Walk for Life marks progress, hope for more change

People take part in the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco Jan. 25. The march and rally, in its 16th year in San Francisco, celebrates life from conception to natural death and protests the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide.

Diocese presents Eucharistic Congress on June 20

By Christina Gray Catholic News Service SAN FRANCISCO — Thousands of pro-life activists from throughout California and beyond flooded the streets of San Francisco Jan. 25 for the annual Walk for Life West Coast, buoyed with fresh hope that next year’s event will be a celebration of the end of legalized abortion instead of a protest.

Wouldn’t it be great if next year we didn’t have to be here?” Walk for Life West Coast co-founder and organizer Eva Muntan asked from the event’s main stage in Civic Center Plaza where the rally and walk began.

Now in its 16th year in San Francisco, the event is an affirmation of the right to life of the unborn and a perennial protest of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

This year’s hopeful tone reflected recent victories for the pro-life movement. A day earlier, President Donald Trump addressed the March for Life in Washington in celebration of the end of legalized abortion instead of a protest.

San Francisco Jan. 25 for the annual Walk for Life West Coast, Catholics — 69 percent, according to the Pew Research Center — have affirmed the right to life of the unborn and a perennial protest of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Fewer than one-third of Catholics believe the Eucharist is the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Pew Research Center found in a recent poll. The majority of America’s self-identified Catholics — 69 percent, according to the poll — are either ignorant or simply mistaken about what the Catholic Church teaches on the Eucharist:

“As Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, I find this shocking,” the Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ, wrote in a letter to the faithful.

As part of the bishop’s response to the findings, he has called for a diocesanwide Eucharistic Congress on June 19-20 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.

With the theme ‘Stay with us, Lord!’ (Lk 22:39), I invite all the faithful of our diocese to reflect upon the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives, and to reaffirm our call to be a people nourished, fed and molded by the Eucharist itself — just as the disciples were on the road to Emmaus,” Bishop Barber wrote.

The June 19 portion of the event is designed for priests of the diocese. They will gather to hear a spiritual talk, hear from the bishop and will pray with young people of the diocese, who will lead Eucharistic Adoration until 11 p.m.

This will give “a chance for the priests to pray with the young people of our diocese, and a chance for the young to experience the faith of our priests,” said the Very Rev. Brandon Macauley, rector of the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

Bishop’s Appeal strives to provide aid to local ministries

By Albert C. Pacciorini Staff writer

The Bishop’s Appeal, the annual fundraising effort to assist Catholic ministries in the Diocese of Oakland, is launching this month with a goal of raising $3 million, the same goal as the last two years.

“Although we call it The Bishop’s Appeal, it is really Christ’s appeal,” said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. “I express my sincere gratitude to you and all the clergy in the diocese for your support of the Bishop’s Appeal.”

“The Bishop’s Appeal supports very specific ministries — needy parishes and schools, priest retirement and care, seminarians, religious education and pastoral services,” explained Giles Miller, director, Major Gifts and Campaigns, Office for Mission Advancement.

“These services alone will cost the diocese $7.1 million this year. The appeal helps offset the cost of these ministries,” he said.

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On our cover

Pope Francis gives a Bible to a young man at the end of Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on Jan. 20. The pope celebrated the first Sunday of the Word of God, a new annual celebration encouraging Catholics to know and read the Bible.

**“Barbaric resurgence”**

Pope Francis condemned the “barbaric resurgence” of anti-Semitism and criticized the selfish indifference that is creating the conditions for division, populism and hatred. “I will never tire of firmly condemning every form of anti-Semitism,” the pope told a delegation from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international Jewish human rights organization based in Los Angeles that combats hate and anti-Semitism around the world.

Meeting the delegation at the Vatican Jan. 20, the pope said, “It is troubling to see, in many parts of the world, an increase in a selfish indifference that cares only about whatever is easy for oneself and lacks concern for others.

Cardinals elected

Pope Francis has approved the election of Italian Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re as dean of the College of Cardinals and of Argentine Cardinal Leonardo Sandri as the subdean. The Vatican announced the elections Jan. 25, about a month after Italian Cardinal Angelo Sodano, 92, stepped down as dean and Pope Francis announced he was changing church law to limit the dean’s service to a five-year term, which is renewable once.

**New martyrs**

Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of six religious priests and brothers and seven laypeople who were killed in the 20th century “in the name of the faith,” clearing the way for their beatification.

The pope approved the decrees during an audience Jan. 23 with Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes. Among the soon-to-be saints is a young man at the request of the Holy See.

**Constitutional sibling**

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

**Corpus Christi**

The Corpus Christi procession on June 19, 2020, was held without a public audience due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The procession was broadcast live on Catholic Voice Radio and streamed online.

**THE CHURCH**

**U.S. BISHOPS**

**Bishop Barber’s Schedule**

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**Naturalized citizens leave a swearing-in ceremony in Los Angeles.**

Catholic leaders disappointed by ruling limiting immigrant aid

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, known as CLEIN, expressed disappointment with the Supreme Court’s Jan. 27 order allowing the Trump administration to go forward with a new rule meant to limit immigrants’ use of government benefit programs.

The courts “unprecedented ruling” in favor of the administration’s revisions to government policy “harms families, targets lawful immigrants, and could prevent families from receiving vital nutrition and housing assistance,” said a Catholic Charities USA statement.

Dominican Sister Donna Markam, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, urged the Trump administration to “reconsider this harsh and unnecessary policy and rescind it in its entirety.” She said it “will impose a chilling effect on access to basic services, creating fear among eligible individuals threatening family unity and stability.”

She also said the court’s decision in favor of this policy “signals a watershed change of course from the best moments of our American heritage of welcoming immigrants and refugees.”

A USCCB statement described the ruling as “very concerning, as it will have an immediate and negative impact upon immigrant and newcomer families.”

The statement was issued Jan. 29 by two USCCB committee chairmen: Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and Bishop Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the Committee on Migration.

The bishops said the ruling will have “devastating consequences for immigrant communities, as those impacted are cast into the shadows because they fear deportation and family separation for seeking critical support.”

In its 5-4 ruling, the court gave the Trump administration the go-ahead with its “public charge” rule allowing the adminis- tration to deny green cards to legal immi- grants based on their reliance on public assistance such as food stamps, Medicaid and housing assistance.

The rule was challenged by immigration groups and states, including California, Illinois, Maryland and Washington. It was put on hold by a nationwide injunction from a federal district court in New York.

The Supreme Court’s order reversed this injunction which was an effort to allow the administration to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit or even the Supreme Court, were rules.

In briefs urging the court to turn down the government’s request, challengers said the new rule was a “vast expansion” of how the government had initially defined a public charge, which applied only to people who were dependent on the government for long-term aid. They also said the govern- ment had not argued that it needed to enforce this rule for reasons of public safety or national security.

The rule, which stems from federal immigration law, could prevent immigrants from receiving green cards, or documenta- tion allowing them to remain in the United States, if the government believes that they could become a public charge by their reliance on government assistance.

**THE VATICAN**

**Pope meets V.P. Pence**

After Pope Francis and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence met privately for nearly an hour at the Vatican, Pence told the pope that his Roman Catholic mother will be pleased with the visit. “Thank you, Your Holiness. You have made me a hero,” said Pence, who was raised Catholic but became an evangeli- cian Christian. The vice president, along with his wife Karen and daughter-in-law Sarah, arrived 10 minutes early for the meeting with the pope Jan. 24.

The vice president relayed greetings from U.S. President Donald Trump, who met with the pope in 2017. “I wanted to extend the warmest greeting on behalf of President Donald Trump who so enjoyed his visit to the Holy See,” the pope said.

The beatitudes are a path to joy and true happiness mapped out by Jesus and seven laymen who were killed for their faith.

**Christian ID card**

Pope Francis gave a Bible to a young man at the end of Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on Jan. 20. The pope celebrated the first Sunday of the Word of God, a new annual celebration encouraging Catholics to know and read the Bible.

**Duty to remember**

Pope Francis said remembering the millions of men, women and children who perished in the Holocaust is a call for the church to “acknowledge and com- mit to not repeating the atrocities of the past.” Speaking to pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square Jan. 26, the pope said that “in the face of this immense tragedy, this atrocity, indifference is inadmissible and remembering is a duty. We are all called to have a moment of prayer and reflec- tion, each one saying in his or her own heart, ‘Never again, never again’” the pope said.
Trump welcomes pro-life commitment

Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump credited attendees at the 47th annual March for Life for their commitment to protect the life of unborn and born children.

"Together we are the voice for the voiceless," Trump told tens of thousands of people gathered at a noontime rally Jan. 24 on the National Mall.

"You stand for life each and every day. You provide housing, education, jobs and medical care for the women that you serve," the president said.

