The Diocese of Oakland's contribution to The Stations of the Cross Against Racism was filmed at BART's Fruitvale Station. Margaret Peterson, CEO of Catholic Charities East Bay, and Rev. Leo Edgley, pastor of Corpus Christi Church, Piedmont, had the two spoken parts. Parishioners from St. Elizabeth Church provided the technical support, and the cross and candle bearers were from St. Joseph Church in Fruitvale. Fruitvale Station is where Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old African American man, was shot and killed by a BART police officer on Jan. 1, 2009. An Alameda County jury found the officer guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

As the Catholic Church, we can't just be observers. We need to learn and listen from the experience of the African American community—be willing to open our hearts—and maybe feel uncomfortable.

How do we react when we hear “Black Lives Matter?” Do we respond with “All Lives Matter?” Our first inclination may be to do so. Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York wrote, “Yes, of course, all lives matter—is there a more basic truth? Our faith is that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, but the reality is that the sin and evil of racism continues to haunt our society, and, sadly, often appears that, for some, Black lives don’t matter, or don’t matter enough.” So true.

As Catholics, we stand for the protection of life from conception to natural death. But if we stop to listen, we may be able to hear the cry of Black people in our country who feel their lives do not matter. Not historically. Not today. The history of slavery and structural racism in this country has created long-standing inequalities in all areas of society, from health (look at COVID-19), to housing, education, law enforcement and employment.

Many of you have shared with me the pain of racism you and your family have experienced in America, I have heard from those who feel they are not understood, to those who are angry at not seeing any change in society. I have heard from those of you who are trying to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in their struggle. I have heard from those who are wondering how we should respond as people of faith. I have heard from those who are saddened at the loss of livelihood by those—especially recent immigrants—whose businesses have been looted and destroyed. I have heard from our young people struggling to understand what is happening around them when they are inundated with unfiltered information.

We just celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi. As one body in Christ, we need to recognize that it is Jesus who is calling us to look inside our hearts and examine our own prejudices and preconceptions. It is Jesus who is calling us to learn from our own history and not repeat past mistakes. The process of healing our hearts and building the beloved community where all are treated equal will take time.

I would like to invite you to take advantage of some helpful resources that have been developed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, listed below. I am participating in weekly calls with my brother bishops in California to coordinate and develop the Church’s ongoing efforts—especially educational. I would like to thank all of the parishes that joined me in celebrating the Totive Mass “for the Preservation of Peace and Justice” on Tuesday, June 9. The day George Floyd was buried, and knelt with me for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

By the time this article goes to print we will have released a video “The Stations of the Cross Against Racism” to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Charleston massacre. Each diocese in California contributed a “Stations.” Ours was filmed at BART’s Fruitvale Station. Information and links may be found in The Weekly and our diocesan social media accounts. I hope you will join me in praying these Stations of the Cross.

To better understand the experience of racism in the Catholic Church, I recommend reading “The Times Demand it, The Gospel Demands it: Confronting the Sins of Racism,” the Kennedy Lecture 2018 by late Bishop George V. Murry, SJ, former chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. More resources for your consideration will be made available online from the Catholic Voice.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” We have no more perfect response to injustice than Jesus himself, who kept on loving, in spite of his arrest, torture and crucifixion. Jesus’ love changes people. And people who love—change the world.

By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ
As I was looking at my Facebook feed a few weeks ago, I noticed that one of my St. Benedict parishioners, Valerie Pinson Strane, had added a Black Lives Matter frame to her Facebook profile picture. At first glance, I didn’t pay too much attention, but after a second look, something didn’t sit well. At first, I wondered if my perception of racism may have been clouded. I am the pastor of St. Benedict Catholic Church in Deep East Oakland. For a few weeks, I also placed a Black Lives Matter frame around my Facebook profile picture in solidarity with those of you who are trying to stand against racism and recognize the paths I traverse at home, work and tragedies in the East Bay.

I am the pastor of St. Benedict Catholic Church in Deep East Oakland, where our parishioners are 93% African American. I succeeded the late Father Jay Matthews, the first African American priest ordained for a diocese in Northern California, and I was at St. Benedict where Father Jay spent 26 years as pastor prior to becoming rector of the Cathedral of Christ the Light in downtown Oakland. From 1999-2009, I served as pastor of St. Columba Catholic Church in North Oakland, another traditionally African American parish noted for its vibrant liturgy and social activism.

Father Aidan McAleenan succeeded me at St. Columba, and has continued the parish’s proud tradition of a progressive vision of African American worship and advocacy, community involvement and confronting injustices.

At the same time, since 1995, I have been a chaplain to numerous first responders or agencies in the local, regional and federal levels. I continue to serve as a chaplain to the Oakland Police Department, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, BART PD, San Leandro PD and other agencies. I also serve as chaplain to the local FBI, ATF and U.S. Secret Service offices, with such ministry taking me across the country. I work very closely with many police officers, usually around ministering to and working with victims of violent crimes and tragedies in the East Bay.

I mention all of this to acknowledge and recognize the paths I traverse at this pivotal crucial moment in American history. The brutal suffocation of George Floyd by a Minneapolis Police officer is yet another abhorrent example of unarmed African American men and women in America. We must not let it be forgotten.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in their struggle. We stand in solidarity with our Black families and their African American family history, the way it is meant to protect their family and proclaim that their lives mattered, their African American family worthy of protecting and saving.

I started weeping as I realized the shooting, all evidence points to a drive-by shooter suspected of killing a Santa Cruz County deputy sheriff.

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Wayne was in a unique position to help having himself spent time as a Christian, and religious life throughout our diocese,” said Bishop Barber. “As he completes his term as director of vocations, he has helped with Masses and confessions in various parishes and converts in the diocese, as no priest ever retires from the priesthood.”

**Online giving**

The Office of Mission Advancement reports that online giving to parishes, at www.oakdiocese.org/parrish-support, continues to provide needed revenue during the time parishes have been unable to conduct public Masses. Since the online giving portal opened in March 29, $144,265 has been received.

The 10 largest gifts made in this form include $3,000 to Corpus Christi Parish, Fremont; $2,500 and $1,000 to the Cathedral of Christ the Light Parish, Oakland; $2,500 to the Chinese Catholic Pastoral Center, Fremont; $2,500 to St. Elizabeth Parish, Oakland; $1,500 to St. Agnes, Concord; $1,250 to St. Jerome, El Cerrito; $1,000 to St. Anthony Mary Help of Christians, Oakland; and $1,000 to St. Joseph Parish, Fremont.

St. Joseph of Fremont has receiving the most recurring gifts, with 22. The average one-time gift is $117.95.

**Grief during pandemic**

Grieving is difficult, everyone does it differently and on their own timeline. Add COVID-19 to the mix and everything changes, no hugs, no consoling, no face-to-face. Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services invite anyone else who needs grief support to an evening with Sandy Heinmich and her weekly Zoom meeting. The meetings are held from 7 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday, which are June 23 and 30 and July 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Heinrich is the Oakland diocese grief minister trainer. She has taught grief counseling throughout California and Phoenix. She believes in the importance of how spirituality plays in counseling and caregiving. She counsels about 500 one-on-one sessions per year and has facilitated grief support groups for parents who have lost a child, widows/widowers, and a teen group.

To join a meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86251350832, Meeting ID: 862 5135 0832.

**Protocol for resuming public Masses**

As people of faith, we must always be aware of the importance of acting in socially responsible way. To give good examples to others, and to act with charity toward all. Everything possible should be done to provide the church’s commencement with needed revenue in a timely and reasonable way. The current situation remains dangerous and fragile, and civil law varies within our two counties. While much has been achieved, there remains the potential that the gains could be lost by a second, more virulent wave.

Our first consideration is the spiritual and physical health of the faithful and those whom they encounter, especially the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. We must rely on medical professionals and governmental standards to inform our decisions.

**General Guidelines/Recommendations**

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses continues until further notice.

Those who are at higher risk of COVID-19 (e.g., those who are 65 and older or who have underlying health conditions) are to continue staying at home. Likewise, anyone with a temperature, a cough of any sort, and anyone feeling ill, should not return to the church for a visit or for any ceremonies. As circumstances allow, a visit from a priest, deacon or lay minister to minister a sacrament or to bring them to the Eucharist may be possible.

Parishes should continue to live stream Masses if possible or direct parishioners to a website listing live-stream events, even after public Masses resume.

Written parental permission is required if minors are serving at a Mass that is being live-streamed.

Parishes are not to hold events before or after Mass. Areas that might attract gatherings (e.g., where “coffee hour” would normally take place) should be locked.

In order to resume public Mass in each parish is required to prepare a Parish Reopening Plan and submit it to the bishop’s office. The plans should be submitted to the bishop. Then, continued robust communication is essential to keep (continued on p.3)

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— Pope Paul VI

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Diocese ...

(continued from p.2) 

parishioners apprised of the evolving conditions.

Physical Arrangements and Procedures

All faithful able to do so are asked to bring their own hand sanitizer and mask. Churches will provide a limited supply of masks and hand sanitizer if it is possible. Signage should be posted whenever you enter the church, alerting people to the safety protocols to be observed, particularly the use of face covering and the face distancing rule.

Doors must be propped open as a safety precaution—taping off every other pew, for instance. Place tape on the furniture to ensure proper distance in the Communion line. Members of the congregation who are fully vaccinated may be seated but must wear protective sanitation gloves for three days before counting. Those who are not fully vaccinated must wear masks and sanitize their hands before coming forward for Communion if they have not already done so.

Provider items. Encourage (mail-in) checks and online giving.

Liturgical ministers do not wear masks and should be encouraged to when a liturgical action requires liturgical mask or gloves). The faithful should remove gloves and masks and hand sanitizer if it is possible. Bring their own hand sanitizer and mask. 

