Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, 

In the wake of recent reports of scandal in the Catholic Church, I have decided the Diocese of Oakland will release the names of all clergy — diocesan, religious order and extern priests — who have been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor. This is the latest step in the ongoing commitment of the Diocese of Oakland to stop the scourge of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. This public accountability will allow you and others in our community to see we are keeping our promises. We have nothing to hide. It is the right thing to do.

Since 2002, the “No More Secrets Group”, a mutual support group for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, has been meeting with the full support and encouragement of the Diocese of Oakland.

Prayer, Penance and Reparation

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, invited all priests, religious and lay faithful of the diocese to join him in a Novena to “Prayer, Penance and Reparation” for adults harmed by Father Foley. Bishop Barber asked priests to hold a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in each parish, to pray in preparation, for healing, for the victims, and for the cleansing and reform of the Church and her ministers. On that day, in the late morning, Bishop Barber knelt in silence before the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral of Christ the Light. The Holy Hour was followed by Mass at 12:10 p.m. “The holiness of the Catholic Church,” he said in his homily, “comes from one person: Jesus.”

Letter of suitability required for ministry

No such letter was found in diocesan files for Rev. J. Patrick Foley, who conduct ed retreats at San Damiano and celebrated Mass at St. Isidore Parish, both in Danville. An investigation into how a priest, whose faculties were removed by the Diocese of Oakland, was being conducted by civil authorities, i.e. police or sheriff’s department. Father Foley had been removed from priestly ministry due to inappropriate behavior with children. As of Sept. 21, the diocese was unaware of any children or vulnerable adults harmed by Father Foley. Bishop Barber encouraged anyone aware of inappropriate behavior with children to report it to Bishop Barber or to our Diocesan Review Board.

On our cover

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, visits with Catholic school Eighth Graders over two days, where he cautioned them: “You have a great responsibility to set an example.” See our Elementary School Guide on Page 7 and more Catholic schools on Page 11.

By Mark Pattison

Washington — With Pope Francis mid-way into the sixth year of his pontificate, the percentage of U.S. Catholics who view him favorably, while still strong, is noticeably down.

And, compared to a January poll by the Pew Research Center that showed Catholics were evenly split on how well Pope Francis has handled the issue of clergy sexual abuse, numbers in the new poll, released Oct. 2, show that twice as many Catholics see him as doing only a fair or poor job on the issue than say he is doing a good or excellent job.

The overall favorability number for the pope is 72 percent, split between 42 percent of Catholics who see him “very favorably” and 30 percent who view him “very favorably.” The latter number down a third from the last Pew poll last January, when Pope Francis had been at 84 percent favorability. The 72 percent figure falls below even Pope Benedict’s favorability points for Pope Benedict XVI except for its first poll asking the question shortly after Pope Benedict announced the papacy in 2005.

Pope Francis’ lowest favorability numbers are among Catholic men, at 66 percent, and Catholics who lean Republican, at 61 percent. They are highest among Catholic Democrats or those who lean Democratic, at 83 percent, and Catholic women, at 77 percent. The percentage of Catholics overall who... (Continued on Page 15.)
BISHOP BARBER’S SCHEDULE


Oct. 10: Office meetings, including visit of Bishop Thomas Olson of Eritrea. 4 p.m., Mass, dinner with Jesuit Scholastics who will be ordained

Oct. 11: 10 a.m., Theology and Spirituality of Priesthood class, Jesuit School of Theology and Spirituality, Chicago

Oct. 12: Meeting, Diocese of Sacramento

Oct. 13: 7:30 p.m, Mass, procession, Marian Conference, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Brentwood

Oct. 14: 10:30 a.m., diocesan Special Religious Education (SPRED) Mass, St. Raymond Parish, Dublin

Oct. 15: 6 p.m., Archdiocesan Priests’ Convention

Oct. 16: 11 a.m., USCCB Meetings of International Justice & Peace and Domestic Justice & Development Committees, Washington, DC

Oct. 18: Office meetings, Chancery, including Priests Personnel Board and Presbytery Council

Oct. 19: Mass and canonical visitation, Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Kensington

Office meetings, Chancery, including College of Consultors

Oct. 20: 10 a.m., orientation to the Deaconate for the Jesuit Order, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Oct. 21: 10 a.m, Mass to celebrate wedding anniversaries, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Oct. 22-24: Men conversation with the priests of the diocese, San Dimas, Danville

THE CHURCH

THE VATICAN

Members cause problems

The barque of the church is being buf-
teted by strong winds of scandal created by its own members, Pope Francis told a
group of priests from France when the church would be more aware of its
men who are considering the priesthood
and the chaplaincy. You always welcome them, showed them with hospitality
and inspire them with your good example.

Archdiocese for the Military Services

Archdiocese for the Military Services honored at 11th Annual Gala

Staff report

Saint Mary Seminary & University, Menlo Park, honored the Archdiocese
for the Military Services with Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, archbishop of the
AMC, accepting the Patrician Award, at St. Patrick’s premier fundraising event, the
11th Annual Gala, on Sept. 29.

This year was the largest Gala ever
for St. Patrick’s with more than 670 persons attending, including military personnel
from Beale AFB and local VA chaplains from Menlo Park and Palo Alto. St. Patrick’s Seminary
started the Gala in 2006, through which it raises the operational
funds necessary for its mission to form
courageous men of reflection and action
who live joyous lives as a priest.

Archbishop Broglio said, “Every year, the
AMC brings here a group of young

men who are considering the priesthood
and the chaplaincy. You always welcome them, showed them with hospitality
and inspire them with your good example.”

Archdiocese for the Military Services
was created by Pope St. John Paul II to
provide the Catholic Church’s full range of
pastoral ministries and spiritual services to
those in the United States Armed Forces.
In addition, for the past 10 years, St. Patrick’s Seminary has hosted an AMS
disbursement retreat, originally started by Bishop Michael Barber, SJ, of the
Diocese of Oakland. The retreat normally has 30 to 40 men who are enlisted, academy cadets
or seminarians interested in the military chaplaincy and spend three days at the
Archbishop Broglio’s home to the experiences
of military chaplains from each branch of the
armed services.

THE CATHEDRAL

‘Requiem’ Nov. 2

Gabriel Fauré’s “Requiem” will be sung
by the Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys on All
Soul’s Day, at 7 p.m., Nov. 2, at the Cathedral
of Christ the Light in Oakland. The choir will
be accompanied by organ and orchestra.

This marks the first time the Cathedral
Choir of Men & Boys will present the
well-loved work. It will mark the boys’
only appearance at the cathedral this fall.

They are students at the Pacific Boychoir
Academy in Oakland.

“The boy soprano voices are transcen-
dent,” said Rudy de Vos, director of music
at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Their
voices provide “a European sound in our
California cathedral.”

The annual “Requiem” is among the tradi-
tions established at the cathedral, which
was dedicated 10 years ago. The Mass provides
the opportunity to remember loved ones
who have died. Contributions to help cover the
cost of presenting “Requiem” can be made
to the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

Write “Requiem” in the memo line. Mail to: Denise
Kugler, Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121
Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland 94612.