Trump was the first president to speak in person in the 47-year history of the March for Life. He spoke for about 10 minutes at the start of the rally and before attendees began their march to the Supreme Court. "Today, as president of the United States, I am truly proud to stand with you," Trump said. "The very simple reason: to defend the right for every child, born and unborn, to fulfill their God-given potential," Trump said. He also credited the young people who made up a large portion of the crowd for their commitment to life, saying they were "the heart of the March for Life. It's your generation that is making this a pro-life nation," the president added. "You are powered by prayer and motivated by pure unselfish love.

President Donald J. Trump speaks during the annual March for Life rally in Washington.

Retired NBA legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna, 13, during a game

Bryant relied on Catholic faith to see him through tough times

Catholic News Service
CALABASAS, Calif. — As the world mourned the loss of basketball great Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others killed in a tragic helicopter crash Jan. 26, many recalled how Bryant gave much credit to his Catholic faith for seeing him through the bad times and strengthening his marriage and family.

Much has been made about Bryant's Catholic faith, especially his frequent attendance at Mass, his confirmation in his native Italy, and the two marriages he had early in his career. He and Gianna were baptized and raised in the Roman Catholic Church in Dana Point, California, and raised their children Catholic. Bryant is survived by his wife and three other daughters. Gianna, also known as "Gigi," was the couple's second oldest daughter.

Summit draws youths

WASHINGTON — U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke drew loud cheers from a Washington crowd Jan. 25 when he said of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton: "We intend to have these decisions completely overturned." In 1973, in Roe and its companion case, Doe, the Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand nationwide. He was a speaker at the annual National Pro-Life Summit the day after March for Life on the National Mall. "All of us are those responsible for looking forward to the respect for human life in our nation." The National Pro-Life Summit drew more than 3,000 high school and college students to the Marriott Marquis. Organizers called it the biggest crowd they had.

Public school prayer

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced his administration's new guidance on prayer in public schools during a Jan. 16 event in the Oval Office on National Religious Freedom Day. Primarily, it will require states to report cases where public school students have been denied their right to pray in a separate proposed rule, the administration aims to protect the rights of religious student groups at public universities, giving them equal treatment with secular student groups.

New initiation ceremony

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — After 142 years, the Knights of Columbus is pulling down a veil of secrecy that has surrounded its initiation ceremonies in an effort to better serve the needs of the order's core principles and its drive to help Catholic men become disciples. Since its founding in 1882, the initiation ceremonies for the first three degrees of Knights membership — focused on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity — have been separate and open to members only.

New sex trafficking documentary

SAN DIEGO — A powerful new documentary on sex trafficking, shown in select theaters Jan. 31 only and then for a month at churches that sign up to host a screening, makes its intentions clear from the outset: "Blind Eyes Opened: The Truth About Sex Trafficking in America" begins with this scriptural passage from Isaiah: "To open eyes that are blinded, to deliver captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness." Information on the film is available at www.BlindEyesOpened.com.

Chinese churches suspend activities

HONG KONG — Some churches in China have suspended community activities, including masses, over fears of the deadly coronavirus that has already killed six people and continues to spread, reported ucanews.org. With Lunar New Year celebrated Jan. 23 this year, this is the busiest travel season, when millions of workers head back to their villages for celebrations.

Catholics just quit

OXFORD, England — A Dutch Catholic newspaper warned churches will continue to close in the Netherlands, where half of all Catholic parishes have already been dissolved amid plummeting church attendance. "It's never too early to panic, but there are grave concerns about the way things are going here," said Peter Dooijakkers, an editor at the Katholiek Nieuwsblad weekly. "It's been hoped people would draw the obvious conclusion — that if you want your church to stay open, you don't just need to support it financially, you also have to attend it, or if you look at the numbers at Mass not just once a week, it's obvious more churches will close in the near future."

— Catholic News Service

Film tells the story of Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day, whose life was a series of seeming contradictions, might be bemused at this one: The DVD version of a documentary about her life has more than a month before the film reaches the PBS series made it to the top spot on the Amazon documentary sales chart. Day was co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Martin Doblmeier, who made the film, is fully aware of the many contradictions in Day's life and legacy, having spent two years assembling the documentary. "She's a very traditional Catholic. She's not a religious leftist, an Separatist founder Jim Wallis sees in the film but is comfortable with. But she has to be called a political and social radical. That's a dangerous combination," Doblmeier said.

Priests on the firelines

Priests have swapped clerical for camouflage to join the 3,000 Australian Defence Force reservists providing support to firefighters and communities in the grip of the bushfire crisis. Father Brian Otsenk, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Mossman, Australia, poses as he and other men prepare to cut down a tree damaged by a bushfire in Wyanbuny on Jan. 13. Father Onwukwe is one of several chaplains with the army reserve currently working full time alongside soldiers supporting exhausted firefighters in the bushfire relief efforts.

Bolton: "We intend to have these decisions completely overturned."
Flock of bishops encounter pastoral Pope Francis

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

“I’m one of your Jesuits,” Bishop Barber told Pope Francis, as he moved through the receiving line during his “ad limina” visit to Rome on Jan. 27.

Some teasing from the pope ensued. “The bishop introduced then his vicar general: ‘This is Father Mockel and he’s a normal priest!’”

The “ad limina” visit has three requirements: pray at the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul, St. John and St. Paul, and meet with the pope.

The pope blessed the priests who accompanied the bishops. “Always stay close to your bishop,” he told them, in words the bishops could hear.

Then they departed and the party of bishops of Region XI, which included retired bishops and numbered more than 30, sat down with the Holy Father.

“He took us into his confidence,” Bishop Barber said. “That’s what really impressed me: the level of his answers to questions; how smart he was on the different issues; and how different his responses were to us than what you read in the press or in blogs, which are usually critical. The way he explained things to us, his answers were very Catholic but very kind.”

“We could ask anything. Anything was on the table. No hierarchy. Anyone could raise their hand.”

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, senior member of the delegation, served as moderator for the discussion.

“The pope said, ‘I’m going to be speaking to you in Italian,’” Bishop Barber said. “He had a very strong Italian voice. The Decio translator assisted. Some bishops asked questions in Spanish, which the pope answered in Italian.

“The bishops did not take notes, and no recording devices were allowed at the meeting,” Barber said. “That’s what really impressed me: the level of his answers to questions; how smart he was on the different issues; and how different his responses were to us than what you read in the press or in blogs, which are usually critical. The way he explained things to us, his answers were very Catholic but very kind.”

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, a former Oakland bishop, said some issues included young and young adult ministry, Marian devotion, the clerical sexual abuse crisis, marriage and family life, migration, how to be a good bishop, political divisions within the United States and how some of that divisive rhetoric is seen within the church as well.

“Some bishops brought up the polarization in society and how this is affecting the church,” he said. One bishop described for the pope “how as a society, you know, we’re more and more divided, and people attack each other.”

Pope Francis said something similar is “sometimes happening in the church when different factions try to find something to attack people on personally, and so the Holy Father spoke about this politicization of pastoral life,” Archbishop Cordileone said.

“We are constantly challenged to get the message across that we’re not a political party and we don’t follow a political platform with the issues,” the archbishop said. “On some issues, one party is more favorable to what we understand is for the common good and, on other issues, another party might be more favorable.”

Pope Francis told the bishops “that in a political system where there are only two parties, there’s more of a tendency to be this way,” the archbishop said. “He wasn’t picking on us because as, he said, it’s the same thing in Argentina, where they have a two-party system, and he sees it happening in his country.”

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles said the issue of migration was “very visible.” He stressed Adoration,” Bishop Barber said. “This is very important. It’s growing in the church. When young people come in contact with Christ exposed in the Blessed Sacrament, their lives are changed, they’re visibly moved. He encouraged us to have Holy Hours and Exposition and teach the young about Adoration.”

Then Pope Francis flashed back to the effect Adoration had on him and his young parishioners when he was a pastor.

“How his life didn’t start in 2013 when he was made pope,” Bishop Barber said. “He had a whole pastoral background that he often referred to in his talks with us.”

Thirty-three bishops and their aides from California, Nevada and Hawaii were making their “ad limina” visits to Rome Jan. 24-Feb. 4 for the regular “Ad Limina” report to the pope. More information or register at facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.

More about Ad Limina, see p. 14

Pope Francis greets Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. “I’m one of your Jesuits,” he told the pope.

The pope offered advice on seminarians: “Get young men that are well balanced, have good personality, that play sports.” Bishop Barber said, and cautioned them to be careful when considering applicants who have been in a seminary previously.

On staffs, make sure you have good priests and also make sure some women are teaching in the seminaries.

“The people you’re going to be ministering to are women,” he said. Women may have some insights into the young men.

“We talked about politics and the church’s social teaching,” Bishop Barber said. The bishops said they receive criticism from people who belong to both political parties for not siding with them on social issues.