“COVID-19 knows no borders or ZIP codes, but we do know that its impact is disproportionately harmful in low-income communities and the long-term effects for student achievement are equally distressing,” she wrote. “This year more than ever, your support is essential to ensuring our students continue their Catholic education.”

The annual spring gala — FACE’s only fundraising event — was changed from an in-person event to an online one. It raised $300,000, which is less than in previous years.

PARISH OFFERINGS

While the pandemic has required parishes to pivot from physical to online ways of giving, it has also provided a unique opportunity to engage new donors.

The Diocese of Oakland’s Goal Setter platform (www.setgoals.org) was launched in August 2020 as an online giving tool that offers parishes a proven fundraising strategy and support.

Goal Setter allows parishes to set targets and track their progress online. It offers a variety of fundraising tools including mobile giving, peer-to-peer fundraising and online events.

Goal Setter is a proven tool that has helped parishes raise millions of dollars in the past. In 2019, the platform helped parishes raise over $30 million.

Goal Setter can be accessed at www.setgoals.org. For more information, contact Brian Dibiase at bdibiase@oakdiocese.org or 510-238-3535.

The Catholic Voice — JUNE 22, 2020

THE CHURCH

FACE could use a hand

Staff report

The good news: FACE Family Aid — Catholic Education has awarded grants to 575 students for the 2020-21 school year.

The news that could use some help: There’s a waiting list of 1,488 students.

“We are working hard to raise funds to remove as many students from the wait list,” Director Tony Pizzuti explains. “We are working hard to remove as many students from the wait list.”

Rossow said that the waiting list is comprised of students who have applied for grants and who meet the eligibility criteria.

“The annual spring gala — FACE’s only fundraising event — was changed from an in-person event to an online one. It raised $300,000, which is less than in previous years.

There’s still time to help students and families for the coming year. Donors may contribute at the secure website at www.oakdiocese.org/fce or mail a check to:

FACE Family Aid — Catholic Education, 2121 Harrison St. Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612.

Outdoor Masses and Other Services

For some parishes, it is also possible to have Mass outdoors. This is to be permitted if it can be arranged in a dignified way while maintaining the required social distancing, as outdoor space minimizes sustained exposure to the virus.

As we approach pleasant weather, outdoor Masses are a good option. This will alleviate the necessity to sanitize a larger church space and serve as a viable alternative to smaller space.

Care needs to be taken so that the sacred elements are protected from the weather.

The same precautions and guidelines for indoor Masses should be followed, including reception of Communion following Mass.

30 to 40 minutes, if possible. Masses should be kept short, not rushed, but kept to 30 to 40 minutes, if possible. Masses can also be held in an alternative site such as a parish hall, in which case the Mass times should be staggered in order to avoid outdoor crowding when people arrive late for Mass. All ministers must wear protective sanitation gloves for three days before counting. Those who are not fully vaccinated must wear masks and sanitize their hands before coming forward for Communion if they have not already done so.

For the faithful, Communion is distributed only to the liturgical ministers at the usual time during the Mass. Communion for the faithful in the pews is distributed immediately after the conclusion of the Mass, as described above. Only the priest receives from the chalice, which he himself then purifies after distributing Communion to the liturgical ministers.

The Precious Blood is not to be distributed to the faithful.

Distribution of Communion

The distribution will take place immediately after the conclusion of Mass, i.e. immediately after the dismissal, with no recessional song being sung. This will allow for the Communion minister to wear a mask while distributing, which would not be appropriate within the context of the Mass. It will also allow for further safety precautions which could not be observed within the context of Mass, at least, not without inconvenience and without violating the symbolic and liturgical integrity of the Mass (which is to be celebrated without interruption).

After the concluding blessing and the dismissal, the priest (and deacon), remain in the sanctuary, while the other liturgical ministers return to the sacristy. At the choir screen, the minister stands slightly to the left of the altar while the deacon stands to his right.

A small table should be placed at each Communion station, with an unfolded altar linen, a corporal, a bar of hand sanitizer that has been sanitized, and an ablation bowl and purificator.

The faithful should remove gloves before coming forward for Communion. The faithful then approach the minister, who washes their hands, and the priest replaces the mask.

At the conclusion of the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest (and any other ministers) return the remaining Hosts to the tabernacle and proceed to the sacristy.

Priests should not greet people as they leave. It would compromise the social distancing requirement and create an unsafe environment.

To avoid creating a line, the faithful may desire after making a brief prayer of thanksgiving.

Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer and mask. Those administering Communion should make certain the Host is consumed. Obviously, no one may take a Host home to a family member.

Cars must not be allowed to leave the lot until Mass is over — and only at the discretion of the parking attendants.

Parking Lot Masses

Parking lot Masses may take place with the faithful remaining in their vehicles until time for Communion. In such cases, Communion should be distributed at the usual time, following Mass.

Cars receiving Communion must be kept short, not rushed, but kept to 30 to 40 minutes, if possible. Masses should be kept short, not rushed, but kept to 30 to 40 minutes, if possible. Masses can also be held in an alternative site such as a parish hall, in which case the Mass times should be staggered in order to avoid outdoor crowding when people arrive late for Mass.

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The same precautions and guidelines for indoor Masses should be followed, including reception of Communion following Mass.

Cars should be parked in one area and the Mass should be celebrated in a different area.

The faithful are encouraged to bring their own seating to relieve the parish from the burden of sanitizing seating. The seating arrangement is to be clearly marked and allow for proper distancing.

The same guidelines for restroom access and sanitation as indoor Masses apply.

Distribution of Holy Communion would follow the guidelines for indoor Masses. There is to be no distribution of Holy Communion to congregants in their vehicles.

Vestures for outdoor or parking lot Masses should be alb, stole and face mask — no gloves (see above).

Parking Lot Masses — An Interim Option

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Marching once again at St. Benedict Parish

By Michele Jurich

In song, word and, with a homily of 8 minutes, 46 seconds of silence, a small piece of the congregation of St. Benedict Church in Oakland prayed for justice and peace.

Seated socially distanced apart, leaders in parish ministries took part in the Mass, which was timed June 9 to showing on June 9, the date of the funeral and burial in Houston of George Floyd.

Each parish in the diocese was asked by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, to celebrate a votive Mass for Floyd.

“We march again,” Rev. Jayson Landeza said of the call from the pope. “Our feet are weary. Our hearts are heavy.”

They stood, he said, “as a people of God, in solidarity. ‘This moment in time invites us to take a stand against violence against African Americans at all times.’”

“We stand with each other at this pivotal moment in time and history to recognize black lives matter,” he said, remembering victims of state-sponsored violence and all those who have been victims of racism.

“They stood, too, he said, “as a people of hope,” to be witnesses of God’s justice and peace in this world.”

After Deacon Ronald Tuison proclaimed the Gospel, “The Beatitudes,” he and Father Landeza moved to the altar, and lay prostrate. Pastoral Associate Donna Cole and Music Director Leonard Peet moved to kneelers at the foot of the altar.

The people in the pews knelt.

For 8 minutes, 46 seconds, in the time the police officer knelt on the neck of George Floyd, the congregation was silent.

The Mass marked the first time even a small number of parishioners had been inside the church since mid-March.

“We also remember today at this Mass the repose of the soul of Mr. David Patrick Underwood, the federal security officer who was assassinated on the evening of May 29 just a few blocks from this cathedral,” Bishop Barber said.

He prayed for consolation of their grieving families and friends and “let us inspire the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn.”

He asked for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all those who work for peace and justice in our land.

After the Gospel, 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silent reflection were observed.

The bishop had asked pastors in the Diocese of Oakland to celebrate a votive Mass on June 9, the day of Floyd’s funeral and burial in Houston. Masses were celebrated in dioceses throughout California.

The absence of public Mass, and the close-knit community at this time, was particularly hard on St. Benedict, a place of faith and hope for decades of African American families.

“It’s tough being away from your faith community in a time like this, to grieve and share one another’s pain,” said Julie Hadnott, a longtime parishioner who attended the Mass for George Floyd.

“I was so moved,” she said. “I’m always filled with hope when I see people engaged in the struggle for what is right and what is just.”

Mass for Peace and Justice

Staff report

At the beginning of Votive Mass for Justice and Peace on June 9, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, quoted Pope Francis’ recent communication with US bishops: “We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.”

The Holy Father, he said, called them to pray for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and all those who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism.

The bishop had asked pastors in the Diocese of Oakland to celebrate a votive Mass on June 9, the day of Floyd’s funeral and burial in Houston. Masses were celebrated in dioceses throughout California.

“We remember today at this Mass the repose of the soul of Mr. David Patrick Underwood, the federal security officer who was assassinated on the evening of May 29 just a few blocks from this cathedral,” Bishop Barber said.

He prayed for consolation of their grieving families and friends and “let us inspire the national reconciliation and peace for which we yearn.”

He asked for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all those who work for peace and justice in our land.

After the Gospel, 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silent reflection were observed.

Bishop Barber and Very Rev. Brandon Macadaeg knelt at the altar of the Cathedral of Christ the Light.
To the Class of 2020

Congratulations to the graduates of our Catholic elementary, high schools and colleges, and to the Catholic graduates of public schools. Your family, friends and I are proud of you. We love you.

Your faith is the bridge to your future. The Church will never leave you; it is here for you always. Your practice of your faith will be essential throughout your life. Remember the power of prayer. I have personally witnessed the power of prayer, in combat in the Middle East, with the sick and those in need. Prayer can move you to a place of peace.

As you grow, you may encounter joy and success, but also trying times. You already know something about trying times. I know this has been a crazy upside down semester. And you may feel cheated out of your traditional graduation ceremony. I would.