THE CATHOLIC VOICE

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Mailed to 90,000 households

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Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio receives the Patrician Award from Very Rev. George E. Schultze, SJ, president-rector of St. Patrick’s Seminary.

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

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November 26 Gift of Giving/General News November 14

December 10 Christmas Litanies November 28

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www.catholicvoiceoakland.org/photos.htm

Schedule

See our publication schedule and deadlines at:

www.catholicvoiceoakland.org/pubdates.htm

2 — THE CATHOLIC VOICE
By Michele Jurich
Staff writer
Rev. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB, has two words for you: prayer and forgiveness. Both helped him survive not only the massacre of four religious Sisters and 12 workers at the home for the aged in Yemen to which he ministered, but the 557 days he endured, often in solitary captivity.

"Prayer is very powerful," said the priest, known as Father Tom, during his visit to the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Sept. 30, the day the Cathedral of Christ the Light celebrated the 10th anniversary of its dedication. "The Lord hears our prayers.

"Forgiveness is the best medicine," he said. "I used to pray for them. I never wished anything bad for them," he said. "They should have killed me, when they took me, but the Lord spared me because he was not ready to be a martyr.

"For me, to have lived and to have survived, was a mission."

Words to live by: prayer and forgiveness

Rev. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB, who spent 557 days in captivity in Yemen, was welcomed to the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland on Sept. 30, which marked its 10th anniversary. Father Uzhunnalil is in the midst of a pilgrimage, to the right of Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. At the cathedral, he was met by Missionaries of Charity who serve in the Diocese of Oakland and the Archdiocese of San Francisco, as well as Carmelite sisters who serve on this side of the bay, left. At right, Father Uzhunnalil, left, welcomed the Mass, as did his longtime friend, Rev. George Alengadan, pastor of St. Joseph Basilica of Alameda.

"Pray is very powerful," said the bishop, the priest said.

The four martyred Sisters — Sister Judith, Sister Marguerite, Sister Regneta and Sister Anselm — were remembered in the universal prayer.

They were Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. When the government of Yemen in 1973 asked her to send Sisters to care for the destitute, she replied that they would receive from the Eucharist and would require a chaplain. The Salesian Fathers provided chaplains.

Father Uzhunnalil, who spent the first quarter-century of his priesthood building vocational schools in India to teach skills to impoverished young people, can draw his strength from the Eucharist and to give him the grace to withstand captivity.

Also in the cathedral for Father Uzhunnalil’s visit were Missionaries of Charity who serve in Rome, and the Carmelite Sisters who serve in Hercules were also present. After Communion at the cathedral, Father Uzhunnalil spoke from the ambo. In those 557 days, he said, “God’s strength was with me and I felt the prayers.” He added: “I felt God had a mission for me. Each one of us has a mission.”

He summed up his feeling for his captors, who, he said in his book, did not torture him. “Forgiveness is the best medicine,” he said.

After Mass, the visiting priest, who has been a guest of Rev. George Alengadan, pastor of St. Joseph Basilica of Alameda and a longtime friend, spoke with the Missionaries of Charity present and other well-wishers.

He signed copies of his book, “By the Grace of God.” Proceeds from the book support Salesian missions. He was able to spend a few minutes with The Catholic Voice, talking about mission, mercy and forgiveness.

“What I believe is what Jesus taught us: ‘Forgive our enemy and pray for them. I believe the Lord had a mission in taking me back to Yemen, at the time of the war, and my reaching there was instrumental in freeing three of our workmen,’ he said.

They were African Christians.

He said he felt the Lord spared him because he was not ready to be a martyr. "They should have killed me, when they took me," he said. "The mere fact they spared me meant the Lord had some other mission for me."

He said his captors did not torture him, but "captivity is captivity."

"I used to pray for them. I never wished anything bad for them," he said. "He and the Sisters had earlier prayed for the conversion of those fighting the war, and he continued to pray. He also prayed for God to free him, and to give him the grace to withstand captivity.

"I offered myself to the Lord. If it is your will, as early as possible, but give me the grace to fulfill the mission you have for me in Yemen, for whatever is the rest of my life."

Father Uzhunnalil knew his strength came from the Lord.

"He gave me the strength to go through it safe in body, mind and spirit," he said.
ABUSE ROUNDUP

Former cardinal living in friary

The Vatican has announced that retired Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick attended a Mass in Rome April 11, 2018, The Archdiocese of Washington announced Sept. 28 that Archbishop McCarrick, who was removed from ministry earlier this year after abuse allegations came to light, is now living in Kansas in a friary for Capuchin Franciscan friars. Archbishop McCarrick resides at St. Fidelis Friary in the city of Victoria, the archdiocese said in a statement, adding that “we respect for the privacy of this arrangement is requested” out of consideration for the peace of the community of the friars who live there. Victoria is in a rural area of Kansas and has a popu- lation of about 1,200. Archbishop McCarrick is excluded from any public appearances and ministry, as church officials investigate the accus- sations and they are examined in a canonical trial.

8210M settlement plan

MINNEAPOLIS — A U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge Sept. 25 approved the recon- ciliation plan of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, including a $210 million settlement for victim-survivor remuneration.

Bishops release data

FULDA, Germany — The head of the German bishops conference for- mally apologized for sexual abuse in the church, saying it “has been denied, turned away from and covered up for far too long.” Sexual abuse is a crime,” Cardinal Reinhard Marx of Munich and Freising told a news conference Sept. 25 in Fulda, Germany. “And whoever is guilty of it must be punished by law.” The bishops met in a plenary session in Fulda and released a study, conducted on behalf of the bishops’ conference from 2010 to 2014, on abuse. The study, leaked earlier in September, researched an estimated 3,700 sex abuse cases in Germany.

Compensation fund

PHILADELPHIA — The bishops of Pennsylvania’s eight Roman Catholic dioceses are supporting creation of an independent fund to compensate survivors of clergy sexual abuse. Ever since the Aug. 14 release of the report that graphically detailed the alleged sexual abuse of more than 1,000 boys and girls by some 300 priests and church workers in the state over 70 years, the bishops had “reflected deeply on the ugly record of abuse and how church leadership failed to protect our people over a period of decades.”

Indian bishop charged

MUMBAI, India — Police have arrested Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar, India, and charged him with the rape of a nun. The Sept. 21 arrest, reported by the British news agency Reuters, came a day after Pope Francis accepted the bishop’s request to be relieved of his duties during the investigation. The Indian nun accused the bishop of raping her four years ago and then sexually abusing her multiple times over the following two years. Bishop Mulakkal claims the accusa- tions are baseless and aim to defame the disciplinary action he had initiated against the nun.

Report was old news

OXFORD, England — The Dutch bishops’ conference said it had worked to prevent further sexual abuse by Catholic clergy, but said a recent report by a leading newspaper was “old news.” The time for praying and apologizing is clearly over; we’re in a new phase of firm commitment to prevent all abuse,” said Daphne De Roosendaal, confer- ence spokeswoman. “But while many people know how much the bishops have done, some media reports still give the impression cases from decades ago have only just occurred.”