“Don’t reduce the Church’s teaching to politics,” the pope told them. “Keep our eyes fixed on Christ. We don’t speak as politicians but we speak as Christians.”

At the end of the meeting, which encompassed three hours, including receptions, Pope Francis told the bishops. “Stay close to your priest. Return their calls within 24 to 48 hours. If they request to meet you, make it within 36 hours. Just as I have done with you, where we sat down and had discussion, this is a model for you to do with your priests.”

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SAN DAMIANO RETREAT

LifeSHIFT: Work & the Christian Journey
J. Briggs & Dr. Bachhuber, 2/28 – 3/1

Lenten Happenings:
Ash Wednesday Day of Renewal, 2/26

 Stations of the Cross, Saturdays 2/29 – 4/4

Book Series “Tree Full of Angels” 3/3 – 4/7

Taize Prayer, Wednesdays 3/4 – 4/1

Lenten Day of Renewal: My God and My All
Fr. Rusty Shaugnessy OFM, 3/17

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Special Guest
Most Rev. Larry Silva
Bishop Of Honolulu

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Barbara Yasuhara/Special to the Catholic Voice

CYO awards 2020 Marty Mart volleyball scholarship

By Bill Ford

Special to The Catholic Voice

Greeted by her cheering St. Elizabeth CYO volleyball teammates, Ashley Carreño Marroquin has been awarded the 2020 Marty Mart CYO Volleyball Scholarship.

The award was presented to Ashley at the special Mass before the recent Jim Negri Girls’ CYO Volleyball tournament. Victoria Mars Larsen, daughter of the late Marty Mart, presented the award on behalf of the Diocese of Oakland CYO.

Ashley is an eighth-grader, active at both her school, St. Elizabeth, Oakland, and in her parish, St. Anthony-Mary Help of Christians, Oakland. At school, in addition to playing CYO volleyball and basketball, she is a member of the student council team and the student mediation team. In her parish, she has been serving as an altar server for the past six years. She also participated as a dancer in the local Bailé Folklorico group.

The annual scholarship is not based on volleyball skills but on the candidates’ expression of Christian values experienced in CYO sports, the ability to work with teammates and with other teams and in exhibiting Christian values on and off the court.

“My experience playing in the CYO organization has been exhilarating,” Ashley wrote in her essay. “Volleyball has changed my life in many ways; at first I was too scared even to try out. I am thankful for having this opportunity to grow up as a volleyball player and having amazing coaches.”

In her letter of recommendation, one of Ashley’s “amazing coaches,” former coach and St. Elizabeth CYO athletic director Paula Garcia, wrote, “Ashley is an extraordinary young lady with a heart of gold. Her strong Catholic and family values help her to guide herself, siblings, classmates and friends in the right direction. I have seen Ashley grow from a quiet little girl to a strong player and leader whom others look up to and respect.”

Ashley is the 17th recipient of this scholarship, awarded annually to an outstanding eighth-grade CYO girls’ volleyball player. Candidates submit an application with reflections on their “athletic abilities, sportsmanship, and the effects of their CYO participation on their daily life and faith.” They are also asked to provide a reference from an adult significant in their life. The top candidates are invited to interview with the scholarship committee. Ashley is one of the many outstanding young people playing in the CYO program.

This scholarship is named in honor of Marty Mart, former assistant diocesan CYO director, a volleyball coach and a referee, who passed away in 2002. This scholarship of $1,000 is used to help support the awardee’s education and is funded entirely through private donations and by donations from the CYO leagues. Ashley has applied to attend a Catholic high school next fall.

Additional scholarships, the Bill Ford CYO Scholarships, will be awarded this May to three eighth-grade CYO players participating in any of the Oakland diocese CYO sports. Information on these scholarships will be posted later at www.oakandcvo.org.

(Bill Ford is the director of Catholic Youth Organization for the Diocese of Oakland.)

Rite of Acolyte instituted for 16 deacon candidates

Staff report

Sixteen candidates in the formation program for permanent deacons were instituted into the Rite of Acolyte by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, at a Mass on Jan. 11 at Church of Santa Maria in Orlando.

The 16 men — Paul Abenoja, Jorge Aragon, Laurento (Larry) Asso, Juan Bermuduez, Alberto Cruz, Leland DeFrates, Alexander Estarte, Robert Felco, Dominic Tarantino, Paul Turek III, Juan Bermudez, Paul Abenoja, Summer Perry and Frederick Sertil — were ordained by Bishop Barber, along with Deacon John Negri, who was ordained a permanent deacon in 2019.

The permanent deacons are scheduled to be ordained Sept. 12 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.

The men institutionalized into the Rite of Acolyte may now minister at the altar, handling sacred vessels and preparing the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They also may serve as ministers of Holy Communion.

In 2018, the candidates were instituted into the Rite of Lector.

The candidates have completed their academic work and each has served his six-month Justice and Charity internship. That work was completed in a variety of settings, including working with seniors at St. Mary’s Center in Oakland; with veterans at the Livermore VA Hospital; in hospital chaplaincy programs in Eastern Contra Costa County; and at Oakland Catholic Worker.

They are now engaged in the liturgical, practical, learning as they watch permanent deacons witness marriages, perform baptisms and preside at commitments.
Black pastors call for end to abortion during Oakland rally

By Michele Jurich

While the Walk for Life West Coast draws tens of thousands of supporters to San Francisco’s public square, the outlook for the Stand4Life rally in Oakland’s public square is significantly smaller. In fact, as the only African-American-led pro-life event in the United States in January, its significance is great.

Championed by Rev. Walter Hoye of the East Bay-based Issues4Life Foundation, the rally and walk, held this year on Jan. 24, seek to end abortion by raising awareness of its impact on Black America.

Bearsers of the pro-life message in African-American churches say their journey can be a lonely one, but gathering with their fellow believers in the city of Oakland, they are counted among the faithful for the chance to witness firsthand the miracle of new life.

The pro-life stance is not necessarily welcomed in congregations. Pastor Walter Moss of Canton United Methodist Church, sees that clearly. "The Church of God in Christ he noted, addressed a sanctity of life resolution last year. The church has 6.5 million members nationwide.

The speakers were inspired, too, by hearing the broadcast of the president’s State of the Union address earlier that morning at the March for Life in Washington, DC.

Pastor Moss, author of "Why I am a Pro-Life Pastor," sees an additional reason to hope. "Young people," he said, "are lighting up the pro-life world."

The Marching rally, on Frank Ogawa Plaza in front of Oakland City Hall, began with an uplifting song of worship by Minster Jocelyn Golden, as is its custom. This year, she offered personal testimony.

She had an abortion in the 1970s, after she had been raped. "I had to be pro-choice to protect what I did," she said. "I was just 17 at the time. It was a state of tissue. It could not be a human being."

Her experience of her "shame and grief," she said, by asking God to forgive her. "If I had known I never would have killed my child," she said. "A peace I’ll never be able to explain poured over me. I was able to forgive myself.

She has also been able to "take it, use it and do something with it.""

"My heart aches for the church of America," Pastor Moss told the crowd, "the teachers who are not crying out for the most innocent, for our babies in the womb."

Pastor Bruce Rivers of Mount Monarch First Baptist Church in Do Paoli told the crowd, "Whenver a woman gets pregnant, do you not think that God has a plan for that child?"

"God doesn’t make anybody without a purpose," said Rev. Clendar H. Childress of Montclair, New Jersey, and founder of the black pro-life organization. "The legalization of abortion is counter to God’s will. "We have circumvented the right to life and say we don’t care."

"It’s going to take us, the people to turn it around," he said.

Among the millennials in the crowd of about 100 was Joshua Teijal. "It was amazing," he said of the rally. "It’s an amazing day."

Spureen Williams, a "retired Navy man" came to the rally from his home in St. Petersburg, Florida. He spends time weekly at the churches in his city, and in front of abortion clinics. "I tell women, ‘God put me here to tell you He loves you.’"

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Helping pregnant women in distress

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

When Carlos and Maritza Balladares retired from the city and county of San Francisco three years ago, they were seeking, said he, an opportunity “to keep us busy and give back to the community.” They found that opportunity with the Gabriel Project, which lets pregnant mothers face difficulties know that they are not alone. The Gabriel Project at Queen of All Saints Parish in Concord was in need of a coordinator.

“We decided to take on coordinating,” he said. “It’s been a wonderful experience. This is truly our mission: to help women when they need it the most.”

In addition to calls directly to its toll-free number — 800-910-0191 — the Gabriel Project also receive calls from other community organizations, such as health clinics and crisis centers. He estimates most of that help, to 300 to 350 mothers over the years, has been in the form of clothing, car seats and strollers. But a mother the Gabriel Project is currently helping may come have to the Balladaires through a more direct route, and with greater needs.