But I want you to know that all of us in the Church, in our Catholic schools and parishes, are proud of you. And we pray God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's “wind” will propel your sails on the voyage of life.

With my fondest affection and esteem,

Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ
Bishop of Oakland

Congrats, Graduates

“May the Lord bless you and protect you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6: 24-26

Our heartfelt congratulations and blessings to the graduating Class of 2020! May God continue to surround you in His loving care as you take this next step on life’s journey.

While the end of this school year has been unprecedented, trust God’s plan for you is a future of hope. Please know you will always be a part of our school communities and in our prayers. Our sincerest appreciation to the families of our graduates as well.

Christ’s peace and joy surround you.

Kathleen Radecke
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Go forth, Graduates!

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

— St. Catherine of Siena

The Holy Spirit guided you throughout your years of study and most certainly during this pandemic. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, you resolutely navigated your final months of study with patience, fortitude and Easter Hope.

May God, the Father, be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. May Jesus Christ, the Son, inspire you to use your gifts and talents to love and serve neighbor; and may the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit continue to renew, refresh and strengthen you on your journey forward. Christ before you, behind you, beside you, all around you, and within you as you “go forth and set the world on fire.” Strong Today, Stronger Tomorrow, Strongest Together.

Come Holy Spirit! Peace and God Bless,

Rodney Pierre-Antoine
Executive Director, Lumen Christi Academies

History teacher Phil Milkey holds up an encouraging sign during the Class of 2020 car parade at Carondelet High School in Concord.
By Michele Jurich

By the COVID-19 Shelter-in-place orders in Alameda and Contra Costa counties sending students in the Diocese of Oakland to their homes in mid-March, the pivot to distance learning was made. Some of the eagerly anticipated events of the spring calendar, one by one, faced cancellation: proms, seminarian sunset, awards night, even the pomp and circumstance of graduation.

But just as distance-learning tools created opportunities to educate, they also created a chance to celebrate. At Salesian College Preparatory in Richmond, for example, a series of virtual events, including an awards ceremony and a graduation ceremony in July at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda, and Carondelet and De la Salle high schools in Concord, plan on campus graduations in early August.

Each school honored its graduates in the spring with carefully spaced parades through campus, with their masked teachers cheering them on.

Among the extra perks were special deliveries made to students’ homes by faculty at several schools, including brightly wrapped packages from Saint Mary’s College High School in Berkeley.

Vice Principal Cathy Mohnlich said the teachers were eager to sign up to make the drop-offs at the students’ homes.

“We miss seeing the kids,” she said. “We put on our creative caps,” said Sonya Simril, principal of Saint Leo the Great School on Oakland’s east side. “They are experiencing something no other class has experienced.”

But the school made sure the Class of 2020 would experience what their predecessors had, including the high school transition retreat, facilitated by St. Leo graduates who are now in high school.

With their cap and gown this year, the eighth-graders received a Class of 2020 mask with the school mascot.

A carefully marked playground, eighth-graders at St. Joseph School in Pinole became graduates. Their parents watched from their cars as their gowned and masked students crossed the stage to receive their diplomas.

It was important to Principal Natalie Lenz-Acheta that her students receive the traditional Catholic school send-off: the blessing of their pastor, Rev. Geoffrey Baram.
By Robert Cushing

I am going to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for a five-year architecture program in the fall, or at least I hope I am. COVID-19 threatens that possibility and threatens the future of this country, but my upcoming school year is the least of my worries right now.

As a Class of 2020 graduate, I can guarantee there are more of us concerned over the health and safety of our grandparents and friends with medical complications than about getting burgers after school. I can guarantee that college is a second priority to the possibility of war overseas. I can absolutely guarantee with my entire heart that my friends that I used to hang out with before shelter-in-place, before social distancing, before coronavirus, are more focused on social justice and taking it into our own hands to right the wrongs of the people placed in positions of power than walking across a stage for a piece of paper and handshake.

Being a Class of 2020 graduate is not an important distinction for us right now. We are more focused on the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade than our future, because without justice we don’t have a future.

Robert Cushing

Bishop O’Dowd High School

Without justice we have no future

Bishop O’Dowd

General Activity Award: Trinity Cooper, Edward Keenan

Loyalty Award: Joseph Sweeney, Hugh Velline

Scholar-Athlete Award: Abigail Pagila

Regents Award: Venice Albana, Tia Ravara

Ryan Thayer

Kamryn Thomas

Iashan Thomas

Robert Thomas

Monet Thompson

Victoria Timox

Dylan Tolker

Ylla Toure

Allan Trinh

Gabriela Tulchik

Skyler Tyson

Stockey

Pee Yand-Allia

Thomas Varred

Sydney Vaughan

Julya Vega

Hugh Velline

Mylissa Vo

Jaz Noddy

Amaya Walker

Jared Walker

Austin Walker

Zhihui Wang

Micaiah Word

Kayan Wsamabe

van Hoven

Juliet Wallington

Nicholas White

Vincent Wonder

Emily White

Cerin Whitehill

Breda Wilson

Hayden Williams

Jennifer Xu

Olivia Xu-Yukas

Keire Young

Makawin Young

Mikasaamekoko Young

Celine Young

TeYu Wang

Yehliu Wang

Wang Zhao

Yuri Zhao

GRADUATION 2020

THE CATHOLIC VOICE
Perfect Vision
By Isabel Atendido

Our class was considered to be the class of “Perfect Vision,” but no one could foresee that we would spend our last few months as seniors stuck at home. However, during this time apart from my classmates, I was able to reflect on many things.

I know now that I should appreciate every moment because you never know how good the moment was until it is gone. I learned to be grateful for everything and everyone in my life. And I learned to not take anything for granted.

As seniors, we were looking forward to making cherished memories of prom, grad night and graduation. But despite missing those once-in-a-lifetime events and no longer being able to see each other every day, our class remained close with the wonders of technology.

We continued to lift each other up and did our best regardless of all the chaos happening outside our home. Our Salesian community remained strong.

In the fall, I will be attending Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio. I am excited to be pursuing my passion and mapping in catechetics with a concentration in youth ministry, and communication arts.

Isabel Atendido
Salesian College Preparatory, Richmond

Salesian College Preparatory

Valedictorian: Vladimir (Alex) Gonzalez Migal
Salutatorian: Jacob Mejia
Salesian Award: Isabel Atendido
Award for Excellence in Fine Arts: Audric Reyes
Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science: Jacob Mejia
Male Scholar Athlete Award: Vladimir (Alex) Gonzalez Migal
Female Scholar Athlete Award: Siobhan Lewis

Three weeks of events to celebrate the Class of 2020 at Salesian College Preparatory helped bring a festive ending to an unusual school year: faculty and staff members brought gifts to students’ homes; a student-made video compilation; video messages from faculty and staff, as well as alumni; a retreat; prom with Mom and Dad; and a Class of 2020 Parade and Awards Pick-up on the Richmond campus. Alyssa Guzman (left), Carlos Martin (above) and Sydney Madayag (below) were among the students who enjoyed the evening parade in their honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SALESIAN COLLEGE PREPARATORY
CLASS OF 2020!

From the entire Salesian Family, we are proud of you and so happy to welcome you into the Alumni Family!

We look forward to seeing you all as engaged global citizens who will make our community and world a better place. Go Pride!

Academics, Faith, Family.

Jaguyn Aguirre
Leonardo Almeida
Khari Alvaro
Izabel Atendido
Karlo Barba
Kirsten Baxter
Shane Bell
Janie Bernabe
Vanessa Buelton
Tyler Brimham
Alaisa Cribbello
Jioning (Anno) Cse
Kaitie Chang
Juliana Chen
Chovy (Gabriel) Chen
Ariz Shairin Cotto
Sernono Cronf
Monica Cruz
Codrea (Ayu) Davies
Daylee Dunn
Joshua Eason
Kumbali (Dennis) Ejobu
Favor Edwin
Maria Escolares
Gabriel Jacobs
Nicholas Fung
George Flores
Mayaka Fong
Carroll Franco
Triton Friis
Jordan Fusion
Yifan (Genry) Gui
Christopher Garcia
Alyssa Guzman
Vladimir Gonzalez Migal
Justina Gutierrez
Nordl Inata
Carolin Hale
Bonnie Hernandez
Karin (Kim) Huang
Zhang (Thomas) Huang
Obiukwuteru (Noli) Ihimah
Ma. Sophia Patricia Ignacio
Jacob Jensen
Jeremy Jones
Riley Kenyon
Danielle Kenyon
Alysa LaFebre
Jaden Liao
Ryan Louder
Siobhan Lewis
Jeremy Lorenzo
Turner Lu
Jose Luaces
Sydney Madayag
Christine mascara
Carlos Martin
Rye Maungkay
Elizabeth Mantaras
Aujai McKenzie
Gonelle Mejia
Jacob Mejia
Selina Mejia
Leslie Mendonsa
Susan Mercolio
Jacob Miller
Jalaya Mitchell
Evelyn Novarro
Justin Ngo
Thomas Nguyen
Elizabeth Njome
Zachary Oceeeo
Juliana Pearce
Tim Poon
Joanna Portillo
Juliana Portillo
Angela Ragasiga
Francis Regula
Donnet Rhijops
Audrei Reyes
Anna Rillo
Sewa Touch
Rene Uriarte
Veronica Victor
Toy Ya
Jisuk (Andre) Wang
Amayani Washington
Michaela Wolodeschuk
Miriam Wolodeschuk
Binghan (Porty) Xie
Yi (Sunny) Xie
Vincent Yang
Xueqin (Snow) Yang
Xiaoguang (Owen) Zhu

Salesian College Preparatory • 2851 Salesian Ave. Richmond, CA 94804 • 510-234-4433 • Salesian.com
Moreau Catholic High School President Terry Lee, left, and Principal Elizabeth Guneratne stand in front of the empty theater after the completion of a graduation event. The family of each graduate accompanied them as they walked across the stage, the seats decorated with photos of their classmates.