Brown vetoes measure to extend statute of limitations

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a measure Sept. 30 that would have extended the state’s statute of limitations for decades for childhood sexual abuse survivors.

The proposed measure would have allowed victims to file abuse claims until they are 40 years old. It also would have allowed those who have repressed memories of abuse to sue within five years of realizing the cause of their trauma.

In his Sept. 30 letter to the members of the California State Assembly, Brown said he vetoed a similar bill in 2013 and said his views on this have not changed. He said the current measure is even broader than the one he opposed five years ago and “does not fully address the inequity between the state defen- dants and others and provides a longer revival period for otherwise barred claims.”

Brown also vetoed a bill that would have mandated that public universities in the state offer abortion-inducing “medication” through campus health centers starting in 2022.

The bill, SB 320, was “not neces- sary,” Brown said in his veto message signed Sept. 30, as abortion services are already “widely available” off cam- pus. Gov. Brown is a public supporter of abortion rights.

Student health centers at California’s public universities do not provide abor- tion services, but they do provide referrals to abortion facilities. However, many of these centers do distribute the “morning-after pill,” which can block fertilization or prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in a uterus.

Earlier Brown signed into law SB 1391 ensuring that teenage minors can no longer be tried as adults. It had been up to a judge’s discretion.

Serra’s name removed

WASHINGTON — Stanford University will strip the name of 18th-century Franciscan priest, St. Junipero Serra, from some of its properties but keep a street named after him.

The proposed measure would have allowed victims to file abuse claims until they are 40 years old. It also would have allowed those who have repressed memories of abuse to sue within five years of realizing the cause of their trauma.

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Serra even though he played no direct role in the university’s history. Serra Hall, a main avenue on the university’s campus, Serra dormitory and Serra House will be renamed, the university said, but Serra Street, will keep its name.

Voice news services

The Catholic Voice

Diocece of Oakland

Wedding Anniversary Celebration Giveaway

We invite all Catholic married couples to celebrate with the Diocese of Oakland by entering to win a $50 gift certificate* for Scott's Seafood at Jack London Square in Oakland.

Register for Oct. 21 Anniversary Mass & Reception at www.oakdiocese.org/anniversary

Entry Deadline:
October 8, 2018

Mail coupon below to The Catholic Voice, Dept. 5
2123 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612

One entry per family. Winners will be notified by phone and mail.

The Catholic Voice Wedding Anniversary Giveaway

Scott’s Seafood Restaurant, Jack London Square, Oakland

Your Names ________________________________
Address______________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
Daytime Phone ___________________________
Wedding Date ____________________________
Email: ________________________________

*Gift certificate does not include gratuity. No cash value returned.

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San Diego listening sessions

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Email: ________________________________

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Prayer can help move a person wracked with fear and emotional pain to a place of “peace and equanimity.” Citing a passage from the Letter to St. James, the bishop said that love drives out fear.

The multilingual and multicultural Mass of Thanksgiving brought together representatives from health care and healing ministries from across the East Bay including the Order of Malta Clinic and the Office of Life and Justice, Diocese of Oakland, as well as chaplains from Alta Bates Summit Hospital, Highland Hospital, Alameda Health, La Clinica de la Raza, St. Paul Towers and Kaiser Permanente.

A Mass choir comprised of music ministers from the parishes St. Columba, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Jarlath (all Oakland) and St. Thomas More (San Francisco) offered meditative and grace-filled music.

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

Oakland Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, noted that at least one major medical study conducted some years ago showed that prayer has the power to heal. But in remarks shared at a Sept. 29 Mass for those who work in healthcare professions and those who minister to the sick, the bishop recalled having personally witnessed the powers of prayer.

He recalled the bedside visit to a woman, whom he described as being a second mother to him, who was in hospice care. As the women’s children and grandchildren came to say their goodbyes the woman had not been able to utter a word for several weeks.

After asking for some private time with the women, the bishop began to pray the Rosary. During the “Hail Mary” portion of the Rosary the woman spoke, completing the second part of the prayer, “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

Addressing those who work with the terminally ill, Bishop Barber said that despite the many advances in science that it can “only do so much.” Spiritual faith, in the form of prayer, can go to places where the body and soul overlap.

Deacons Jorge Angel and Herbert Casey distribute Communion.

St. Jude Novena
Oct 20–28, 2018

Masses:
Mon-Sat: 8:00 am & 5:30 pm
Sun: 11:30 am & 5:30 pm
(Masses preceded by the Rosary; blessing with the relic of St. Jude.)

Novena in St. Dominic’s Catholic Church
2390 Basil Street, SE, CA 94115

St. Jude Novena

Mass honors and offers prayers for the healers

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

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Deacons Jorge Angel and Herbert Casey distribute Communion.
Next Encuentro phase is action by parishes, dioceses

Staff and wire reports

Nearly 3,000 Hispanic ministry leaders have gone back to their parishes and dioceses to share the ideas and fruits of the conversations that took place at the Fifth National Encuentro in Grapevine, Texas. And as that phase of the multiyear process reached completion, the next phase is aimed at putting into practice the lessons learned and bear fruits.

"This has been like a retreat, the message that we were given at the end is like you have the Holy Spirit, you have to take it with you and you have to be saints, produce fruits of love," said Sister Maria Maldonado, a member of the Dominican Sisters of the Lady of the Rosary of Fatima. Her order is involved with family ministry serving parishes in Maryland and Texas.

In the next few months, the leadership team of the Fifth National Encuentro, or V Encuentro, will distribute a concluding document listing the main priorities and problems identified across 28 ministry areas; the document will assist dioceses, parishes and national structures in drafting their own pastoral plans according to their own realities and priorities. The encuentro's team of accompaniment, or ENAVE, plans to continue providing support and tracking progress.

The delegates were called to share their gifts and reach out across race and language barriers in their own parish and diocesan communities; at the same time, they also urged the rest of non-Hispanic Catholics to recognize their presence and open doors to their gifts and contributions.

Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, stressed that call to Catholic organizations and institutions.

He told participants, "One of the missions of Encuentro is to tell the other Catholics beyond the Hispanic community, the young leaders in this country: Hispanics have many gifts to give, you open the doors, and let them give these gifts and do not be ashamed of their traditions." Hispanics represent about 40 percent of U.S. Catholics and nearly 60 percent of Catholic youth, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. More than 3,200 diocesan delegates or representatives, bishops and other Catholic leaders participated in the national gathering in Grapevine, Texas, in the Diocese of Fort Worth. While there is a more vivid awareness in recognizing the opportunities in the gifts that Hispanics can bring to the table, part of the reality is that circumstances are different from region to region and even from parish to parish, and awareness must continue at all levels, said Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas. "It's really a deepening of the awareness of the whole people of God, catechists, parishes, diocesan structures, about thinking differently about what their local situation is to invite people in. That's an attitudinal reality," Bishop Flores said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

The Encuentro participants spent a full day of consultation and discernment Sept. 22 on 28 ministerial areas and 10 priorities which include evangelization and catechesis, family, immigration, justice and peace, and Hispanic youth and young adults.