Two men were praying outside the Planned Parenthood clinic one Friday afternoon when a crying woman approached them. She had already had a child, and they lacked documents to remain in this country, she told them. She thought her only choice was to have an abortion.

The two men gave her assurances there was help for her. They gave her the Gabriel Project’s phone number. Her case was referred to Maritza and Carlos Balladares. Maritza made the call to the distressed woman.

“We went to her home that evening and spent a couple of hours with her praying to comfort her,” said Carlos. “As we have been taught from our Gabriel Project training our mission and most importantly God’s, is to express to her that we would provide her with assistance in every way possible so if she decided to keep her child. Through prayer and faith in our Lord, later her heart softened and she opted to keep her child.”

The Balladaires’ work is not begin-ning. “We went to Martinez with her and got her enrolled in prenatal care,” he said. Because there was the WIC nutrition program to enroll in, and additional services available.

“My wife was 32 years in social service and public health,” he said. “He has the experience to navigate the system.”

When the pregnant mother’s nausea caused her to miss work for several weeks, the parish’s St. Vincent de Paul conference assisted with rent.

The expectant mother, he said, has “recently expressed her desire to convert from Anglican to Catholicism, which has been the faith of her mother and family. She also wants her baby baptized, who will be born in June of this year. This has been joyous news for us. Praise our Lord!”

40 Days for Life to hold vigils in Concord, Walnut Creek

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

The 40 Days for Life campaign, which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, adds one more location in the Diocese of Oakland this year.

Volunteers will keep peaceful, prayerful vigil outside the Planned Parenthood in Concord, as well as the Planned Parenthood in neighboring Walnut Creek.

The Wednesdays Feb. 26 and ends on April 5, is part of an international effort to offer assistance to abortion-seekers.

The 7th anniversary of the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s Evangelium Vitae, I would like to invite you to join me and to stand defending the lives of the unborn,” Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, said in a Jan. 22 letter, the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, to the “priests, deacons and laity of the Diocese of Oakland” and “to all people of good will.”

We are called to be a voice that calls out to mothers and fathers struggling with a difficult pregnancy to know that they have a support and an alternative to abortion,” Bishop Barber wrote.

“Trenton has been blessed by the passion of people who have come to the aid of the poor and troubled there. "This Lent please consider participating in the peaceful and prayerful 40 Days for Life Vigils at the Walnut Creek and Concord Planned Parenthood locations."

For Anne-Martine Moore, pro-life is the obvious choice.

"It’s so obvious that abortion is killing a human," she said. "Two people go in. One comes out. Someone is dead."

She understands that the needs of pregnancy can be difficult, but abortion is not the answer. Her family has also been involved with the Gabriel Project, bringing five pregnant women into their home to await births over the years.

The more seasoned Walnut Creek 40 Days for Life group has been generous in sharing ideas and assisting the newcomers, Moore said.

A kick-off rally for the vigil in both Concord and Walnut Creek will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 at St. Mary Gym, 1198 Bont Lane, Walnut Creek, Rev. James Moore, OP, will be the featured speaker.

Walk for Life...

(continued from p. 1)

Barber, SJ, for their “ad limina” visit with Vatican officials and Pope Francis.

“We pray the day would come soon that we would not have to gather another like this,” Archdiocesan said.

A feature of the event was Kathy Folan’s story about placing her baby boy with adoptive parents after she became pregnant at a sexual assault when she was a college student.

“Why should I be put to death for someone else’s crime?” Folan asked.

She was in the crowd. Her story of being taken, and how she was able to escape, has formed me the courageous choice of my birth mother and adoptive parents.”

Sign up for hours: 40daysforlife.com/CONCORDCA

WALNUTCREEK

Walden Creek: Carter Planned Parenthood, 1357 Oakland Blvd., Walnut Creek 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, except Sundays, Feb. 25-April 6

WALNUTCREEK

Concord: Carter Planned Parenthood, 2185 Pacheco St., Concord. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, except Sundays, Feb. 25-April 6

Contact: friendsforlifevalley@gmail.com, 925-984-7600

Sign up for hours: 40daysforlife.com/ WALNUTCREEK

40 Days for Life

Kick-off: Feb. 23, 7 p.m., St. Mary Gym, 1198 Bont Lane, Walnut Creek

Concord: Carter Planned Parenthood, 2185 Pacheco St., Concord. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, except Sundays, Feb. 25-April 6

Contact: friendsforlifeconcord@gmail.com, 925-595-0401

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Contact: friendsforlifeconcord@gmail.com, 925-595-0401

Sign up for hours: 40daysforlife.com/WALNUTCREEK

She cared so much about the women going in there and losing their children,” she said. “I would like to see it closed in Concord.”

“For Anne-Martine Moore, pro-life is the obvious choice.

"It’s so obvious that abortion is killing a human," she said. "Two people go in. One comes out. Someone is dead."

She understands that the needs of pregnancy can be difficult, but abortion is not the answer. Her family has also been involved with the Gabriel Project, bringing five pregnant women into their home to await births over the years.

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FEBRUARY 10, 2020
Eucharistic Congress ...

(continued from p. 1)

In this generation, the love for Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration is prevalent,” he said. In parishes he has served and introduced Eucharistic Adoration, he has seen its transformative effect on young people and families.

The next day, June 20, will be a day of prayer, speakers and Masses, in both English and Spanish, with a public procession of the Blessed Sacrament on the streets bordering the cathedral.

A committee of priests, deacons and lay people have planned a Saturday event to engage and inspire the faithful.

The day will begin at 9 a.m. with a talk in English by Dr. Karen M. Gormley from Texas, followed by Mass celebrated by Bishop Barber.

After the Mass, Congress attendees will begin a procession that will depart the cathedral to carry the Eucharist around the city blocks bordering the cathedral. Those planning to attend the Spanish-language track are invited to the cathedral plaza to take part in the procession.

The procession will mark the end of the English-language track. Jesse Romero, author, radio host and evangelist, will address the Spanish-speaking audience in the cathedral. Bishop Barber will follow Romero’s talk, by celebrating Mass in Spanish.

To observe the 24 Hours of the Lord.

“24 Hours for the Lord” is observed from Thursday evening to Friday evening in 27 parishes: St. Marks in Antioch; St. Bonaventure in Concord; Holy Spirit in Alameda; St. Thomas More in Oakland; St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon; and St. Mark in Richmond — among others. The parishes have announced plans to offer a variety of activities over the course of the 24-hour period.

During this time, participating churches will be open, with opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Most will observe the 24-hour period beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday and ending at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Check the adjourning times at each par- ish. For additional information on reconciliation times, contact the parish.

24 Hours for the Lord returns for Lent

Staff report

24 Hours for the Lord will be observed in the Diocese of Oakland Feb. 28-29. The 24 Hours for the Lord has been observed in 27 parishes in the Diocese of Oakland, along with St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon and St. Mark in Richmond — among others. The parishes have announced plans to offer a variety of activities over the course of the 24-hour period.

During this time, participating churches will be open, with opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Most will observe the 24-hour period beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday and ending at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Check the adjourning times at each par- ish. For additional information on reconciliation times, contact the parish.

24 Hours for the Lord returns for Lent

Participating Parishes:

Most Holy Rosary Parish
1313 A St., Antioch
925-830-0600
5 p.m. Feb. 28-5 p.m. Feb. 29
Bilingual closing Mass at St. Mary’s, Feb. 29
Holy Spirit Parish
37588 Fremont Blvd., Fremont
510-797-1660
9 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 28
with break for Stations of the Cross and Mass, 9 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 29
St. Bonaventure Parish
5600 Clayton Road, Concord
925-672-5800
9 a.m. Feb. 28-9 a.m. Feb. 29
in the chapel
St. Elizabeth Parish
1500 34th Ave., Oakland
510-536-1266
5 p.m.-Feb. 28-5 p.m. Feb. 29
St. Joan of Arc Parish
2601 San Ramon Valley Road, San Ramon
925-830-0600
5 p.m. Feb. 28-5 p.m. Feb. 29
St. Mark Parish
10460 Seabright Rd., Richmond
510-234-5886
Noon Feb. 28 to noon Feb. 29
For exact confession times, please check parish websites or contact parishes directly.

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, will cele-
brate the closing Mass at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at Most Holy Rosary Church, 1313 A St., Antioch.

This is the fifth year the Diocese of Oakland will observe 24 Hours for the Lord.

“He helps people pray and to encounter the Lord, and the Lord to encounter them,” Bishop Barber said. “That’s the purpose of the church: to make the place where people can be with Jesus, and He can be with you, and you can pray, but also, your hearts are moved away to go into confinement to encourage spiritually and emotionally their sins washed away, which is why he came on Earth. The priest reminds us of that when he reads the words of consecration over the chalice.”

As schedule permits, the bishop drops by the parishes during the 24 hours to pray along with parishioners and thank pastors.