COURTESY PHOTO

Maybe this is the year we all needed

By Simer Shera

I’m a Class of 2020 Graduate and, to be honest, I’m still trying to figure out how I feel. Four years ago, I would’ve thought I had it all figured out — I was graduating in the “coolest year,” one with a palindrome and the start of a new decade, and that, like the old 20/20 vision pun goes, it would be a year of clarity.

Somewhere along the way, though, it became apparent that this year would be far from that. In fact, I’ve never been more uncertain about my future than right now.

This might seem like a tragic situation and at first I thought it was; I was stripped of the many firsts and lasts I had been anticipating for as long as I could remember — I didn’t get to dress up for senior prom, I didn’t get to travel to Nashville for my last DECA Internationals competition, I didn’t get to attend Freshman Welcome for college, I didn’t get to say a final good-bye to the classmates — the list goes on and on.

Amongst all these “didn’ts” though, I’ve come to realize that maybe this is the year we all needed. I’ve become more aware of the world around me in the last few months at home than I’ve been in the last 17 years of my life. I’ve become conscious of each interaction I have, from handling cash to giving high-fives. I’ve learned to appreciate small, everyday experiences like standing awkwardly close in line at a grocery store. I’ve discovered that my voice matters, whether that be through a vote, protest or an informative social media post. Although I didn’t get that senior experience I expected, living through a global pandemic and a much-needed Civil Movement has, in a sense, transformed my perspective.

Valedictorian Simer Shera will pursue a psychobiology major with a pre-med emphasis at UCLA. She hopes to enroll in medical school and become a pediatric psychiatrist.

Moreau Catholic

Valedictorian: Simer Shera

Salutatorian: Maria Geraldine Charles

Cross and Anchors Award: Ian Miguel Geronimo

Moreau Catholic Theology Award: Justin Ian Canio Firmeza

Blessed Basil Moreau Award: Boston Rizal Malasan Palacios

Principal’s Award and Scholarship: Joseph Segismundo

Mariner Leadership Award and Scholarship: Reanna Mae Aquino Felix

Brother Gary Stone Memorial Award and Scholarship: Adán Salvador Nevel

GPA Awards, 1st in the Class: Tiffany Tsou

GPA Awards, 2nd in the Class: Mehul Jai

By Maria Charles

On March 12, I was wrapping up a project in my game design class when an announcement was made, something along the lines of “there will be no in-person classes, and our distance learning plan will be activated until March 30th.” However, all I heard was that we will not be coming back to school, and something told me that might be the last time I would walk through the halls of Moreau Catholic as a student, not in a pessimistic sense, but by judging the drastic impact of COVID-19 in other states and countries, I could see that my vision of walking through the halls was the first of many unanticipated lasts.

This unanticipated end to our school year gave us all a reality check—that despite what we might have planned, there is only so much of life in our control. Throughout human history, people have overcome plagues and wars, and the only difference between our current situation and previous ones is that we are currently experiencing it as opposed to learning about it. Even though we were distraught and a bit afraid that we would be missing out on the opportunity to celebrate an end to our high school journey, we did gain resilience and we were able to develop a mentality of making the best of whatever situation life puts us in.

Spending more time at home has allowed us to take a pause from school, sports and extracurricular activities, allowing us to reflect on things, and spend time in reflection, with myself and my family. I believe that despite this situation seeming to be a small part of God’s larger plan, which we will be able to comprehend in the future, we must stand strong in faith and hope.

Salutatorian Maria Charles will attend UC San Diego this fall to study pharma- cological chemistry and pre-med.

Moreau Catholic

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

Moreau Catholic graduates have been accepted to 107 different universities and colleges across the country and have garnered over $65 million in scholarships and grants! By cultivating their hearts and minds, Moreau Catholic graduates have become responsible citizens and a positive force in the transformation of our global community.

JUNE 22, 2020

GRADUATION 2020

THE CATHOLIC VOICE

Graduation 2020

Moreau Catholic High School - moreaucatholic.org - 27770 Mission Boulevard, Hayward, California 94544

By Maria Charles

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Carondelet hosted a drive-through Senior Parade for the Class of 2020 on May 15. Students and families drove through the campus parking lot, showered with cheers and well-wishes from their teachers and staff, took pictures and video at a special setup, and received a rose and cookie from the Parents Association. Carondelet is planning on hosting a graduation ceremony on Aug. 2.

Valedictorian: Lindsey Huguet
Salutatorian: Megan Anton
Carondelet Award: Eva Eletheriadis
Fontbonne Award: Rachel Gotvald
Medaille Award: Haley Brathwaite
Principal’s Award: Natalie Ionescu
Senior Athlete Award: Alex Zandonella
Valedictorian Finalists: Eva Eletheriadis, Sophia Freitas, Natalie Ionescu, Sophia Riva, Veronica Tagaloa

Preparing young women to live with heart, faith, courage and excellence in the Catholic tradition and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph.
Science teacher Christina Dedfluh picks up her set of senior gift boxes to deliver to students' homes.


Saint Mary's College H.S.

Saint Mary's Award for Faith: Ryan Frederick Christ
Saint Mary's Award for Community: Thomas Henry Huebner, Hannah Rose McKiernan
Saint Mary's Award for Service: Aidan Conor Jacobs Walker, Lucas Ikika Manuel-Scheibe
Saint Mary's Award for English: Jordan James Siemens
Saint Mary's Award for Laboratory Science: Aidan Conor Jacobs Walker, Alexia V. Vergil, Thomas Huebner
Saint Mary's Award for Math: Yingtong Deng, George Peter Kurata
Saint Mary's Award for Performing Arts: Thomas Henry Huebner, Giuliana Sorbi, Lucas Manuel-Scheibe

De La Salle Award for Religious Studies: Aidan Jacobs Walker, Tobias Milton Burack, Kaitlyn Maria Iglesias, Owen Patrick

Principal's Award: Tobias Milton, Burack, Kaitlyn Maria Iglesias, Owen Patrick Jason Mazier Roche, Kayla Rosemon

Valedictorian: Jordan James Siemens

Saint Mary's Award for World Languages: Ailish Anne McGiffin (French), Calista Sperry (Spanish)

General Academic Excellence Award: Aidan Jacobs Walker, Wiona Tan

Inspirational Athletes of the Year: Alyssa Joy Kaumbulu-Docherty, Wyatt


Inspirational Athletes of the Year: Tan Aidan Conor Jacobs Walker, Wiona

General Academic Excellence Award: Odalys Andrea Sosa Pineda (Spanish)

Saint Mary's Award for World Languages: Ailish Anne McGiffin (French), Calista Sperry (Spanish)

General Academic Excellence Award: Aidan Jacobs Walker, Wiona Tan

Saint Mary's College High School Class of 2020!

We are proud of every one of you. You have touched our hearts and the hearts of those around you. You are now alumni of Saint Mary’s and will always have a home at Peralta Park. Live, Jesus, in our hearts! Forever!

By Jordan Walton

I could have never imagined that my senior year would end like this. Graduating during a full on pandemic was not in my plans. I remember walking in the auditorium as a freshman in May of 2016 at Saint Mary’s College High School. I was so young, nervous and excited. This would be the school I would graduate from in four years. Each year I would see the seniors in robes and tassels, their names being called for winning awards and great GPAs, and that would be me in 2020.

Well, not exactly. COVID-19 made me miss my prom, Senior Sunset, Senior Breakfast, College Commit Day, Baccalaureate Mass, my senior track season, and my chance to hear my name called as I walked across the stage of Zellerbach. I was so angry. Why now? Why me? Why the Class of 2020? School continued on in a distance setting with no answers to any of those questions. I soon realized I was not going to get an answer I wanted. I had to accept that “It is what it is.”

I learned that we have no control over certain situations. I learned that often you have to look beyond yourself and realize that you are not the only one being affected by the situation at hand. My school did everything possible to make sure we continued our education and had special senior moments: like PROME (prom from home), a virtual senior lunch, and a car parade graduation. Thank you, Saint Mary’s! My senior year is one that will never be forgotten.

Jordan Walton plans to attend Chapman University in Southern California, where he will study applied human physiology and be a member of the men’s track team.

Congratulations, Saint Mary’s College High School Class of 2020!
Faith has helped me through 2020

By William Milosevich

2020 has been one of the most influential years for young adults across America, but not the way you may think. As Salutatorian of the De La Salle Class of 2020, I believe that it is my responsibility to not only recount my story regarding the last few months, but the story of my peers as well.

At the beginning, we were ignorant. As the final bell rang, releasing us to our “two-to-three week” quarantine, cheers broke out across campus. We had no idea what the coming weeks would bring, and none of us expected to be separated for so long.

During the first couple of weeks, we were pretty positive and found ways to stave off boredom and loneliness. We called each other almost every day and played games together over Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype. But soon, not even these outlets were enough, and we were alone in our rooms day after day.

School traditions, events and activities were all canceled or postponed, and we began to grow restless. So, like normal high schoolers, we bent the rules: friends snuck out to parks to see friends, couples went on social-distance dates, and, for the people not allowed to leave their homes, special visits were made so we could speak to each other through window sills or by other means.

As the weeks went on, things got tougher and tougher for everyone, how ever we never gave up supporting one another. We created a community based on the hope that things will get better, and I believe that was possible because of what we were taught at De La Salle and my Catholic elementary school, St. Perpetua. It is the faith that has helped me through 2020 so far, and I believe it can carry my peers and I through the future.