"I'm very hopeful with the results of this Encuentro that we're going to go back home and really bring consciousness to the whole world, that we're going to make a difference in the lives of those who need us," said Sister Norma Pimentel, an Encuentro delegate. A member of the Missionaries of Jesus, Sister Pimentel is executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

Other recurring issues include supporting Hispanic women in leadership roles; the need to continue the role of a missionary church that reaches out to others; more access to leadership positions at all levels; and to reach out to, mentor and guide young adults as ministry leaders. The contributions of Hispanic Catholics to the church and society show the beauty and excitement of their people and culture, but it can be messy and complicated at times, as expressed in a panel dialogue a group of Catholic leaders during the second day of sessions at the Sept. 20-23 gathering.

The coming together of Hispanic Catholic leaders from around the country reflects a mature church, said Hispanic theologian Osipino, a theologian at Boston College and a member of the Fifth Encuentro's organizing committee. But he also sees that as the community is becoming older there is also a sense of excitement and "messiness." "All these processes of the encuentro have many gifts and a maturity of a church that is here and is here to stay," Osipino said. However, the "messiness" is the challenges that must be overcome, such as a fragmented church, a church that struggles to embrace the Hispanic community, the young leaders who are transforming the church.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

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# Diocese of Oakland
## Elementary Schools Information Guide 2018-2019

### Alameda County

#### St. Joseph
- Address: 1910 San Antonio Avenue
- Principal: Dr. Marquita Yriarte
- Phone: 510-522-4456

#### St. Philip Nerli
- Address: 1335 High Street
- Principal: Jessica Murray
- Phone: 510-521-0787

#### Berke
- School of the Madeleine
- Address: 1225 Milvia Street
- Principal: Joseph Nagel
- Phone: 510-536-4744

#### Castro Valley
- Our Lady of Grace
- Address: 13930 Arista Avenue
- Principal: Susan Anderson
- Phone: 510-581-3155

#### Dublin
- St. Raymond
- Address: 11537 Shannon Avenue
- Principal: Catherine Dehan
- Phone: 925-828-4046

#### Fremont
- Holy Spirit
- Address: 1050 Puriss Avenue
- Principal: Holly Marsh
- Phone: 510-793-3552

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Address: 48217 Frontage Blvd.
- Principal: Sister Janice Wellington, O.P.
- Phone: 510-657-1674

### Oakland

#### St. Anthony
- Address: 1502 E. 15th Street
- Principal: Marisol Preciado
- Phone: 510-534-3334

#### St. Elizabeth
- Address: 1516 – 33rd Avenue
- Principal: Lynne Mullen
- Phone: 510-526-4744

#### St. Leo
- Address: 4238 Hose Street
- Principal: Lisa Greco
- Phone: 510-654-7828

#### St. Leander
- Address: 251 Davis Street
- Principal: Amy Cross
- Phone: 510-361-4144

#### San Lorenzo

- St. John
- Address: 370 E. Lewelling Blvd
- Principal: Paige Child
- Phone: 510-234-2044

#### Contra Costa County

#### Antioch
- Holy Rosary
- Address: 25 East 15th Street
- Principal: Fray Fijardo
- Phone: 925-757-1270

#### Lafayette
- St. Peter Martyr
- Address: 4150 Elmwood Avenue
- Principal: Joe Silveira
- Phone: 925-685-1109

#### Pleasant Hill
- St. Thomas More
- Address: 1565 Santa Cruz Avenue
- Principal: Elizabeth Griswold
- Phone: 925-284-3090

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### Other

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      - St. John, 370 E. Lewelling Blvd, 510-234-2044
St. Patrick School wins honor for ‘The Lion King Jr.’

Staff report

St. Patrick School Theater in Rodeo received a Special Judges’ Citation of The American Prize in Musical Theater Performance competition, 2017-18, recognizing “Excellent Middle School Production and Music Theater Program.”


Kelly Stevens, St. Patrick’s principal and the theater producer; Benjamin Stevens, the school's technology coordinator and director of the Middle School Musical.

“About 75 percent of our middle school participates in some way with our productions,” Kelly Stevens said. “What is most impressive is that St. Patrick Middle School was chosen for recognition in comparison to three college groups and one community theater group — we found it impressive to be compared on that level,” she said.

Organizers said St. Patrick School Theater was selected from applications reviewed recently from all across the United States. The American Prize is a series of new, non-profit, national competitions unique in scope and structure, designed to recognize and reward the best performing artists, ensembles and composers in the United States based on submitted recordings.

The cast was made up of 66 sixth-eighth graders who worked together from October to March to hone their skills and their performances.
Education mission: ‘I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works’

By Joseph Nagel

I am honored to be able to carry forward my connections and history with the School of the Madeleine in my new role as principal. It is an esteemed and prodigious responsibility, upon which I reflect regularly and ponder deeply.

In our reading today from the letter of James, we hear the simple question: “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith, but does not have works?” This is the type of question I hear often, and heartily encourage, from middle school students in religion class. It is the type of concrete and pressing — but also profound — concern that pushes to the fore during adolescence.

I welcome these kinds of questions, because they allow pupils and teachers, as a class, to address the same keystone of our Catholic faith that James addresses in our reading: the interconnectedness between faith and actions.

This is a defining characteristic of the vitality of our Catholic practice. As physical beings, our interactions with the world and people around us reflect our beliefs and define our character.

In education, one of the first realities new teachers come to appreciate is that although you may deliver a perfect lesson to your students, there is no guarantee it will be learned … or even heard. If learning were so simple, our world would be very different: Parenting would be a breeze; politics would be less fraught with conflict; countless hours with the parent association. Teachers give a little more, and receive a little less, than they might at another institution. Parishioners and clergy support the school, sharing space and resources. Our students commit themselves daily, as they live out our school motto to be “Good to One Another!”

As James articulates, it is not enough to simply tell those in need to “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well.” Work is needed to transform these intentions into reality. If we want our children to learn and grow not only as academic or athletic or social beings, but also as caring, generous and spiritual beings, then we need to raise them within an environment that develops these values each day through practice and experience. It is not enough to just “talk the talk; we all need to “walk the walk.”

That walk will not always be easy. We undertake the journey of life knowing that yes, there will be plenty of joy and celebration, but there will also be moments of pain and frustration. In our Gospel reading, Jesus “spoke this openly” as He preached about the rejection and suffering that was to come. Despite full knowledge of all the tribulations He was to endure, Jesus continued forward with His mission.

Christ knowingly and willingly “looked up his cross” as a model for all who were to follow. As Christians, Jesus tells us that “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

This call to action invokes our responsibility to set aside our own wants and needs, and to prioritize service to others. We willingly assume these obligations not because they are easy or pleasant, but because they are right and just. In doing so, we deny our own wants and order to serve the needs of others. This sacrifice is at the core of our experience as teachers, as clergy, as parents, and as Christians.

Catholic education exists as a response to Jesus’ call to action, and as a fulfilment of our responsibility to demonstrate our faith through our works.

Parents undertake financial commitments and work countless hours with the parent association. Teachers give a little more, and receive a little less, than they might at another institution. Parishioners and clergy support the school, sharing space and resources. Our students commit themselves daily, as they live out our school motto to be “Good to One Another!”