“That encourages me,” he said.

Every bishop who was in line for conce.

Apologies ...

(continued from p. 1)

“Jesus Christ promised us at His Ascension: ‘I will be with you all days until the end of the ages.’ If Christ has helped you and your family, if He has been generous to you, will you consider sharing some of the blessings you have received with Christ and His Church?” asked Bishop Barber in a letter to East Bay Catholics.

In 2019, the appeal raised $2.7 mil- lion with more than 8,100 individuals making a contribution through Dec. 31. More than 40 percent of the parishes met or exceeded their individual goals.

“For most of us, our experience of Church is at our parish. The Church is, however, much more than that,” Miller explained.

The operating budget for the diocese is approximately $17.5 million, and of that, the budget for diocesan-wide ministries and services is roughly $1 million. While income is generated to support the budget through parish assessments, rent collection on propri- etary, service fees and interest on the diocesan investments, the income does not fully meet the budgetary needs for providing all diocesan ministries, pro- grams and services, Miller said.

The Bishop’s Appeal is an annual appeal to generate funds needed to cover the costs of these ministries, programs and services.

Miller stressed the funds raised are used only for the specified ministries.

“The diocese has both a legal and moral obligation to restrict these funds for the stated case items under both canon law and civil law,” he said.

The theme for the appeal is the same as last year, Build My Church, a phrase inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.

In his letter, the bishop listed a few of the programs aided by the Bishop’s Appeal in 2019:

• 600 Catechumens, under instruction from September to April, entered the Catholic Church at Easter.
• More than 700 religious education teach- ers attended the Diocesan Catechetical Congress.
• More than 2,000 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
• A Youth Conference allowing 700 people to grow in their faith. At the end of that weekend, 98 young men and women came forward to declare they were open to a religious vocation.
• The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal — who serve the materially poor, most especially the destitute and homeless — arrived in Oakland to open a friary and minister food.
• Tuition was paid for 18 young men study- ing in seminary to serve you as future priests.
• Medical bills to care for priests whose travel expenses were not covered by insur- ance were paid.
• And at the diocese’s largest event, more than 6,000 faithful marched in a seven- mile pilgrimage through East Oakland to the cathedral to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The appeal kicks off this month, with mailings and presentations, and is the beginning of an explanatory video in English and Spanish. At the end of February, Catholics will be asked to make a commitment by filling out pledge cards.

By sharing our talent and treasure with our sisters and brothers, we are making a sacrifice and returning to God a small portion of the many gifts He has given to us,” said Miller.

Bishop’s Appeal

See the video: oakdiocese.org/bishops-appeal

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THE CATHOLIC VOICE — 9

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, at the consecration during the Palm Sunday Mass, 2019.
Ministry of the wedding soloist: beauty, joy, praise

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

"I feel honored and joyful when I sing for a wedding, to give them my blessings through my voice," said Christine Cosbey. "I want to bless them and their marriage through these songs."

The soprano, whose musical talents were nurtured through her youth at St. Monica Parish in Moraga, enjoys the beauty of liturgical music. "Just like the gorgeous stained-glass windows we see at churches, and beautifully decorated altars, I believe the music at Mass, weddings and funerals should have that same level of quality and beauty as we sing praises to our Heavenly Father and King," Cosbey said. "Knowing that I have the gift of voice and had training," I knew I had to use my voice to serve God at church."

The gift was nourished at St. Monica, where Rev. Paul Minnihan was her pastor. "Early on, I just loved to sing. It took a long time to gain confidence," she said. "When I was in high school, I had a hard time raising my hand to audition for soloists," she said.

"The first time I knew I possessed more than an OK voice was when I was 17 and won first place in Orinda. I can't remember exactly — I think it was a singing competition through Orinda Performing Arts Association. First place prize was $300. I remember feeling so shocked and in complete disbelief that I won first place," she recalled.

I also won a bronze medal with a superlative performance at OMEA (California Music Educators Association) festival as a soloist. I sang "Se tu m'ami, se sospiri" and "Ave Maria".

She began cantoring at her parish, where she was asked to sing at the funeral of a parishioner. "I discovered I could make a difference for people with my voice when I started cantoring at Mass, especially when I started singing for funerals," she said.

With such encouragement, she learned her lesson: "I can touch people's hearts with my voice. I can minister with my voice. This is what I am doing with my voice."

She continued her education at Saint Mary's College, where she became a performing arts — vocal performance major. "I knew I wanted to reach my personal highest potential at the time as a singer and I knew I was going to use my voice to serve the Lord," she said. "I went to San Francisco Conservatory of Music, but after an interview with a member of the SF Opera Chorus, I realized how much time went into rehearsals and performances. I wanted to have a family life one day and be there to raise my kids."

After much discussion with my adviser at Saint Mary's, I decided to go to St. Theresa School in Oakland, St. Jerome School in El Cerrito, and Christ the King School in Pleasant Hill. And her husband, Keith Cosbey, met when they were participating in the choir for the dedication Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. "Four choirs sang at the Cosbeys' 2011 wedding at the Saint Mary's College Chapel: the Saint Mary's College Choir, St. Monica Church choir from her Moraga home parish; a youth choir Keith Cosbey directed at St. Joan of Arc Parish in San Ramon; and a choir composed of Notre Dame Glee Club members, who sang, said, "a beautiful Ave Maria."

The family life she envisioned included three children. The Cosbeys are parishioners at St. Isidore in Danville. Family life has also allowed her to continue to serve in her beloved ministry of music, as a singer at weddings and funerals. The engaged couples usually meet with the parish music director to plan the marriage ceremony and select their music with the director. The music director usually suggests soloists, although inquiries may be made directly to the singer. "I will sing any Mass setting," she said. "If I don't know it, I'll learn it. I want to give the couple the most memorable wedding day Mass."

Her most-requested song is "When Love Is Found," published in 1963 to OCP and to the traditional melody "Ubi Caritas," by Bob Hurd is often requested for Communion. And what's a wedding without "Ave Maria," (Bach or Schubert) for the moment the bride brings flowers to Mary? "It's really a joy for me," she said. "I love these opportunities to sing these classical songs because I'm classically trained."

Often she does not have the opportunity to meet the bride and groom before the wedding, but she does greet them. "When I'm at the choir, I give them a smile with my eyes, to say hi and thank you. I feel honored I get to sing for their special day."

A New Decade of Celebrations is Upon Us... Congratulations to all newly engaged couples! Host your Rehearsal Dinner, Wedding Reception, Ceremony, and Post-Wedding Brunch here at Scott's. With seven stunning private dining rooms, we can accommodate up to 400 guests.

Three generations marry in same church, same wedding dress

By Christine Bordelon
Catholic News Service

NEW ORLEANS — Southerners hold their traditions close to their hearts.

That explains why Gabrielle Campo Hillman already knew what dress she would wear for her wedding last year: a hand-sewn gown first worn by her grandmother, Gayle Brack Kopelman, in 1961, and then by her mother, Tammy Kopelman Campos, in 1986.

"My mom already knew I was going to wear it," Hillman said. "It was always discussed.

All three wore the dress as they walked down the aisle of the same church — St. Agnes Church in Jefferson, Louisiana. Hillman's great-grandparents had moved into this Catholic parish in the 1940s, sent their children to school there and never left. Her grandmother was 19 when she got married. Her mom was 24, and Hillman was 28 on her wedding day.

Hillman said the original dress was designed from a dress featured in a magazine her great-grandmother liked. Kopelman's Aunt Elencor, a bridal dressmaker, made the classic dress from satin with lace accents, but without pearls or sequins.

When her mother, Tammy, decided to wear the dress, it had not been properly preserved and got stained. "It had yellowed and deteriorated. "Below the bust down was never touched, but my mom removed some of the top and removed the sleeves and added some lace, putty sleeves for her wedding," Hillman said. "My grandmother hand-sewed 5,000 pearls on it on the lace to fill in the buds of the flowers."

After her 1996 wedding, her mom had the dress preserved and stored it at her house. "I never saw it but knew I was going to wear this dress," Hillman said. "I guess because my great-aunt made it..." (continued on p. 12)
Weddings and Anniversaries

Celebrating 65th Anniversary
Dr. Florentino & Dr. Lilia Ibabao
Married June 18, 1955
St. John Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio
Love and congratulations from your three children: Cheryl, Emily (Marley), and Gregory, and from your five grandchildren: Julian, Chiara, Malaya, Sienna, and Fenua.

Celebrating 72 Years
Alfredo y Maria Elena Gonzalez
Married January 24, 1948
Dios los llene de bendiciones salud, amor y felicidad. Son los deseos de sus Hijos, Nietos, Bihijos y Tataranietos.

Celebrating 75th Wedding Anniversary
Margarito & Eloise Sanchez
Married February 7, 1945
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Mexico
Thank you Our Lady of Guadalupe.

