.

After a year on the staff of Presentation Center, Sister Cloherty was elected to congregational leadership as a council member from 1986 to 1994. She was re-elected as a council member in 2004 and served another six years in that role. Between roles on the Leadership Council, she served as director of religious instruction for Epiphany Parish in San Francisco from 1994 to 2002.

According to the obituary written by her community, Sister Cloherty, who was “always known as willing to be of service to others and to a listening heart,” spent the years that followed in various administrative roles at the Presentation Motherhouse.

The funeral Mass was held May 21 at the Presentation Motherhouse followed by interment prayers at the Chapel area of Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.

Brother Duane T. Crockett, MM
Brother Duane T. Crockett, a native of Oakland, died May 21 in New York. He was 92 years of age and had been a Maryknoll Brother for 66 years.

Born Stanley Crockett, he attended Sacred Heart Grammar School in Oakland and Saint Mary's College High School in San Francisco. He graduated from University High School in Oakland in 1943 and enlisted in the Merchant Marine that same year. He served in the South Pacific and was engaged in combat in Okinawa. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

He joined Maryknoll in December 1949 and attended the Maryknoll Brothers Novitiate in Akron, Ohio. He pronounced his first oath in 1951 and at that time selected the religious name, Duane. Brother Duane professed his perpetual oath in June 1956.

Initially assigned to his community's mission in Los Angeles, Brother Duane served as youth minister for the Japanese children attending the school. In 1956 he was assigned to California where he served for almost 18 years.

During the 1970s he was assigned to Maryknoll's development office first in Cleveland, Ohio, then in San Francisco, where he worked collaboratively with many parishes and mission education in schools in California's Central Valley. In Stockton he served as a volunteer member of the local police department.

Brother Duane moved to the Maryknoll residence in Los Altos in 1999, where he served as chaplain at the Veterans Hospital and for American Legion Post 566.

In 1991, Brother Duane's most cherished citations were the council-level distinguished service award (Silver Bear medal) of the Boy Scouts of America for his contributions to the St. Gertrude National Catholic Committee on Scouting that acknowledged more than 40 years of service to Catholicism.

Brother Duane is survived by a nephew, a grand-niece and several grand-nephews. The funeral Mass was held June 7 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Chapel at Maryknoll in Ossining, New York. Burial followed in the Maryknoll Cemetery.

El Heraldo Catolico, the Spanish-language newspaper, is looking for freelance photographers and reporters. Ability to speak and write fluid Spanish and English, and prior experience reporting and photographing news is required.

Send a resume including prior experience to Al Pacciorini at apacciorini@oakdiocese.org, or 2211 Harrison St., Oakland 94612.

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Photographers/Reporters

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Creation: Peace, play and majesty
Cornelius painted Elizabeth Gallagher and her husband Paul have illuminated the Mercy Center Art Gallery, Burlingame, from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Aug. 31. Creation: Peace, play and majesty is their two person exhibit of landscapes, dreams, myth and sacred music processed in acrylics, collage and thread. This exhibit is the third Elizabeth has displayed at Mercy Center Art Gallery and exhibited her work with Paul at the Civic Center Art Center in Pacific Grove located at 2500 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. For more: https://bit.ly/2Ceo0yY; for more on the Wrightisms: www.worldofjimihugos.com.
Letters to the editor provide a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and commentary on issues of spirit and civil discourse. The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily of the Catholic Voice or the Diocese of Oakland. While a full spectrum of opinions will sometimes include those which disagree with the views in this issue, it is hoped that this forum will help our readers to understand others' thinking on critical issues facing the Church.

**Total Pro-life**

The pro-life letter by Robert Burke and the “Vantage Point” editorial by Ray Gerald D. Coleman, PSS, in the May 21 issue cause me to wonder about my conclusions.

Burke leaves out an important phrase regarding Catholic teaching on the death penalty. While in many cases, the Catechism states that these instances wherein it may be used to protect the public are “very rare, if not practically non-existent.”

There is no excuse for retaining the death penalty in a civilized country. I am aware of a position taken in the Church that it be used to assist suicide, embryonic stem cell research, war, and criminal punishment for genocidal acts. No, a set of priorities with abortion at the top of the list? Yes. For the Anti-Abortionists, I can say whether further attempts at diagnosing Alfie’s condition will lead to a delay or prolonging his life. I do know that it is often where the government and insurance companies take from parents the right to make medical decisions that might cost the child’s life. What would it have cost Alder Hey (the Liverpool, Anglican hospital) to allow Alfie to be transferred to a hospital that already would have accepted him?

I stand with “Alfie’s Army,” and I stand against this decision.

**Death penalty redux**

I was puzzled by Pope Francis’ response (Forum, June 11) to my letter (Forum, May 21) in which I totally referenced my canonical Latin source regarding the death penalty. Nor did he respond to my arguments for keeping the death penalty.

He did quote Pope Francis’ statement against abortion to give their opinions on a variety of subjects and Catholics have no choice to do or disagree with them. For example, a Catholic is free to disagree with the Pope’s public resignation and still remain a Catholic in good standing.

Regarding the Fifth Commandment, “Thou shalt not kill.” A better translation of the original Hebrew and Greek texts is: “You shall not commit murder.” This makes sense concerning the number of documented instances wherein the ancient Hebrews fought after receiving the Ten Commandments.

I had to laugh when being accused of being a “catarista Catholic” because I choose to follow Canon Law, Catechism, Catholic dogma, and authorities, those who pick and choose which teachings of the Church to follow and which they feel free to ignore.

Robert Burke  
Antioch

**Paradigm shifts**

Jack Hoskell (Forum, June 11) referred to the “specious example” of slavery when referring to paradigm shifts in the church. He amazingly equates securitization and slavery, giving examples of voluntary servitude and penal servitude as comparable to “just” and “unjust” slavery.

Evidently the facts that voluntary servi- tude is “just” and that penal servitude in the example he uses has the result of a criminal act, “just” or “unjust” is simply based on the power that one has over another, based on the status of a slave’s color, economic and political status. There is nothing “unjust” about slavery.

W. C.j. Nickels cites Augustinian Thomas Chrysostom, Gregory of Nyssa and St. Patrick. As Nickels repeatedly states, it is about the natural law. He fails, however, to recognize that many popes were immediately willing to condone and support slavery. The examples I cite below are documented in John T. Noonan, Jr.’s “A Church that Can and Cannot Change: The Development of Catholic Moral Teaching.”

I will note a few examples over the span of time:

1. Nicholas V granted the king of Portugal in 1452 the right, inter alia, to make war on Saracens, pagans and infidels “to rid the earth of heretics, and to reduce their power to subjection.” In 1455, Nicholas V issued the bull “Romani Pontificis” confirming the bull “Unigenitus”… (p. 62).

2. Pope Pius II (1466), in Calixtus III (1446), Sixtus IV (1481), Leo X (1514) and Alexander VI (1493) issued bulls in the same vein as Nicholas V’s bull. These bulls were to 1452 to 1514 “show that slaving was an enterprise meritorious and meritorious performance by liturgical ministers; and prayers for all the worthy causes of the world, to name some. Then I add for all the intercessions (in the Byzantine Church) for the souls of those who have been killed in the service of the Church to a Salutarissima woman who said she had been abused by her husband. He said U.S. asylum laws cannot be used to remedy “all misfortune,” including domestic violence (Philadelphia Inquirer June 23). Father Melo is a lea...
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