This school and parish have worked together to raise and educate generations of thoughtful, generous and spiritual young men and women.

On behalf of the Madeleine teachers and faculty, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the parent and parish community for years to come, as together we heed Jesus’ call to “take up our crosses” and fulfill our Christian duty to demonstrate our faith through our works.

(Joseph Nagel, a graduate of the School of the Madeleine, is in his first year as principal of the Berkeley school. This article is adapted from a reflection he gave at the Masses the weekend of Sept. 15-16.)
By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Over two days in late September, eighth-graders accompanied by teachers, principals, pastors and parent chaperones gathered at the Cathedral of Christ the Light for Masses for the students in their final year of Catholic elementary school. The Mass celebrated the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Hope and Untier of Knots.

“My prayer for you is that you have a powerful encounter with Christ,” Jocelyn Pierre-Antoine, associate superintendent for mission and professional learning, told the students before the Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ.

Before Mass, Bishop Barber showed the students the various elements in his vesting for Mass, and explained the significance of each. They include items that (Continued on Page 11.)
(Continued from Page 10.)

Two days ...

(Continued from Page 10.)

pertain to the three ordained states: deacon, priest and bishop.

In his homily, Bishop Barber acknowledged the students as leaders at their schools. He encouraged them to be aware of how the younger students see them.

“They look up to you,” the bishop said. “They imitate you. You have a great responsibility to set an example.”

He offered some advice: “The key to leadership,” he said, “is you don’t have to do it all by yourself.”

He encouraged them to call on help from the Blessed Virgin Mary. “Those who ask for Mary’s help will always get it,” he said.

An icon of Mary Untier of Knots had been placed at the altar, with five satin ribbons tied in knots placed across the front of the image. After students read the intentions in the Universal Prayer — which included prayers for students facing challenges including eating disorders and mental illness — they walked to the icon and removed one knot for each intention.

After Mass, each class had the opportunity to be photographed with Bishop Barber, and each class left with medals of Mary Untier of Knots for each student.

Participants

Eighth-graders from these schools attended one of the two days:

St. Catherine of Siena School, Martinez
St. Anthony School, Oakland
St. Michael School, Livermore
St. Agnes School, Concord
Holy Spirit School, Fremont
Queen of All Saints School, Concord
St. Mary School, Walnut Creek
St. Joseph Elementary School, Alameda
St. Patrick School, Rodeo
St. Bede School, Hayward
St. Edward School, Newark
St. Clement School, Hayward
Corpus Christi School, Piedmont
St. Elizabeth Elementary School, Oakland
Holy Rosary School, Antioch
Wood Rose Academy, Concord
St. John School, El Cerrito
St. David School, Richmond
Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Fremont
St. Leander School, San Leandro
Our Lady of Grace School, Castro Valley
St. Leo School, Oakland
St. Joseph School, Pioche
St. Joseph School, Fremont
Assumption School, San Leandro
All Saints School, Hayward
St. Felicitas School, San Leandro
St. Joachim School, Hayward
St. Francis of Assisi School, Concord
School of the Madeleine, Berkeley
Christ the King School, Pleasant Hill
St. Isidore School, Danville

Associate Superintendent Jocelyn Pierre-Antoine tells students about the theme of the Mass, and that Mary, Untier of Knots is a favorite of Pope Francis. Students from St. Leo the Great School in Oakland present the gifts at the foot of the altar to Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. Bishop Barber celebrated two Masses, Sept. 25 and 26, for eighth-grade students.

Two days . . .
Lumen Christi Academies educating in a new light

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

Seven schools in the Diocese of Oakland are well on their way to becoming a guiding light in the future of Catholic education. Under the banner of Lumen Christi Academies, the schools, which serve about 1,200 students, are dedicated to making excellence in education accessible to everyone, regardless of ZIP code.

“We are who we are determined by us, all of us,” Rodney Pierre-Antoine, executive director of the academies, said to a gathering of educators of the seven schools as the school year began. “That’s how a network is formed.”

As the educators work toward the goal that ZIP code will not dictate a student’s opportunities, Pierre-Antoine reminded them they are not alone in the work of shaping the academies. “Knowing it is Christ working through us, it’s beautiful.”

The community was revealed as the teachers moved to tables designated for various grade levels, as well as for principal and other staff. It could also be said that’s where the fun began.

Roberto Perez, junior high science teacher and STEM coordinator at Queen of All Saints School in Concord — one of the academies — demonstrated how dollar-store materials and fistfuls of pennies can make an engaging, collaborative classroom science project.

Teachers, in their class groups, were challenged to construct boats that would float in a pail. Then they stacked pennies on the boats, counting them until the boats sank. The winner was the team that could float the most pennies.

“Students, the teachers might want to know, proved to be thoughtful problem-solvers as well as serious competitors. They also seemed to be having fun.

The session was the first of several planned during the school year to help the academies’ educators get to know one another and shape their common goals. The academies will share some common resources, including some curriculum, on the journey to their common goal of keeping Catholic education available to more students.

“Hope springs eternal,” Pierre-Antoine said at afternoon’s end. “Today is a day of hope. I pray you carry that hope with you through the weekend and into the school day.”

They closed with prayer, and singing “Christ, Be Our Light.”

Pupils collect 500 cans in food drive

By David Scholz

Special to The Catholic Voice

Hunger is closer than the students of Our Lady of Grace School may think. But the solution to this problem is even closer, said Katherine Avila, Food and Fund Drive Coordinator for Alameda County Community Food Bank.

When we help each other, we make the world a better place,” Avila said.

Avila lauded OLG’s efforts during her presentation about the Food Bank’s work during a school assembly on Sept. 25. The talk culminated a schoolwide effort in observance of Hunger Action Month in September.

OLG’s 12-day school drive netted more than 500 cans, which Avila told students would stay local to meet the county’s hunger needs, including those in and around Castro Valley.

“Food is a basic human right,” said Avila, noting that food is an entitlement for anyone. “Food is for all people.”

Counting off the students by lines, Avila used the exercise to show the Food Bank serves every fifth resident in Alameda County.

People may tend to think of the home- less when it comes to the issue of hunger, but Avila advised the pupils that those who need food “look just like you when you look in the mirror.”

Avila introduced the idea of “food insecurity” — when people who need food are making choices to go without food — as part of her talk. An example being when a mom or dad who will only have a cup of coffee in the morning so their children can have breakfast.

But when people have enough food, it translates into happier and safer neighborhoods.

“Hunger is closer than we know, but good people are closer too,” she said, lauding the efforts of OLG’s pupils as a shining example of that. “It feels good to do good.”

School principal Susan Anderson echoed Avila’s sentiments.

“Just as Katherine talked about Alameda County Food Bank being a community organization with many doing good for others, so too do OLG children and families do good for those who are hungry. Never more true was the statement that it is in giving that we receive,” Anderson said.

Members of the fifth grade class at Our Lady of Grace School in Castro Valley team up to help carry bags of cans to a waiting truck that did not fit in an Alameda County Community Food Bank barrel at the school’s front lobby.