In the upcoming school year, I will be continuing my Catholic education at the University of Notre Dame in its science program. My goal is to double major in pre-professional studies and another biological science and then proceed onto medical school in order to become a doctor.

William Milosevich
De La Salle High School

De La Salle

Remember the power of good

By Cameron Katz

It was early May when the finish ing touches on the valedictorian speech that I would deliver to the De La Salle Class of 2020. In the best of times, that speech would have been delivered in a celebratory ceremony in the quad on Winton Drive. Instead, we were sheltering in place, learning online, and navigat ing a new reality. Just a few weeks later, we bear witness to social justice from the fight for justice throughout our country. The world is not the same as it was a few months ago.

The first line of my Valedictorian Speech began: “What a journey, but we have finally reached the end.” Of course, my reference point was the end of an amazing albeit interrupted high school experience, but I had the chance to rewrite this opening sentence, I would say to the Class of 2020 that we are just at the beginning.

As young men of faith at De La Salle, we are taught that “we are not only in the Holy Presence of God, but also in the Holy Presence of each other.” As a 14-year-old freshman, I doubt I understood the depth of these profound words. As an 18-year-old senior about to embark into the world, I get it. These words are a call to action. I know that the world feels divided right now. As I reflect on these circumstances, I’ve thought a lot about a passage in the book, “East of Eden.” John Steinbeck writes, “Now you that you don’t have to be perfect, you can be good.”

Here’s my take-away: Remember the power of good. As we graduate into our new begin nings, I challenge the Class of 2020 to actively live what you have learned at De La Salle. Be good to yourself. Be good to others. Be good to the world. Be good in the way that God intended you to be.

Begin your next chapter and don’t forget to just be good.

Cameron Katz
De La Salle High School

Holy Names High School

Holy Names High School gratefully welcomed a small gathering of families and faculty on campus to honor the Class of 2020. Students played a major role in the creativity behind this year’s graduation, and the back-campus car ceremony, though non-traditional, proved a fitting tribute for this group of young women. Graduates and their families packed into their allotted vehicle and were welcomed by faculty and staff with music and signs as they drove on to back campus. After a welcome from their principal, and speeches from their classmates, each graduate emerged from her car to a chorus of cheers and honking horns as she approached the table to accept her diploma.

Each graduate stepped out of her vehicle for one final communal moment on the Class of 2020 completed the tradition of moving their tassels to the left.

Holy Names Scholarship Federation Life Members:
Tiffany Aguaweze, Mona Alldabashi, Haile Allen, Leia Barnes, Allian Bravo, Ana Clancy, Fenel Demissie, Van Dinhs, Leslie Esguivel, Andrea Foster, Carolina Guevara, Abigail Hasselbrink, Kayla Jones, Tatiana LaCome, Mariva Leong, Salia Lorenz, Marianna Maciel, Ava Purifallah, Yessenia Sanchez Ocampo, Jacqueline Torres, Leah Wedman, Megan Wedman, Sa’Mya Wilson

Graduation with Honors:
Tiffany Aguaweze, Leila Boro, Ana Clancy, Fenel Demissie, Van Dinhs, Leslie Esguivel, Andrea Foster, Carolina Guevara, Abigail Hasselbrink, Kayla Jones, Tatiana LaCome, Salia Lorenz, Mariva Leong, Yessenia Sanchez Ocampo, Jacqueline Torres, Leah Wedman, Megan Wedman

Gold A Award:
Tiffany Aguaweze, Ana Clancy, Fenel Demissie, Van Dinhs, Leslie Esguivel, Abigail Hasselbrink, Kayla Jones, Salia Lorenz, Marianna Maciel, Ava Purifallah, Jacqueline Torres, Megan Wedman, Sa’Mya Wilson

California Scholarship Federation Certificate:
Mona Alldabashi, Haile Allen, Leia Barnes, Allian Bravo, Ana Clancy, Fenel Demissie, Van Dinhs, Leslie Esguivel, Andrea Foster, Carolina Guevara, Abigail Hasselbrink, Kayla Jones, Tatiana LaCome, Salia Lorenz, Mariva Leong, Yessenia Sanchez Ocampo, Jacqueline Torres, Leah Wedman, Megan Wedman

Gino & Gloria Martinucci ‘49 Scholarship:
Megan Wedman

Noblesse Oblige Service Award:
Abigail Hasselbrink

Mother Marie Rose Duhon Legacy Award:
Vida Long, Leah Wedman, Megan Wedman

We are unstoppable

By Abigail Hasselbrink

We do not turn away in the face of adversity. We see it as an opportunity to create justice in the world. We know that our accomplishments deserve to be recognized, and luckily, so do our most staunch advocates.

So, we are gathered here today, six feet apart, because we are resilient. Because we are unique. Because we are supported. Because we seized this opportunity. But most importantly, because we must. It is our duty to actively live what you have learned at De La Salle. Be good to yourselves. Be good to others. Be good to the world. Be good in the way that God intended you to be.

We are unstoppable.

I liked graduation because it truly reenacted how much our staff at Holy Names cares about us. The fact that our school cared about our graduation enough to organize a drive-in graduation shows how they recognize us and all we’ve accomplished.

We are not just students to them, and they are not just faculty and staff to us. From being greeted on back campus with a hype crew to the heartfelt speeches and messages, this was a graduation I’ll never forget. Holy Names didn’t let COVID-19 stop us from having a real ceremony. I don’t feel like I missed out on anything. For that, I am eternally grateful.

During a gap year before college, Abigail Hasselbrink will travel to “New America in the spring of 2021. She will attend Denison University in Granville, Ohio, in the fall of 2021.”
In a word: tiring

By Zavier Annis

Tiring. If I had to describe my Class of 2020 experience in one word, that would be it. Seems self-contradictory, doesn’t it? I could attend classes from my bed at home but still feel thoroughly fatigued; sapped of my typically boundless energy.

My teachers were dedicated and understanding. Still, remote learning wore us out because it was all of the work with none of the fun. From lunch with friends to prom to Grad Night to every spring sport, our year had been ripped away from us. “Canceled” became a buzzword. Frankly, staying at home just exacerbated our already-declining end-of-high-school motivation.

Everything that we’d waited four years to experience was falling like dirt through the cracks. But I’ve come to realize that something else — something stronger — took root within our disappointment.

I saw it in the incredibly ambitious projects my classmates took on in their increased downtime, from a massive egg-launching ballista to a heartwarming 15-minute senior class video. I felt it in the bubbly encouragement we offered each other via text during our virtual senior awards ceremony. I experienced it in the tremendous, disheartening lack of community presence for our celebratory car procession. And I witnessed it in my peers who solemnly donned masks and signs to march peacefully against horrendous acts of racist brutality.

Through every cancellation, every letdown, we rediscovered something essential: universal hope for our future, and powerful love for each other. This year, we have all made tremendous sacrifices out of our ethical responsibility to our community. But we have unequivocally risen above the heartache to find the hope that keeps us moving forward. To all the members of the Class of 2020: I am blown away by your resilience every day and I am truly proud to be one of you.

Stay strong, stay healthy and stay faithful.

Zavier Annis
St. Joseph Notre Dame High School

Congratulations to the Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School Class of 2020!

We wish you the best as you go off to college and pursue your passions, and we offer you our blessing for the future. GO PILOTS!

Your futures are bright!

Visit www.sjnd.org/class-of-2020 to read where our Pilots are flying next

| Michael Proffitt was required to earn 21 merit badges on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. He has also earned all of Scouting’s 137 available merit badges, a feat achieved by fewer than 450 boys in the history of the organization. Michael is a member of the Class of 2020 of St. Joseph Notre Dame High School. | The school will announce their senior class awards on Aug. 1. | While St. Joseph Notre Dame High School has postponed its graduation ceremony to August, the first Saturday of June did not go uncelebrated. A procession of decorated cars made its socially distanced way down Alameda’s Chestnut Street, while cap- and-gowned members of the Class of 2020 received accolades from the school faculty, administration and staff. |
Drive-in graduation at St. Joseph Fremont

Special to The Catholic Voice
The graduates and their families at St. Joseph School in Fremont were overjoyed to participate in a drive-in graduation ceremony, complete with student speakers, music and decorations.

“They had to jump through hoops to get it approved by the city” one parent said, but all agreed it was worth the extra effort. Families stayed in their cars in compliance with the Alameda County Health Order’s strict regulations.

Students wore graduation masks imprinted with the school logo, a symbol of their school pride and a sign of the times. Julianna Bondoc (far right) was one of three student speakers and received the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence.


Assumption School
Assumption School grads came on Thursday, June 3, to pick up diplomas and drive through a balloon arch at the front of the parking lot. Assumption School’s graduation was supposed to be a drive-in theater but because the curfew hit, staff posted the prerecorded video (with last minute adds for the live speeches) to Facebook.
Christ lights the way

By Rodney Pierre-Antoine

As a community of faith, we navigate darkness by focusing on Lumen Christi Academy. We center ourselves on the light and love of Christ as we move forward through the unknown and contrive the struggles before us.

The struggle is real and cannot be ignored. Senseless killings of George Floyd, Amiraud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and so many others. May they rest in peace.

This violence is part in parcel to the deep-rooted racism and systemic injustices we as a nation straddle between peaceful and rioting and looting. All of this is playing out with the COVID-19 pandemic still an ominous backdrop.

Rodney Pierre-Antoine is executive director of the Lumen Christi Academies.

Pomp and circumstance at St. Elizabeth School

 attent the St. Elizabeth School. After photos, our teachers created their memory books wearing the mask. and the students took one picture for the year than they expected. When it became clear that a traditional graduation was not going to be possible, the faculty and staff began to plan alternative ways to celebrate our students.