March 18, 1950
Leon & Rosina Watson

"Love bears, believes, hopes, endures all things. Love never fails."
– 1 Corinthians 13:7-8

We love you Mom and Dad. Thank you for sharing 70 years of love. Love always, Josie, Jorge, Lucia and the entire St. Benedict Family.

Celebrating 60th Anniversary
Tom & Barbara Kugler
Married March 5, 1960
St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church, Oakland, California

Celebrating 51 Years of Love
Richard & Kathleen Keller
Married Dec. 28, 1968
God Bless You!
Love, Christine

Special to The Catholic Voice
Joe Sigala, age 24, and Laurie Stahle, age 22, were married on Nov. 22, 1969. Rev. Richard Mangini officiated at the wedding, which was held at Santa Maria Catholic Church in Orinda. This was the beginning of a life together that would see this young couple go on to a joyously full and prosperous life of service, family and faith.

Several years ago, as their 50th wedding anniversary approached, they thought, wouldn’t it be wonderful if Father Mangini, with whom they had stayed in contact over the years, could be the celebrant for their 50th wedding anniversary Mass.

An email was sent to Father Mangini, then pastor at St. Bonaventure Parish in Concord. He was asked whether he had ever officiated at a 50th anniversary celebration for a couple for whom he had officiated at their original wedding. His answer was that, “No, he had not, but that he would sure like to.”

So, it was that recently the slightly older couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a Saturday Mass at the Church of St. Timothy in Escondido, where they now live. Father Mangini flew down from Concord and helped bring a ray of added sunshine to this couple’s joy by officiating at their wedding anniversary Mass and at a reception in the church hall. Father Mangini stayed with the Sigalas during his visit and shared their home with 10 other family members.

It was a joyous celebration of 50 years of marriage made extra special by Father Mangini’s presence. When Father Mangini was asked if the couple could put in reservation for him to officiate at their 75th wedding anniversary celebration, he said he’d likely have to do that one from heaven.

Preparation for marriage

The Diocese of Oakland’s Office of Marriage and Family Life offers marriage preparation in a variety of ways:

- The weekend program is offered in English in Walnut Creek on April 25-26, May 30-31, July 11-12, Oct. 3-4, and Dec. 5-6.
- A retreat weekend, with both a commuter or resident option, is also being planned, for a date to be determined, in Fremont.

Preparation for those seeking convalidation of a civil marriage, or remarriage, programs are offered in Walnut Creek March 28-29 and Aug. 1.

Registration is $300 per couple for the weekend programs to which the couple commits; the cost for the residential program is $400.

Register online at www.EastBayCatholic.com or dial 510-267-8395. Early enrollment is recommended.

For additional information, contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at 510-893-4711.

Prepared by Marie Hekimian
ccc

Joe Sigala and Laurie Stahle with Rev. Richard Mangini at their wedding in 1969, and at their 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

A very special 50th wedding anniversary
Spanish bishops launch marriage prep course that could last 3 years

Catholic News Service

MADRID — Catholic couples in Spain will undergo up to three years of marriage preparation under an initiative by their bishops to reverse the country’s high rates of divorce.

The Spanish bishops launched Together on the Way ("Juntos en Camino"), a program to help couples to succeed in their vocation to marriage amid a divorce rate that sees about 40 percent of marriages collapse within five years and nearly 60 percent within 15 years. The new course could last between two and three years; it replaces preparation courses that lasted between five and 20 hours.

Speaking at a news conference in Madrid mid-January, Bishop Mario Iceta Gavicagogeascoa of Bilbao said he did not believe previous courses were adequate. “What can we do in five hours?” he asked Bishop Iceta, president of the Spanish bishops’ subcommission for family and the defense of life.

“To make a comparison, to be a priest you need to spend seven years in a seminary,” he said, adding that it was not “sufficient” to prepare to be “a husband, a wife, a mother or a father” in less than a day.

He said that, as a parish priest, he would often bluntly tell couples that marriage preparation was not only an administrative process but a way of preventing the future collapse of their marriages.

The new course, the bishop continued, was a response to the requests of St. John Paul II and Pope Francis to “accompany people who have discovered the vocation to marry” and to prepare them well for marriage.

He explained that while it was an obligation for the church to prepare couples for marriage, the course was not compulsory in its entirety and could be adapted to personal circumstances.

“Each diocese establishes the formation that is required for couples seeking marriage,” he said.

Discussions must consider the provision of “adequate formation, while at the same time not dissuading young couples from the sacrament,” the bishop added.

A statement posted on the website of the Spanish bishops’ conference said the new approach to marriage preparation was collectively approved at a meeting of the bishops in November. The new course consists of 12 themes, including communication, conflict resolution, fidelity, the vocation to marriage and the beauty of sexuality.

Three Generations ...

(continued from p. 10)

for my grandmother, and my mom wore it. How could you not?”

Hillman unboxed the dress at her great-grandmother Hermine Simon Brack’s house with her grandmother Gayle, her mother and sister present.

The dress had yellowed and had to be slightly altered in her bouquet down the aisle. “It was fun watching the progress of the dress restoration,” she said. “The original scalloped lace neckline remained,” she said. “The length of the dress was perfect without (high-heeled) shoes, so it worked perfectly for me because I don’t like heels.”

When she walked down the aisle, Hillman said many in attendance remembered the dress, and others couldn’t wait to see it. “My great-grandmother, who doesn’t move around a lot, was breaking her neck to see me come down the aisle,” Hillman said. “Everybody commented on how great the dress was, and what a cool story.” Information about the three-generation dress was included in the wedding program.

“The beauty of the dress is that it came full circle,” Hillman said. “It’s almost the same style when my grandmother wore it and the sentiment of the dress that each of us walked down the same aisle. She carried her great grandmother’s light blue rosary in her bouquet down the aisle.

“I knew I wanted to carry it; my mom suggested it,” she said.

Spanish bishops launch marriage prep course that could last 3 years

Catholic News Service

MADRID — Catholic couples in Spain will undergo up to three years of marriage preparation under an initiative by their bishops to reverse the country’s high rates of divorce.

The Spanish bishops launched Together on the Way ("Juntos en Camino"), a program to help couples to succeed in their vocation to marriage amid a divorce rate that sees about 40 percent of marriages collapse within five years and nearly 60 percent within 15 years. The new course could last between two and three years; it replaces preparation courses that lasted between five and 20 hours.

Speaking at a news conference in Madrid mid-January, Bishop Mario Iceta Gavicagogeascoa of Bilbao said he did not believe previous courses were adequate. “What can we do in five hours?” he asked Bishop Iceta, president of the Spanish bishops’ subcommission for family and the defense of life.

“To make a comparison, to be a priest you need to spend seven years in a seminary,” he said, adding that it was not “sufficient” to prepare to be “a husband, a wife, a mother or a father” in less than a day.

He said that, as a parish priest, he would often bluntly tell couples that marriage preparation was not only an administrative process but a way of preventing the future collapse of their marriages.

The new course, the bishop continued, was a response to the requests of St. John Paul II and Pope Francis to “accompany people who have discovered the vocation to marry” and to prepare them well for marriage.

He explained that while it was an obligation for the church to prepare couples for marriage, the course was not compulsory in its entirety and could be adapted to personal circumstances.

“Each diocese establishes the formation that is required for couples seeking marriage,” he said.

Discussions must consider the provision of “adequate formation, while at the same time not dissuading young couples from the sacrament,” the bishop added.

A statement posted on the website of the Spanish bishops’ conference said the new approach to marriage preparation was collectively approved at a meeting of the bishops in November. The new course consists of 12 themes, including communication, conflict resolution, fidelity, the vocation to marriage and the beauty of sexuality.

Three Generations ...

(continued from p. 10)

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**Consider Lent a time for action, advocacy**

**By Michele Jurich**

Staff writer

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving have a new partner this Lent. Advocacy is among the tools the Catholic Relief Services is suggesting during its annual Lenten Rice Bowl program.

CRS is focusing initially on migration and refugees, and hunger and food security, an issue, a CRS representative said, “is intimately tied to the Rice Bowl experience.”

Ken Preston, community engagement manager for CRS in several Western dioceses, including Oakland, said the advocacy efforts involved “lighting our voice up to our elected representatives on issues that are near and dear to our hearts.”

The amplification of voices could call on legislators to enact policies and allot funds to help the poor throughout the world.”

Preston made his remarks at the annual Diocese of Oakland CRS Rice Bowl awards, at which more than 30 non-profit organizations and parish-based St. Vincent de Paul conferences received their portion of the CRS Rice Bowl collection — 25 percent of the total — that is put to work locally. He also noted that the CRS Rice Bowl materials — usually made available in parishes and Catholic schools on Ash Wednesday — focus on three young women — Ana Maria, 16, of Honduras; Thiri, 12, of Vietnam; and Yvonne, 11, of Kenya.