A diamond of a summer

If principals wrote the traditional “how I spent my summer vacation” essay, Joseph Petersen would have a baseball story to tell. The principal of Assumption School in Sun Lomadero spent this summer in Cooperstown, NY, home of baseball’s Hall of Fame, with the under 12 Cyclones, a Berkeley-Albany based team he has coached since the boys, including six from Alameda, were six. The team is made up of players from Alameda County.

The Cyclones were among 104 teams from North America participating in a tournament at Cooperstown Dreams Park. The team played nine games over four days, with the players playing good baseball. Peterson said of the team, “We’re a bunch of scrappy kids who play good baseball.”

In addition to visiting the Hall of Fame, the boys and girls changed in and out of their uniforms, and went shopping, making friends and having a great time.

The team’s camaraderie grew during the week as well. Twelve is an age when many kids quit baseball, Petersen said. Not the Cyclones. “People — players and parents — want to stay together,” he said.

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Pro-life conference highlights diversity of movement

By Nicholas Wolfram Smith

Catholic San Francisco

A Sept. 8 pro-life conference at University of California at Berkeley took aim at uniting pro-life people from different backgrounds to build a broad base for activism in California.

The “Let There Be Life” conference, organized by Pro-Life San Francisco, was the organization’s first attempt to “unite pro-life people across the state, across generational lines, across religious persuasions,” executive director Terrisa Bukovinac said.

The conference brought such well-established pro-life figures as David Benet of 40 Days for Life and Catherine Glenn Foster of Americans United for Life to the stage along with activists from younger organizations such as New Wave Feminists and Rehumanize International.

Bukovinac said the goal had been to organize a conference that would be interesting for an older generation while still drawing millennials. “The pro-life movement has largely failed to attract young people,” she said. By bringing in speakers who could speak to issues millennials care about, she said, she hoped to draw more interest and involvement from a younger audience. Unity was an important theme of the conference, Bukovinac said. “We’re bringing people from profoundly different backgrounds together on this topic,” she said. While it involves some challenges, “I hope that people understand that people are pro-life. It’s not just something we were brought away the understanding that being pro-life is not restricted only to Christians, but everyone. “We need no more allies,” she said. “Through welcoming and supporting women in unplanned pregnancies, churches can change the culture one life at a time,” said Ford. Cesleigh Smith, co-founder of Abide Women’s Health Services, talked about the historical injustices — slavery, systemic racism, control of women’s bodies — the pro-life movement can address. “Life is messy, everyone can mess up, but we don’t kick our own people,” she said. “We need more allies,” she said. “We need all the help that we can get.”

Livermore Knights host baby gift drives

The Livermore Knights of Columbus hosted two baby gift drives over the past year. The Knights collected more than $5,700 worth of diapers, clothing and gift cards for families with newborn infants at an April 29 event at St. Michael Church in Livermore.

Knights Nick Libby, who coordinated the event, needed a week to inventory and organize the 896 gifts graciously donated by parishioners. The gifts were delivered to Birthright of Concord, an organization dedicated to offering loving encouragement and practical support to pregnant women in crisis.

An earlier gift drive at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Livermore organized by Libby brought in $2,600 in gifts. These gifts were donated to Livermore’s Pregnancy Resource Center.

Libby said he is happy to put his efforts into supporting these worthy causes. “We must honor and respect these brave women who bring new lives into the world under challenging circumstances,” he said. “Gifts of this nature make a huge difference for them.”

Celebrate Life dinner and fundraiser Oct. 20

The Knights of Columbus, St. Mary Walnut Creek Council 14156 and the Respect Life Team are hosting a dinner and fundraiser to benefit Birthright of Concord. The date is Oct. 20 and the place is St. Mary School Gym, 1158 Bont Lane, Walnut Creek.

The evening begins with host cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, catered by Bambino’s Italian Restaurant, will be served at 6:15 p.m. A silent auction, raffle and live music are also part of the event.

Help SAVE LIVES IN WALNUT CREEK!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 750,000 volunteers!

With God’s help, here are the proven results in 22 coordinated campaigns:

• 14,643 babies saved from abortion
• 177 abortion workers converted
• 96 abortion centers closed

Here’s how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

• Vigil location: Outside Planned Parenthood Abortion Faculty, 1357 Oakland Blvd., Walnut Creek

• Vigil hours: 7 a.m. to 7 pm daily, except Sunday

• Local contact: friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com

• Look at website below to sign up!

• If Questions, Call 925-212-7938

40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek

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40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek
Dorothy Day’s granddaughter to speak in Fremont

Staff and wire report

“The world will be saved by beauty.”

In the last years of her life, Dorothy Day often woke up hearing in her mind these words of Dostoevsky. Her granddaughter, Kate Hennessy, found not only in those words from Day’s diaries, but a moving title to her book.

The words, which are repeated in the opening lines of the preface to the book subtitled “An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother,” provide an introduction to the complex woman who co-founded the Catholic Worker movement and fought injustice and poverty until her death in 1980.

In his visit to Washington, DC, three years ago, Pope Francis cited four great Americans during his speech before Congress: Abraham Lincoln, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Merton and Day.

“Her (Day’s) social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith and the example of the saints,” the pope told Congress.

Kate Hennessy, the ninth and youngest of Day’s nine grandchildren, will make a presentation at the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose’s Center for Education & Spirituality in Fremont on Oct. 13.

Hennessy, who was 20 when her grandmother died, said she knew her grandmother well. Day was deeply involved in the lives of her grandchildren. They would spend as much time as they could visiting the Catholic Worker Farm in upstate New York in the 1960s and 1970s.

The book also explores the relationship between Day and her only child and Hennessy’s mother, who co-founded the Catholic Worker movement.

It’s an intimate portrait of the woman who often woke in her mind these words of Dostoevsky. Her social activism, her passion for justice, her compassion for the cause of the oppressed were inspired by the Gospel, her faith and the example of the saints, the pope told Congress.

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Pope Francis

Pope Francis dropped from 58 percent in the “good/excellent” category in January to 43 percent in that category in September, while those who say he is doing only a fair or poor job rose from 24 percent to 39 percent.

The poll was taken in the wake of allegations by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, the former papal nuncio to the United States, that Pope Francis knew about restrictions having been placed on the ministry of then-Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick over allegations of sexual misconduct yet did nothing about them. Archbishop Vigano has demanded that the pope resign in the wake of his charges.

The results were based on phone interviews conducted Sept. 18-24 of 1,754 Americans, including 336 Catholics. The margin of error for all poll respondents is 2.7 percentage points, and 6.2 percentage points for Catholics, while the margin of error is larger for subgroups within the Catholic sample, peaking at 10.2 percent for Catholics ages 18-49 and those who attend Mass at least weekly nosedived from 71 percent to 34 percent.

In other areas of church life, Catholics gave Pope Francis poor job ratings compared to 46 percent in January to 31 percent in September; white mainline Protestants, from 52 percent in January to 34 percent in September; white evangelical Protestants, from 52 percent in January to 36 percent in September.