Pittsburg. in San Pablo; and St. Peter Martyr in Richmond; St. Paul of the City of Siena in Martinez; Anthony and St. Elizabeth in Oakland; St. Catherine of Siena in Pittsburg. Many of us find ourselves glued to our TVs as we watch communities across the country light their candles to celebrate the light of Christ in the world.

Catholic education is a powerful driver for the change and empathy needed in our world today. Our Lumen Christi Academies are forming Christ-centered scholars who change the world.

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Catholic education is a powerful driver for the change and empathy needed in our world today. Our Lumen Christi Academies are forming Christ-centered scholars who change the world.

Thank you for your support and patronage.

Bryan Alexander Garcia

Class of 2020

Congratulations Class of 2020

Brahma Lyne, Asceta

Colima Oneyre, Chukwu Agbo

Mokih De Vera, Carlo Alleva

Jonathan Oroz, Arzu

Angel Barrios

Jesus Bartolo, Sanchez

Ramsey Princess Barrera

Estefanina, Beat

Laura Beatrice

Anthony Joseph Beatrice

Anita Revrenda

Gissia Bona

Madison Jake Botta

Nathan Matthew Burke

Ma Idalor Calderon

Miriana Cantachua

Anthony Cardenas, Jarquin

Ashley Carrasco Marroquin

Jadley Castillo

Lain A Centineros,Ortiz

Nancy Goudhike, Cervantes

Alicia Chruma

Isabelle Marie Croykie

Alicia Michelle Crosby

Mia spraying Drenn, Dodir

David Osiozemhede, Dika

Peter Simon Draper Arrows

Sophieana Kolb, Espinoza

Guillermo Ag Espinosa, Heredia

Joselin Espinoza

Briy Ramos

Karoline Figueroa

James, Amaro Fleischman

Jacob Flores

Zyani Flores

Adrian V. Franco

Brenda Fuentes, Jaurez

Sarah Dogo, Tami Fung

Josue Ricardo Garcia Gimenez

Bryan Alexander Garcia

Gonzalo A Garcia

Aiden E Garrett

Brielle Gonzalez

Carlos Gonzalez

Lilia Jeanne Gonzalez

Loz Alia Guzman

Natalie Maricio Gonzalez

Andrew Sophia Gonzalez

Johnston Xu

Kingston Johanne Happe

Marah E Barr

Jaday Hunchak

Karla Herrens

Ricardo Hinojosa

Gabriela Virginia Jensen

Damaris Jimenez

Serenys, Alexandre Ramos

Sriking Joe, Kauri Lall

Fabian, Amando Landeros

Kerriy, Alyce Lawson

Amaya Joylin Lea Pumros

Windy Longoria

Matian Lopez Laredo

Angela Lopez Rojas

Stephanus Lu

Mikaela Gabrielle Lucas

Jorge Micas

Nathan Martin

Mackenzie A.R. Mc Call

Carl McClench

Jason Samuel Mcei

Jordy Mendez

Elizabeth Mendezona

Janet Goudhike, Merino Aguirre

Anthony Mendoza

Rexlyn Miranda

Victoriano Antonio Montez

Bryan Moris

Jones A. Morales

Mikky Monschos

Luna Morris

Kaguschu Munoro

Michael Ngo

Victor Manuel Ochoa Barajas

Precious Oluse"o

Vivian Onuwa

Jesus Ortiz Del Toro

Kahil Paikka

Laura Pachak

Saul Zuno

Luat K. Vo

Amelia Vela Victa

Yadhira J. O. Vazquez

Araceli Ulloa Soto

Sabrina Tristan

Jennifer Ashley Swank

Connor Villar Silorio

Caitlin Rae Silorio

Avery Marie Shipe

Trevor Shaw

Joshua Jakarie Serrano Mejia

Abigail Catherine Sengendo

Edmundo Sonia Dominguez

Joshua Jakari Serrano Mejia

Trevor Shaw

Ricky Steacy

Avery Marie Shipe

Carla Rae Mata

Costa, Villar Sainto

Jennifer Ashley Stevink

Selenia Tontom

Ascenzi, Elini Sono

Jadyn Utamere Amechi

Tashi J. O. Nwipet

Amelia Sida Vieca

Lael K. Vo

Kiran Motons Zungko

Sadie Zunto

Congratulations Class of 2020

The queen of All Saints Class of 2020 journeys across the bridge from their elementary school chapter into their new chapter of high school. St. Catherine of Siena’s “Infinity 8” ended their time at the Minatines school with a retreat, “Created for Greatness in the image of God,” and were celebrated by the school and parish community in a drive through parade. The Class of 2020 will return for a Baccalaureate Mass when the community can gather in church again.

In addition to the faculty and staff, special guests included our pastor, Rev. Antonio Galindo, OPM; Rodney Pierre-Antoine, executive director of Lumen Christi Academies, and Rev. Joe Bradley, who led the students fall retreat.

The traditional march, “Pomp and Circumstance,” was played to conclude the ceremony as photos showing the graduates wearing their COVID-19 masks as well as photos showing the students holding signs or wearing clothing representing the high school they will be attending in the fall.

While certainly not the ceremony they were expecting, we hope and pray that our graduating class of 2020 felt our love, our pride, and our support as their eighth-grade year, and their time as students at St. Elizabeth School, came to a close. A traditional Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation ceremony are planned for Aug. 7 and 8.

By Rodney Pierre-Antoine
Graduation 2020

The 2020 CYO “American Division” Boys’ Basketball Playoffs were the conclusion to the CYO season for 62 participating teams from around the Oakland diocese. Before a packed gym at St. Bede’s Parish Center in Hayward, the eighth-grade “AA” final featured Good Shepherd (orange) and St. Clement, two local SAC CYO League teams and Hayward cross-city rivals. Good Shepherd defeated Our Lady of Guadalupe to win the 8th grade title. Good Shepherd (orange) defeated Our Lady of Guadalupe to win 8th grade A boys basketball title. Good Shepherd led throughout the contest but was closely pursued by the OLG team. The fourth quarter loaded the game for Good Shepherd, scoring 17 points to win a back-to-back championship, 49-35. High scorers for St. Bede was Page Anchowa with 12 and EJ Campbell of St. Clement the game high scorer with 17.

Basketball

The teams had met twice during their league season, with each team winning one game. This third game was now for the diocesan championship. St. Bede was the defending diocesan champion, having won the 7 “AA” championship game over St. Clement the previous year. The final was fast paced with changing leads. St. Bede led halftime, 15-14, but St. Clement countered, leading 28-27 at the end of the third quarter. With less than a minute to play at the end of the fourth quarter, EJ Campbell from St. Clement and St. Bede’s Page Anchowa each traded 3’s for a 38-38 tie. St. Bede’s Tzahari Trevino then hit a game-winning shot for the 40-38 St. Bede victory and another diocesan championship. High scorer for St. Bede was Page Achonwa with 12 and EJ Campbell of St. Clement the game high scorer with 17.

The eighth-grade “A” championship game was between two teams from opposite ends of the diocese — defending champion Good Shepherd, Pittsburg, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fremont. Good Shepherd led throughout the contest but was closely pursued by the OLG team. The fourth quarter loaded the game for Good Shepherd, scoring 17 points to win a back-to-back championship, 49-35. High scorers for each team were Chase Johnson for Good Shepherd with 24 points and Tyson Cincavage from OLG with 12.

Playoffs teams are divided into two divisions, “A” and “AA,” with the “AA” division for the larger leagues and parishes, and the “A” division for smaller leagues or Catholic school programs.

Volleyball

Twenty-four volleyball teams, first- or second-place finishers in their respective CYO leagues, were invited to play for three days in the annual February playoffs. St. Bede Parish Center Gym in Hayward was packed with cheering family members and schoolmates to the atmosphere of well-played final matches.

The eighth-grade division championship was played between School of the Madeleine, Berkeley, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fremont. In last year’s playoffs, the two teams played in semifinals with the Madeleine winning in three sets and then going on to win the 2019 seventh-grade championship. This year, the same two teams met in a rematch for the eighth-grade championship. Fittingly, the match was again played to three sets.

In the close first set, and with the game tied at 21, Guadalupe went ahead 24-21 and then held on to win, 25-23, with player Madeline Bader scoring the winning serve. The Madeleine dominated the second set convincingly in the second set, leading most of the way and winning 25-19 behind the serving of Ashley Tobeada.

The Madeleine dominated the deciding third set, winning 15-4 behind the serving and play of Karis Bishop. Karis’ hits at the net were indefensible and she scored the championship point with a spike, securing back-to-back championships for her Madeleine team.

Keeping a family tradition, Karis is the daughter of Grace Bishop, the Madeleine head coach, who also played on a diocesan championship team for the Madeleine as an eighth-grader.

St. Bede’s Tzahari Trevino then hit a game-winning shot for the 40-38 St. Bede victory and another diocesan championship. High scorer for St. Bede was Page Achonwa with 12 and EJ Campbell of St. Clement the game high scorer with 17.

Good Shepherd (orange) defeated Our Lady of Guadalupe to win 8th grade A boys basketball title. Good Shepherd led throughout the contest but was closely pursued by the OLG team. The fourth quarter loaded the game for Good Shepherd, scoring 17 points to win a back-to-back championship, 49-35. High scorers for each team were Chase Johnson for Good Shepherd with 24 points and Tyson Cincavage from OLG with 12.

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By Rachel Kimball

For the longest time, I couldn’t see my life beyond Holy Rosary. I kind of thought that the world would just end and that would be it. And since the beginning of 2020, that kind of seemed like that was a possibility. But it hasn’t. We’re still here. And guess what? Our journey is far from over. Like Hamilton, there’s a million things we haven’t done.