There will be opportunities during Lent for those interested in advocacy to hone their skills.

The Parish Solidarity Initiative Winter Retreat, scheduled for Feb. 29, at Divine Mercy Parish in Oakland will offer a program to help attendees learn to advocate for legislation that addresses the root causes of poverty in developing countries, as well as improve their skills in organizing social justice events.

The retreat, led by Sergio Lopez, relationship manager for Catholic Relief Services West, will offer tracks in English and in Spanish. Attendees will hear from Thomas Awapio, a CRS staff member from Ghana, who introduction to CRS was in the warm bowl of food he was served at his school as a young student.

The event, at 3725 High St., Oakland, is free, continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. RSVP by Feb. 25 to mmckimmey@cceb.org.

St. Columbia Parish in Oakland is offering as its Lenten Social Justice Series a eight-week JustFaith module entitled, “Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege.”

**Toy drive aids hospital**

Over the Advent season, the St. Clement Catholic School community completed a toy drive and delivered a cash donation and eight weapons of new toys for the children at the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford.

St. Clement is at 790 Coliseum St. in Hayward; http://stclementschool.org.

**Winter Retreat**

Parish Solidarity Initiative

Feb. 29, 9 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Parish

3725 High St., Oakland

RSVP: by Feb. 25 to megbowerman@gmail.com

**Lenten series**

“Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege”

Feb. 27 — April 30

St. Columbia Parish

6401 San Pablo Ave., Oakland

Contact: Meg Bowerman, megbowerman@gmail.com

CRS Rice Bowl

www CRSricebowl.org

See additional Lent Activities

date lines, Page 17

This is a new module for JustFaith, and the St. Columbia Parish will be the first to the Diocese of Oakland. The Lenten Social Justice Series follows the parish’s recent completion of the Alpha program.

The first meeting will be Feb. 27, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and program from 7 to 9 p.m. at the church, 6401 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. The group will meet through April 30, but will not meet April 7, which is Holy Week.

For information, contact Meg Bowerman at megbowerman@gmail.com.
Ad Limina

By Very Rev. George Mockel

Saturday, Jan. 25: The conversation with the Uber driver began: "Where are you going?" "SF/Oakland," was my response. "Why are you traveling to today, sir?" "Philadelphia."

"What's bringing you to Philadelphia?"

“Well actually I am not a bishop on my way to Rome."

“What are you doing in Rome?”

Figuring my cover was about to be blown, I decided to go with the flow. "Well I’ll be seeing my boss, Patrick, the Archbishop." You can imagine where this part of the story went. However, what I could not have anticipated was to smile, heartfelt and open sharing of a struggle with the “demons” of drug and alcohol addiction after his returning home from the Vietnam War many years ago.

"God intervened with some pretty dramatic little miracles in my life," he told me. Totally penniless on the streets of Oakland he reached rock bottom; and knew he needed help. He jumped a barricade at a BART station. Although observed by two policemen who looked him straight in the eye, they surprisingly let him pass by anyway. (Little miracle No. 1) Arriving in Union City he went to the bay bridge tolling the bus driver; "I don’t have a penny to my name. I need to get to the Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto." "Come aboard, brother." (Little miracle No. 2) After treatment at the Veterans Hospital, he settled in Menlo Park and for several years was supported, challenged and encouraged at AA sessions. Where were they held? St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park.

I am staying at the North American College during my stay in Rome. It is the American seminary in Rome for students sent here by their bishops to try to smile a bit more often, when it is difficult.

Sunday, Jan. 26: I am staying at the North American College. God demanded of me to clean up a mess we did have not long ago. Just a month before I was able to discern from the pope’s homily was a theme of enhancing our discernment of grace in our lives. He spoke of being able to see God working in our lives, not only in the big moments, but also in our fragility and weakness.

Simeon was able to perceive grace in the vulnerability and total dependence of a newborn child. That was being said and, for most of us, a new way of perceiving the reality of God in our lives. That comes with prayer, contemplation and silence.

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(Father George Mockel, vicar general of the Oakland diocese, accompanied Oakland Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, along with about 32 bishops and their aides from California, Nevada and Hawaii for the regular “ad limina” report to the pope.)

Bishop says St. Paul offers encouragement to today's clergy

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

ROME—With that, the minis try’s ups and downs, bishops can draw encouragement from St. Paul, said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, of Oakland.

After reaffirming their unity in the church at the tomb of St. Peter, the bishops were renewing their mission to “go out to the ends of the earth and preach the Gospel” by gathering and praying at the tomb of St. Paul, the bishop said during his homily Jan. 31 at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Bishop Barber was the principal celebrant and homilist as the bishops of California, Nevada and Hawaii celebrated Mass at the basilica as part of their “ad limina” visits Jan. 27-31 to report on the status of their dioceses.

After their last Mass together in Rome, he said, bishops from U.S. Region XI will now “go forward” as many before them did: “Preach the Gospel to those who may have never considered it a step too far or reclaim those who have fallen away from Christ and his church.”

“It’s a pretty tall order,” Bishop Barber said. “It is fearful, and it is difficult and it is exasperating. I don’t know about you, but I need all the encouragement and support I can get. And I am very thankful for St. Paul.”

“I have a little reader’s guide to St. Paul for us bishops,” said Bishop Barber, who recalled the way some Protestant missionaries would distribute a small card to help people find an appropriate Bible verse to read whenever they were feeling a particular way, like when they were hungry, sick, depressed or worst of all, when they were afraid to speak.

Bishop Barber listed a string of scenarios and feelings a bishop might face and offered a corresponding verse from St. Paul’s many letters, offering the apostle’s wisdom and encouragement.

“When we don’t see the results of our programs and plans,” he said, “we see in St. Paul’s words, ‘If what we are working for is feeble in doing, for the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.’”

“When we are depressed,” he said, “we see in St. Paul’s words, ‘The same Lord who loved me and gave himself for me.’”

“When we are weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up,’” he said. “Now, I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake.”

Sunday, Feb. 2: The feast of the Presentation (Feb. 2) fell on a Sunday this year, so it was an opportunity for many more Catholics to hear the Scripture readings connected to this feast.

This day is also called “Candemus,” because the candles that will be used in the church are sometimes blessed on this day.

St. Peter’s Basilica was a sea of candlelight as the sun set and the lights were darkness. The bishop seemed to be slightly improving the longer I was there, that I was able to discern from the pope’s homily was a theme of enhancing our discernment of grace in our lives.

It is no secret that all of Europe is very conscious of the threat of terrorism during this most recent visit to Italy. All of the major churches have a very visible presence of both the military and local police. Everyone, including priests and bishops, have to go through airport-style screen ing before entering the major basilicas to celebrate Mass. The principal street leading to St. Peter’s is now blocked to automobile traffic. These measures, while necessary, are nevertheless very sad.

When afraid to speak, St. Paul says, “Rejoice in suffering for Christ, because it is a sign that you belong to Christ. If you are His servant, you will share in His sufferings.” (Romans 8:17-18)

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Former administrator, Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett dies at 86

Staff and wire reports
Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Oakland in 2012-2013, and former archbishop of Seattle, died Jan. 31. He was 86.

Archbishop Brunett led the Archdiocese of Seattle through an era of dynamic growth and intense challenges from 1997 to 2012, when he retired.

Pope Benedict XVI called Archbishop Brunett out of retirement to serve as apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Oakland in 2012. An apostolic administrator provides continuity of management until a successor bishop is named by the Vatican.

The vigil and funeral Mass will take place at St. James Cathedral, 804 Ninth Ave., Seattle. The vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 11. A viewing precedes the vigil from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. The funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Feb. 12. A reception will follow.

During his seven months as the apostolic administrator, Archbishop Brunett was active in ministry in the Oakland diocese. In addition to his frequent statewide Masses at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, he visited parishes and schools, including turning a ceremonial shovel at the groundbreaking of the Center for Environmental Studies at Bishop O’Dowd High School.

In his first column in The Catholic Voice, Archbishop Brunett wrote, “I can assure you that I am always happy about my priesthood; always joyful about the opportunity to serve the people of God; always hopeful about the future; and always willing to take any challenge or solve any problem — the only problems we don’t solve are the ones we don’t do anything about.”

He conducted a weekday nighttime Mass of Remembrance for the victims of the shootings at Sandy Hook School, inviting pupils at the diocese’s schools to participate.

“We give them back to you, oh Lord, as you gave them to us,” he said. “Life is unending because love is unending.”

Archbishop Brunett hosted the celebration of the Diocese of Oakland’s 50th anniversary. He was also a welcoming and vibrant celebrant at the diocesan events for the ethnic communities, such as the Mass commemorating the Vietnamese Martyrs and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage.