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CARMEN VINELLA

Carmen Vinella, a former director of the diocesan Office of Education, died Aug. 27, a week before her 85th birthday.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Oakland, she spent time faculty member at Oakland's Holy Bussman attended 64 years.

She spent the next 30 years in secondary education, first as a teacher, then principal at schools conducted by her religious community in Pasadena, Alhambra and Oakland. For 10 years, she served as Secondary School Supervisor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles supporting schools, administrators and faculties throughout the archdiocese. She finished her active ministry at Damien High School in La Verne teaching math to high school boys.

In the Diocese of Oakland her sole assignment was at Holy Name High School from 1967 to 1980. During those 13 years she served as dean of students, vice principal and principal.

Sister Bussman is survived by her niece, Stephanie Mazely, and other relatives.

The funeral Mass was held Sept. 15, at Holy Spirit Chapel in Campbell. Burial followed on Sept. 18 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

SISTER PATRICIA BUSSMAN, SNJM

Sister Patricia Bussman (Sister Mary Annunata), a former principal and long-time faculty member at Oakland's Holy Names High School, died Sept. 10. She was 85 and had been a professed Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for 64 years.

A native of San Francisco, Sister Bussman attended and graduated from St. Monica Elementary School and Presentation High School in Oakland. She started her teaching career in elementary education at schools in Los Angeles, Alhambra, and Venice. She spent the next 30 years in secondary education, first as a teacher, then principal at schools conducted by her religious community in Pasadena, Alhambra and Oakland. For 10 years, she served as Secondary School Supervisor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles supporting schools, administrators and faculties throughout the archdiocese. She finished her active ministry at Damien High School in La Verne teaching math to high school boys.

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Sister Helen Thompson, BVM

Sister Helen (St. George) Thompson, an educator and administrator, died Sept. 4 in Dубуке, Iowa. She was 85 and a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 67 years.

In San Francisco, she founded the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1951 from St. Brendan Parish in San Francisco.

In the Diocese of Oakland, she was an instructor at Cathedral High School in San Francisco, an academician at St. John the Baptist Seminary School in San Francisco, a chaplain at Convent of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco and a chaplain at Holy Names College in Oakland.

She was a life-long member of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. For 10 years she served as dean of students, vice principal and principal.

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**DANCEWORSHIP to speak**

**Pastor** Joseph Aquino of Danceworship will be the guest speaker at the first Catholic Church Week Program, 7 to 9:45 P.M. Oct. 9, St. Raymond Parish Center, 700 Carleton St., Hayward. Simon Mederos, 510-303-2965.

**Monologues**


**Wednesdays**

**WINGs (Women in God's Spirit)**, 9 to 11 a.m. Oct. 10 to Nov. 21, St. Raymond Parish, Moscow, 11582 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Archbishop Bishop M. C. Brown, SJ, will also attend this event. No charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to cover expenses for this event. www.catholicoutreach.org.

**First Wednesdays**

Catholic Men’s Night, 7 p.m., St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, 2500 Bermuda Ave., San Leandro, 510-874-1529.

**First Thursdays**

Holy Hour for Vocations, 7 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish, 73881 Second St., Fremont, 510-790-3007.

**SCIENCE**

**October, 15, 22, 29**


**NEW EVENTS**

**Fish Fry and Bingo Party**

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 13, 11505 Shannon Ave., Dublin, $7 for adults, $3 for kids 12 and under. The proceeds of this event will directly benefit the UC Berkeley Jesuit Student Ministry. Call Dee, 510-236-0689 by Oct. 15. Proceeds to the University of California, Berkeley. Tickets are $8 each; www.betterclouds.com/sandamiano.

**New Events**

**Monday, Oct. 15**

Be an Informed Voter.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, St. John the Baptist Divine Mercy Adoration (first Saturdays), 7 p.m., St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, 30 Mandalay Way, Pinole, 510-741-4906.

**October, 20, 26**

Celebration of the Canonization of St. Oscar Romero.

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Oct. 20, St. Therese Catholic Church, 3600 Mission Circle, Fremont, 510-303-2234; 6:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26, St. Raymond Parish Center, 700 Carleton St., Pinole, 510-741-4906.

**October, 22, 26**

Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Church. 2 p.m., St. Louis Bertrand Parish, 1410th Ave., Oakland. Tickets: $35 for $350, $25 for $250, $20 for $150, $10 for $50. Contact the rectory at 415-863-8104. Celebrations: 5:30 p.m. (no host bar), $15 dinner, at St. Mary School Hall, 11580 Brand Lane, Walnut Creek. Featuring Donna Benefit prop anon on the 6th. It will be presented for no cost. Proceeds provide for the two holidays of the Women of Voters of Diablo Valley. Contact: the church. Questions: contact bwilson@fdv.net.

**October, 26, 27, 28**

**First Wednesday**

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 2500 Bermuda Ave., San Leandro. 925-837-9141, ext. 315 or www.sandamiano.org.

**Wednesday, October 24**

Weekly First Friday Nights, 7 p.m., at St. Anthony Parish, 1313 Lomitas Ave., Livermore, Calle La Sola, 925-837-9141, ext. 315 or www.sandamiano.org.

**October, 19, 26, 30**

Men of St. Joseph meeting.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 19, At St. Anthony Parish, 1313 Lomitas Ave., Livermore, Calle La Sola, 925-837-9141, ext. 315 or www.sandamiano.org.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Through Oct. 30**

Seven-week Grief Workshop.

7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 3, 17, 24, 31; Thursdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Saturdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the rectory of St. Augustine Church, 3899 Bernal Ave., San Leandro. Information: Eileen Matthews, 925-939-8199 or smtthews@bigcatholic.org.

**Third Wednesdays**

Caregiver Support Group, 7 p.m., Third Wednesdays, at the Office of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, 1600 Rosemary Way, Walnut Creek. Facilitator: Pad. Reyes Greene. Information: Eileen Mathews, 925-939-8199 or smtthews@bigcatholic.org.

**Fourth Wednesdays**

Family Caregiver Support Group, 7 p.m., Wednesday, at the Ministry Center at St. Isidore Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Dublin. Family caregivers are offered monthly meetings which include prayer, handouts on caregiving and spiritual support for the individual caring for loved ones. Davis, 510-714-7794.

**Third Thursdays**

Catholic Divine Widow and Separated from the Church Support Group, 7 p.m., third Thursday of each month, at St. John the Baptist Church, 26950 Patrick Ave., Hayward. Reservations: 925-837-9141, ext. 315, or www.sandamiano.org.

**RETREATS**

**September, Nov. 3**

A Spirituality of Heart with David Richo. Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 11th Annual Diocesan Fall Retreat. 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. at the St. Theresa Church, 1071 Highland Drive, Danville, $15 for adults, $10 for kids 13 and younger. Registration: 510-837-9141, ext. 315 or www.sandamiano.org.

**November, 9 to 11**

Radical Hope in the Cosmic Womb of Mercy with Brother Mickey McGrath. At San Damiano Retreat, 7-9:30 p.m., Dinner and Dance in the conference room or $51 shared room. Information/registration: 510-837-9141, ext. 315 or www.sandamiano.org.