So the world hasn’t ended. Class of 2020, what do you do? We keep on living. We know there’s pain ahead, but there’s also opportunities and new experiences and treasures that await us. We have so much life left to live that we can’t even imagine what we’ll do with it. Our journey is far from over.

Holy Rosary has taught us quite a bit, but in all that time, it was only preparing us for what comes next. Don’t worry, parents, because you got your money’s worth. Not only has this school taught us academically, but it also gave us life lessons. You can’t be afraid of hard work. Things in life will be unfair. Hard work is required. There will be highs and lows.

But think about all the great memories you’ve made at this school. All the fun times we had together on field trips. All the funny moments in class. All the drama at the school dances. That was life. And there’s more of it to be lived.

This school has taught us well and now we will go on to make our own decisions, carve our own paths, and build on the foundation this school has given us. Six guys, the future is wide open. Do with it what you will, but don’t forget from whence you came. And this too shall pass.

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So be excited about the future, because there’s a million things we haven’t done.

This is excerpted from Rachel Kimball’s speech at graduation at Holy Rosary School in Antioch.

Rachel Kimball delivered the graduation address at Holy Rosary School in Antioch.
St. Philip Neri School filmed the eighth-grade graduation over four days and edited the video to create one graduation ceremony. A graduation parade was set for June 10 at the Alameda school.

St. Felicitas

Led by Principal Meghan Jorgensen, faculty and staff at St. Felicitas School in San Leandro created a caravan to deliver lawn signs to the 2020 graduates. Students graduated from St. Felicitas on June 13.

St. Joseph School

Learning through Faith, Service, and Community

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 Congratulations to the Class of 2020

St. Leander School

San Leandro

CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2020

Charlotte Acevedo Estelle Kress
Alexandra Aguilar Alexa Madrigal
Juliet Anderson Harper McAllister
Joaquin Basiochi Cassie McDougle
Marlo Baill Anthony Nakamura
Karin Bishop Lilly O’Brien
Alexander Brass Annika Punz
Naomi Beckie Mia Robinson
Olive Calderon Kayla Rodriguez
Blake Christine Tyler Soto
Cesare Crawford Jr. Gabriella Souza
Sophia Guzman Ashley Taboada
Alayna Dickerson Jake Vass
Julia Dolan Isabella Whitling
Emanuel Fabrizio Alexis Williams
Eliza Grant Kelley Wong
Charlie Higley
Breeannon Jacobs Walker Madison Wong
Elliott Jennings

St. Leander School

San Leandro

CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2020

Joseph Africano
Jessie Cerna
Kevin Chapman
Nilan Crockett
Kauaa Edwards
Kyra Progoz
Savannah Jones
Melanie Martinez
Matthew Munoz
Maria Ortega
Nina Pham
Sophia Ramirez
Robert Roena
Sebastian Rivadeneyra
Frederick Simon
Blaine Urrutia
Robert Vazquez

ST. LEANDER SCHOOL
San Leandro
Congratulations
Corpus Christi School, Piedmont
Graduating Class of 2020

Eva Ligua Abdul-Rahim
Matthew Nicholas Aguino
Michael James Bruin
Natalie Jean Camedo
Josefina Rose de Melo
Matthew Dominguez
Riley Madison Dunne
Ellenor Malbyre Estavillo
Duncan James Wymar Gallaway
Strettia Elisabeth Gerontides
Ava Quinn Harrison
Mears Alice Hayes
Jake Stuart Johnston
Charlotte Louise Keady
Aya Sofya Pascoo Leopardi
Quinn Reilly McFarland
Kevin Sean McKillop
Navya Newton
Lucy Helen Louise O’Leary Herreras
Gabriela Sophia Palladino
Isaac Liu Pave
Owen Lucas Pave
Eva Grace Perez
Louisa Hope Perry-Picciotto
Evan Mullan Quinn
Jacob Joseph Rohlfes
Audrey Joy Sanger
Ayden Joseph Scott
Jack Steven Swinney
Sage Tolbert
Alexander M. Velasco
Charles Votel

In announcing her award, 49ers EDU said of Chen, who has taught for more than 12 years, “Tiffany has brought worldwide experiences to her 29 fifth-graders, introducing them to different careers and passions, like taking them to EA Sports to learn about video game development or to NASA, to learn what it takes to be an astronaut or even to her alma mater Holy Names University to inspire the next generation of teachers.

“The impact that Tiffany has had on her community and her students was put on display at her wedding when all six of her classes showed up to be a part of it.” Chen expressed her gratitude in receiving the honor. “To earn an award dedicated to teachers makes me so grateful for all the mentors that helped me become the teacher that I am today. To win this award means that I am seen and appreciated for the work I do,” she said. Award recipients receive a $5,000 stipend for in-classroom materials and resources for the next academic year, mentorship of the recipients and his or her fellow teachers led by Edwards, and formal recognition at a Levi’s Stadium event with family and colleagues.

“in the midst of everything going on in our country right now it is so important that we recognize the work that our teachers are doing to educate our student’s minds as well as their hearts,” said Edwards, a nationally renowned sociologist, civil rights activist, educator, author and 49ers team consultant.

St. Bede teacher wins ‘Follow Your Bliss’ Award
Special to The Catholic Voice
Tiffany Chen, the fifth grade teacher at St. Bede School in Hayward, is one of five Bay Area educators to receive the Dr. Harry Edwards “Follow your Bliss” Award from 49ers EDU, a program of the 49ers Foundation.

The grant was created in 2017 by the 49ers Foundation for full-time educators across the Bay Area who exemplify a commitment to their students, families and communities to lead the future generation with purpose, passion, dedication and love.

The award’s namesake stems from the first step in Edwards’ Blueprint for Academic Achievement and Success: “Follow Your Bliss - Explore and consider paths that might lead not just to achieving a career interest but to realizing your calling – the educational option and emphasis that for you lies at the confluence of talent, passion, productive potential, and opportunity.”

Blessings at St. Bede
St. Bede School in Hayward honored the Class of 2020 with a drive-thru ceremony on May 20. Students and their families were greeted and cheered by the staff and Juclery. Rev. Seamus Farrell, pastor of St. Bede, blessed each graduate and family as they drove through the procession.

St. Bede School
Richmond, California

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 Your St. David School Family loves you!

Lorena Barillas-Ralda
Maximiliano Camarillo
Angelina Cordaway
Sonja Dickert
Alexis Garcia-Banegas
Jaylynn Jacobs
Bailey Kenyon
Aryan Khan
Kanzaga Madoshi
Steen Madsen
Henry Melendez-Perez
Ashley Melendez
Mario Orozco
Diego Ramos
Tatiana Read
Jacob Rowland
Ricardo Vargas
Alexander Waterhouse

St. David School
Richmond, California

Graduation 2020

Class of 2020

Mia Benedetti
Lucia Lautedki
Claire Mount-Blue-Silman
Edward Thomas LoGaia
Roxin Allyn Fuentes-Balda
Presley Liu
Kaiser Edward Claeson
Vita Luong
Alyson Juliette Conti
Mary-Elizabeth Maness-Fernal
Ariana M. DeMilo
Matilda Amihan Mares
Olpho F. Duarte Luso
Stella Grace McGarty
Naydi Nathalia Franco
Laura Paul Ndier
Micki Goddard
Mara Simone Parker
Cooper Kimberly Graham
Will Reiten
Elis Helene Halvadoni-Yunzel
Breya J. Stockard
Caleb Zachary Kallstein
Alana Alicia Woods

Congratulations to our graduates!

“What we are is God’s gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.”
—Albert Einstein (American-Swiss, 1879-1955)”
Congratulations and God's Blessings to
Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
Class of 2020

Jaden Ashley
Ava Botzore
Caleb Busch
Jish Clirio
Aiden Cole-Shephard
Bing Cole-Shephard
Matthew Crowe
Isabella Edeos
Simone Flora
Sophia Horos
Adriana Foley-Walker
Iacob Foreman
Ernest Hang
Alyson Harrison
Dominic Hernandez
Clare Kennedy
Joshua LaForce
Sabrina Li
Brooke Mattie
Dillon McVeigh
Olivia Miraglia
Benjamin Nguyen
Ethan Nguyen
Esabella Reta
Daniel Sanchez
Miguel Sevilla
Isaac Tokurz
Adairia Watson
Chloe Wongs

St. Raymond School
Dublin, CA
Congratulations the Graduating Class of 2020

Claire Andre
Jayelle Antonio
Alessa Valencia Arados
Mia Becker
Aidan Scott Christen
Shawn DeCosta
Kaitlyn Duarte
Aidan Ellis
Zachary Ferrin
Diego Flores
Jack Haydon
Kira Hernandez
Brooke Hersch
Cyril Joby
Laura Kelly
Jason Knapp
Gianna Lowell
Niko Marais
Manuel Martín
Troy Matheny
Shannon McCormack
BJ Meyn
Madison Miyamoto
Christopher Nguyen
Shane O'Flynn
Jake Patterson
Andrew Primas
Ella Reardon
Harper Robe
Maria Clara Spazina
Nadia Shorman
Anaisa Smiet
Neil Thomas
Abigail Wald
Mackenzie Wright

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School
Walnut Creek
Congratulations Class of 2020!