Among his last duties was the ordination of Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. “Archbishop Brunett made many friends here during his seven months as administrator of the Diocese of Oakland,” said Bishop Barber. “As I mentioned my homily at Vespers the evening prior to my episcopal ordination, Archbishop Brunett was beloved in his short time among us, we join together in commending his soul to God’s love and mercy.”

Merrie Publico of Orinda became friends with Archbishop Brunett during his time in Oakland, and maintained the friendship after he returned to Seattle. She was with him to celebrate his birthday Jan. 17. He was weak, not eating and his eyes were closed. But they prayed the Divine Mercy together, she said, he thanked her for the visit and her friendship.

“My most striking memory was when I kissed his forehead to say goodbye. He tried to raise his hand and kiss me. That was very special to receive a blessing from a dying priest,” she said.

A week before his death, Archbishop Brunett was appointed bishop of Helena, Montana, by Pope John Paul II in 1994 at the age of 60, following a long and wide-ranging ministry. He submitted his letter of retirement to Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 at the age of 75.

(By Greg Magnon, Northwest Catholic, and The Catholic Voice staff)

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Possibly the catechesis you want for your children

By Michele Jurich

Imagine a dozen children, ages 3 to 6, chattering and speaking in whispers, as they move through a classroom set up with an altar, manipulatives that allow the opportunity to play out Bible stories and vestments — all child-size.

That would be an atrium, as designed by the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and in use for two sessions a week at St. John Vianney Parish in Walnut Creek.

“We know children have the capacity to know God at a young age,” said Shannon Rogers, pastoral associate for family-based faith formation at the Walnut Creek parish. The atrium opened its doors in October, filling two sessions. Among the fruits of the Montessori-based program she already sees children who are more attentive at Mass. And the future could include “the greatest altar servers we will ever get” and vocations.

While the children discover the room, catechists also have to assist and read Scripture to them. Setting up the atrium environment has involved parish members building some of the furniture, painting the manipulatives, and sewing the tiny vestments. The children gather at a table to offer their prayers in community.

A program such as this, Rogers said, helps bridge the distance between baptism and the time children arrive for faith formation for First Communion. It’s a time, she said, “when families need community.”

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd also offers programs for children ages 6 to 12. Infant and toddler programs have also been piloted.

A free Come and See event designed for parish leaders, volunteers and parents interested in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in the St. John Vianney Faith Formation Hall, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Lunch is included.

The presenter will be Jennifer Bell, who has worked in this catechesis for more than 20 years. RSVP by Feb. 23 to Shannon Rogers, sr@sjvianney.org.

Mueller named new leader at JST

Staff report
Rev. Joseph G. Mueller, SJ, will assume the role of dean of the Jesuit School of Theology of the Pacific in Berkeley on July 1.

The appointment of Father Mueller, rector of Marquette University’s Jesuit Community and a seasoned administrator and professor of theology, was announced Jan. 23.

Father Mueller, 50, has taught at Marquette for more than 20 years, after a year as a philosophy instructor at Boston College. He has also spent a semester as a visiting professor at the Institute of Theology of the English-speaking Church in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Father Mueller previously served as associate dean for academic affairs in Marquette’s Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, and also served as associate dean for academic affairs in Marquette’s Helen Way Klingler College. He has also served as associate dean for the Institute of Theology of the English-speaking Church in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

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**NEW EVENTS**

### Saturday, February 26
Open House for the Golden Gate Boys Choir: Exploring Racism and Diversity. 9:30 a.m. to noon at Dominican Center, 43326 Mission Circle (entrance off Mission San Jose). Freight. Collaborating in addressing racism in our city and within our church we have an important story to tell. In the context of the life and work of Thomas Akins, CRS staff member from Ghana, address the issue of racism and its impact on the lives of young people and the causes of poverty in developing countries; improve your understanding of how your faith community can address issues of race and religion. Continental breakfast and lunch provided. Registration required. RSVP by Feb. 25 to mmckenney@sjasr.org.

### March 1 to 4
March for Life in San Francisco: 7 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. Theme: Noted from the 40th annual March for Life in Washington D.C., the Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate who has gained parish missions or retreats in 22 states and Canada, will conduct the mission which has as its theme: "The Good Spirit..." in English and "Qué Tal..." in Spanish. For more information, call 510-655-9209.

### Wednesday, March 4
Presentation by Thomas John Stowe, OFM, of Kentucky, 7 to 8 p.m. in St. Basil Church at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 3433 Soemere Ave., Castro Valley. Bishop Stowe will be speaking on the spiritual inheritance of all creation and show the relationship between St. Francis of Assisi's view of creation to peace and justice in our world today. Free admission and open to the public. Sponsored by the Pax Christi/Social Justice group at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. Information: 510-635-4797.

### Thursday, March 5
Synod of the Amazon. . . What Can We Learn From It? 7:30 p.m. in St. John Vianney Church. Theme: "Laudato Si'". Presentation by Bishop Robert W. McElroy, 2 to 5 p.m. at Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, 43326 Mission Circle (entrance off Mission San Jose). Freight, Friaret. Register by March 5 at http://bit.ly/2Emxy9rd or call 510-635-4797.

### Saturday, March 7

### Saturday, March 7
Art by Jen Norton, a Catholic artist in San Jose, is on display in the Mercy Center, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Theme: Pass It On: The Art of Giving. Visit the website at stcharleslivermore.org/WINGS.asp.

### Saturday, March 7
Last Supper Art by Jen Norton, a Catholic artist in San Jose, is on display in the Mercy Center, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Theme: Pass It On: The Art of Giving. Visit the website at stcharleslivermore.org/WINGS.asp.

### Sunday, March 8

### Friday, March 27
### Saturday, March 28
### Sunday, March 29
### Monday, March 30
### Tuesday, March 31
### Wednesday, April 1
### Thursday, April 2
### Friday, April 3
### Saturday, April 4
### Sunday, April 5
### Monday, April 6
### Tuesday, April 7
### Wednesday, April 8
### Thursday, April 9
### Friday, April 10
### Saturday, April 11
### Sunday, April 12
### Monday, April 13
### Tuesday, April 14
### Wednesday, April 15
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### Saturday, April 18
### Sunday, April 19
### Monday, April 20
### Tuesday, April 21
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### Saturday, May 30
### Sunday, May 31
Bishop Barron

The U.S. government, the U.S. Central Command, the United Nations and the European Union certified that Soleimani was the head of the Quds Force, which was responsible for planning and directing Iranian paramilitary forces in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Soleimani was also the second-in-command of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and was responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Persian Gulf region. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Middle East, including in Syria and Iraq. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Arabian Peninsula, including in Yemen. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Gulf of Aden, including in Somalia. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Gulf of Oman, including in the Persian Gulf. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Arabian Sea, including in the Gulf of Oman. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Red Sea, including in Djibouti. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Mediterranean Sea, including in the Eastern Mediterranean. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Black Sea, including in Ukraine.

The U.S. government, the U.S. Central Command, the United Nations and the European Union certified that Soleimani was the head of the Quds Force, which was responsible for planning and directing Iranian paramilitary forces in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Soleimani was also the second-in-command of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and was responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Persian Gulf region. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Middle East, including in Syria and Iraq. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Arabian Peninsula, including in Yemen. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Gulf of Aden, including in Somalia. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Gulf of Oman, including in the Persian Gulf. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Arabian Sea, including in the Gulf of Oman. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Red Sea, including in Djibouti. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Mediterranean Sea, including in the Eastern Mediterranean. Soleimani was also responsible for planning and directing the Iranian military's operations in the Black Sea, including in Ukraine.
Letters to the editor provide a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and counteract the climate of respect and reason that is often not expressed by those of the writers, and not necessarily of the Catholic Voice or of the Diocese of Antioch. A forum of opinions will sometimes include those which dissent from Church teaching or contradict the natural moral law, it is hoped that this feature will allow readers to understand better others’ thinking on critical issues facing the Church.

Ronald Schmit, I have some thoughts to share about” Our Father’s” recent response Forum, Jan. 6 column to “A New Pope,” which refers to Weigel as a “traditionalist” Catholic.” I find this insulting. I love the Mass, traditional or not, but I have been Catholic over 50 years, about the same time the Church changed its mind on divorce and remarriage. How can you be interested in those “old days and old ways,” something I try to avoid at all costs? I usually enjoy Rev. Ronald G. Schmit’s writings and words on the Church in the Modern World. I especially found this in his recent letter (Forum, Jan. 6). I think it was a fine writer with a good vision of the Catholic Church. He was ecstatic to hear the results. Americans, were also in shock. His base expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily of the Catholic Voice or the Diocese of Antioch. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject contributions. The editor reserves the right to edit for style, space and clarity. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject contributions. The editor reserves the right to edit for style, space and clarity.
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