**TAIZÉ**

(An ecumenical, contemplative service of prayer in short chapters, reflection, gentle worship and silence).

**October, 21, 26**

8 to 10 p.m. at Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Church, 26503 Mission Circle, Fremont, (next to Mission Tel), 510-657-2468.

**Friday, Oct. 26**

7:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Mission Church, 44400 Los Gatos Creek Road, San Ramon. All religious affiliations welcome. Questions/registration: Michael Gallagher, michaelgallagher1025@outlook.com.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Through Oct. 30**

Seven-week Grief Workshop. 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 3, 17, 24, 31; Thursdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Saturdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the rectory of St. Augustine Church, 3899 Bernal Ave., San Leandro. Information: Eileen Matthews, 925-939-8199 or smtthews@bigcatholic.org.
First comes the scattering, then the toppling

By Rev. E. Donald Osuna

In the past crisis with the Vatican (46-55) Mary traces the wide arc of God’s mercy. She told us that the Lord of mercy toward her personally: “He has done great things for me.” She declared to Sancho that God’s mercy is laughable at the hour when she promised and enduring compassion. God combines his mercy with the “right of his age.”

His strategy is two-pronged: With overwhelming strength he confronts the proud and the powerful. First he deals with the arrogant — those whose ego inflates their sense of power. These God will scatter, throwing them in various random directions.

For the weak — those officials invested with power to manipulate and control. These he unseats, toppling them from the highest positions of power. God’s modus operandi is enlightening. Before institutional elements are dismantled, individual components are disintegrated and discarded.

It has always been so. Mary reminds us: even since God chose to intervene in the lives of those he loves. “His grace is sufficient for me; therefore I shall not be ashamed.”

One must never forget, however, how God’s merciful supervision of Abraham’s forefathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.

Antioch

There is no cure for all time has come crashing down in our own age. Today.

What people want

I agree wholeheartedly with the letter from John Kattar (Forum, Aug. 13) on what women want and why the synod on Youth is so important. I agree with the Synod’s statement: “I have found myself in the seminary, I wish to stress that I am required to be Communist Party members.”

Will private communications at bishops’ conferences or with the Vatican be shared with the Communist Party?

Might Chinese government-picked cardinals come from the ranks of bishops — as do the popes. Increasing such power to the Communist Party presents a mortal danger to the Church.

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Loss of trust

I attend daily Mass and from my conversations with other parishioners there is a shared sadness, outrage and general loss of trust in the Catholic Church. These sexual scandals, which are numerous and widespread, continue to undermine our trust of the Church leaders.

I believe that Church leaders are transparent and humble and indeed to take action to change the culture as well as to reform and modernize the structure and teaching of the Church. The Church leader is now accountable and responsible for these scandals whether past or present.

In addition, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, needs to conduct local listening sessions with parishioners throughout the Oakland diocese like the bishop of San Diego suggested. I believe that the local Catholic Church leaders fail to listen to parishioners that Church attendance and financial contributions will drop, and significantly.

The last Forum conference and Oakland diocese are proposing or taking are needed but they only address the abusive acts, shame and courage. And thanks for having our backs!

Brenda Hopler
Walnut Creek

Authoritative entity

My wife brought home from Mass a letter written by her Bishop, Barber, SJ, had distributed at her Church, St. Joan of Arc. I am reflecting the sentiments he expressed to the congregation and endorsing his comments.

I, too, felt deeply offended and disgusted with all the revelations of the Church hierarchy protecting, supporting and even Andrew all the disgusting acts, the institutional Church — a corruption, by the way, that has been going on for hundreds of years and only recently has come to light. However, is not to deny all the good people and clergy that have supported and promoted the essential spiritual values of Christ's teachings. My grievance rest not the good people of the Church but the institution that has, from the investiture or Donation of Constantine.

In the Fourth Century, decreed into an authoritarian political entity similar to the monarchical governments of antiquity that has maimed the spirits of so many of its faithful.

I am a product of parochial schooling in Oakland to St. Ignatius High School (class of '49) and the University of San Francisco (class of '59). I can no longer, in good conscience, associate, support and affiliate with the Catholic Church — not because of a few bad priests but because of the institutional corruption that has continued to smother any spiritual life rather than the suppression of moral and emotional freedom and personal responsibility.

The term catholicity (with a small “c”) as I use it is the universal union and spiritual
cal acceptance of all peoples of the earth (as the brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God). I have an evangelical plea for the earth and life, and, to one, the single
tendency of the universe in which we live the mystery and complexity of it, and, at the same time, find it so beautifully organized that we should consider that this must have been created by an equally mysterious causal authority (God) since no other one can do a thing or explain an eternal being.

It is the endeavor of a purpose of created intelligence or free will to end. It is the endeavor of freedom to express, to learn, and to will to live in accordance with the freedom of the individual. This is the person that will achieve the genuine, preferential investigation by dichotomy partisan Peter Struck. Detangling all her scandals requires a book, not just a letter.

Radically pro-abortion, she proclaimed during her presidential campaign that "the person whom doesn't have constitutional rights." Marzaccar, meanwhile, sarcastically mocks Roe v. Wade opponents as thinking the country's biggest problem is "men trying to stop women to make decisions for themselves." The "grant step toward dictatorship," she wrote of Trump. It was Barack Obama, who scorned the Constitution as "a charter of male domination" — i.e., codified limitations on constitutional power.

The Holy Christians — and common-sense citizens at large — support Trump for his personal characteristics (actual or alleged), but for his policies: sanctifying dictators, not loving them; diminishing America's vast overreach and confisca
tory taxation; job growth; border security; nominating judges who respect life; reli
gious freedom; and other constitutional foundations.

Michael Arata
San Francisco

Baseless diatribe

Joe Maraccini's letter (Forum, Sept. 3) frames him. In about 200 words he described President Trump as a bigot, sexist, elitist, nationalist, a manipulator, a liar, a cheat, a con, a lover of dictators and a racist demigod. All of his diatribe is baseless and false as attested by a year and a half of anti-administrative, anti-religious office of president in constitutional order while undoing the eight years of popular righteousness that divided people and defined our constitutional government as a preponderance requiring fundamental changes.

His statement really irate me when he wrote: "Isn't it time for Christians to start practicing what's been preached all these years?"

As I remember, since 1932, the Church has always condemned false witness, hate, gossip and hearsay. Accusing a person of demonic intentions is immoral and sinful.

Philip Truduzio
Alameda

Book-length scandals

To Joseph Maraccini (Forum, Sept. 3) Donald Trump is a "bigot, sexist, elitist, nationalist, manipulator, liar, cheater, con, lover of dictators, etc." I don't deserve Christian support.

In my opinion, and that of many others, what was originally intended by Jesus of Nazareth was the spiritual rather than the suppression of moral and emotional freedom and personal responsibility.

It's time for Church leaders to be the Vatican. That might have put an end to editing. Writers are generally limited to four letters in clude the writer's address and phone number for limitations on the grace of God we do.

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Have you finalized your cemetery and funeral services?

CFCS is your complete resource for all your end-of-life services.

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<td>Grief Ministry</td>
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