Michelle Andal
Alec Blair
Ava Boccio
EarlChan
Sean Cervich
Mariska De Luong
William Devine
Cecilia Ernst
Bella Galens
Benjamin Graham
Sean Iglesias
Megan Kavanagh
Hailey Kenny
Luke Lazarte
Michael Lencioni
Sophie Limatice
Angeli Livelo
Sarah Lohmeier
Sophia Lohmeier
Taylor Madge
Anna McKenna
Keane Ponce
Jake Powers
Abigail Roder
Alexandra Schneider
Giada Solorano
Nicholas Stark
Alexa Stern
Lino Tosi
Hank Tripaldi
Nathan Vom
Dominic Zapata

St. Pius X
Congratulations to our Graduates
Class of 2020

Natalie Aiken
Nicholas Aiken
Victoria Alessandri
Tyler Scott Bergren
Benjamin Broccailla
William Ryan Byers
Marina Castilla-Luis
Joseph Donovan DeItzchman
Rivas Delgado
Tatum Elizabeth Haggerty
Diego Heredia
Madeline Jorge
Katherine Kosinskiy
Różańc Mckear
Jack Ryan Mechelke
Marina Miller
Ann Katherin Missishan
Amalise Mott
Liam Michael Nagel
Joey O'Hea
Ana Pever
Beatrice S. Boberge
Kennedy Augusta Shea
Dylan Somovoy
Cole Travale
Parker Tulli
Carolina Victoria Wackowski
Wyatt Winter

St. Joseph's Catholic School
Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Edmund Joseph Ma
Keira Alison Marcille
Julian Fernando Melendez-Miranda
Elmer Emil Lucero Montecarlo Jr.
Kailyn Renae Oldham
Elia Sjordan Pagliassonio
William Joseph Quintana
Maite Evarado Romero
Jesus Santos Macias
Katrina Antonio Salas Suzuki
Carmina Day Tolentino
Andres Lorenzo Francescavalentino
Elizabeth Vazquez Macias
Monique Mandol Villanueva
Tyler Thomas Zajac

St. Perpetua School
Congratulations to our Graduates
Class of 2020

Thomas Bevlaqua
Kyle Bunn
Fraser Campbell
Jamie Collins
Ardisole Dailey
Nicholas Donovol
Brandon Dougherty
Kyla Douglas
Connor Fenn
Claire Hoeffel
Catherine Kennedy
Carter Lew
Riley McDermott
Benjamin Mitchell
Viviana Pena
Michaela Rollo

ST. THERESA SCHOOL
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
OBITUARIES

Sister Mary Peter Traviss, OP

Sister Mary Peter Traviss, OP, died of chronic health problems in Fresno on May 18 at 95. She was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and in the 71st year of her religious profession. Born on Aug. 31, 1928, in Biloja, she was the daughter of Clarence Traviss and Maria Leusia Hagata.

After attending Escandon Elementary School, Elizabeth, Sister Mary Peter enrolled at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, a California Flintridge, where she met the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. In 1946 she entered the Dominican Sisters and made her first profession of vows in 1948. For 12 years she taught elementary students at St. James School and St. Anthony School, San Francisco, and at St. Boniface School, Anaheim, where she was also principal. In 1962 she became supervisor of schools staffed by the Dominican Sisters, a ministry that she energetically pursued for 23 years. Her educational ministry then expanded to the University of San Francisco, where she became an associate professor of education and then director of the Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership (ICEL). After 30 years at USF, Sister Mary Peter retired in 2006. She had a passion for the critical role of Catholic education in the Church which she shared through her teaching and educational leadership, especially in the National Catholic Education Foundation. Her influence and research extended from the West Coast, across the United States to countries around the world, where her students led Catholic educational institutions.

She is survived by her sisters, Patricia Traviss, La Canada Flintridge; Beverly Travis Thomas, Austin, Texas; nuns Genevieve Neve, Australia. Her brother, Robert Traviss of New Mexico, predeceased.

Sister Mary Peter’s Rosary on May 27 and funeral on May 28 at the Motherhouse were live-streamed. She was buried in God’s Acre, the Congregation’s cemetery.

Sister Mary Hebert Raphael, SNJM

Sister M. Herbert Raphael, SNJM (Margaret E. Raphael) died May 20. Sister Herbert was almost 103 years old. She was a professed Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for 84 years. 

Sister Herbert’s sister, Sister Mary Raphael, SNJM, 65 years ministering in formal education. She started by teaching in elementary education and then in 1958 began her studies at St. Francis de Sales in Oakland.

For nearly 55 years she taught, with her sister, St. John's Study, independent students at St. Anthony of Padua, Richmond. She then established and was principal of St. Veronica School in Richmond and at St. Andrew in Pasadena; Marin Catholic in Kentfield; and Ramona in Alhambra, the latter for 20 years. She retired from the public school in 1990 and continued to serve as principal of Holy Names High School in San Bruno, California, and at St. Andrew in Pasadina; Marin Catholic in Kentfield; and Ramona in Alhambra. The later was her alma mater. She is remembered for her prolific contact and correspondence with many friends, colleagues and students. She had a love of travel especially to her birthplace in Hawaii, the collecting and recycling of books. Her story telling and use of humor were legendary.

A Mass of celebrate Mass of the Most Holy Eucharist is celebrated for Sister Herbert’s memory, in the presence of her ashes, at a future date. 

Her memory will be made to the Sisters of the Holy Names. PO Box 907, Los Gatos, CA 95031 or on-line at www.snjmca.org.

Rev. William Marshall

Rev. William Marshall died May 20 at St. Anne’s Home in San Francisco. A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Father Marshall was ordained to the priesthood on March 30, 1963, in Fribourg, Switzerland.

In the Diocese of Oakland, Father Marshall served as priest secretary to Bishop L. Joseph Begin; judge in the Canon Law Department; and pastor of the Great Parish in Alameda, St. John the Baptist Parish in San Lorenzo, and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Santa Clara. He served as chaplain of the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Anne’s in San Francisco.

On the 50th anniversary of his ordination, Father Marshall wrote for The Catholic Voice: “God has been so good to bring to fruition a desire planted in my heart in the fifth grade. The priestly life has been like a Rosary with its joyful, sorrowful, luminous and glorious mysteries. In all of it, God has been there with His mercy, wisdom — and forgiveness. Preaching, confessions, RCIA, tribunal work, parish ministry — especially the offering of the Holy Sacrifice, care of the sick and the grieving and so many other dimensions of priestly ministry have all provided joys, sorrows, great light and, occasionally, even a glory or two!”

Funeral services are pending.

Carol Atacador

Carolina Enriquez (Carol) Atacador, died March 23 in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was 75. Born in Buaan, Bantangas, Philippines, she was educated and taught in her native land before coming to the United States to study Linguistics at Georgetown University.

She taught for more than a decade at Immaculate Conception School in the South Bronx before moving to California in 1983.

Her teaching and administrative career in the Diocese of Oakland spanned the next two decades. She taught at St. Patrick School in Oakland and St. Jerome School in El Cerrito. She served as principal, of St. Paul School in San Pablo and St. Joseph the Worker School in Berkeley.

In 2011 she received the Archbishop Alemany Award for Christian Service. She was an honorary advisory board member of FACE (Financial Aid – Catholic Education).

As director and co-founder of the Ayala Foundation, she forwarded the expansion of CENTEX (The Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education), a unique education model that empowers families to economically disadvantage families in Tondo, Manila and Bauan, Batangas, Philippines.

Services are pending in Las Vegas, with burial planned in the Philippines.

Donations may be made in her memory to FACE, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland CA 94612 or www.alemanyfoundation.org.

Judy KoneffKlitt

Judy KoneffKlitt, a beloving Catholic education principal of St. Theresa School in Oakland, died May 30.

A Class of 1970 graduate of Presentation High School in Oakland and the University of California, Berkeley, she began her teaching career in 1975 at Presentation High School in Berkeley.

She became principal of St. Theresa in 2009. That year, 2009, at its graduation ceremony, carried into the church this message for their principal: “Thank you Mrs. KK. We couldn’t have done it without you. We miss you.” It ended with a heart.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Spirit Parish/Newman Hall in Berkeley, her parish since childhood, on June 10.

She is survived by her husband, three children and her grandchildren. Her celebration of life was last year.

Her family has established the Judy KoneffKlitt Scholarship Fund to help fulfill her life goal: Any child who desires to attend Catholic School could do so. She sought to ensure that all families, regardless of economic status, could have access to a quality Catholic education.

Donations may be made at https://www.gofundme.com/judy-koneffklitt-scholarship-fund-at-st-theresa.

You may be able to use a reverse mortgage to access the equity in your home. At www.123helpme.com, you can find helps to determine your current property value and your potential reverse mortgage lump sum payment.
women dying at the hands of those whom they try to protect. The Black Lives Matter movement by its very existence is a statement of state-sponsored brutality, yet this moment also invites a deeper discussion and a teaching moment on institutional/systemic racism and white privilege. Now more than ever voices have been awakened, and an expanded awareness across the nation and the world has placed the spotlight on police violence against people of color, particularly African Americans.

Listen to each other
Perhaps change must begin when we listen to each other’s stories. As an Asian Pacific Islander, I grew up to speak on the African American experience, but I can connect to being a person of color in our society. Having said that, I was born and raised in West Berkeley during the 1960s and 1970s, in a neighborhood and elementary school that was predominantly African American and Latino.

Nearing the end of the Civil Rights Movement, I remembered watching the black-centered images of African Americans being beaten on the streets of Montgomery, Selma and other Southern cities. I was a very angry child, and held very anti-white sentiments; although, interestingly enough, I held no such racism against my mostly white teachers and the small handful of kids in the room at St. Joseph Elementary School in Berkeley. I remember third grade (right at the end of the fall of 1968) taking a field trip to the President of the United States’ whistle stop at the Los Gatos Station — at the same time, a group of kids from Presentation High School, San Jose, I was told by a few of the kids from the retreat grounds, the kids from Pres SJS started calling us the n-words. I didn’t remember ever hearing if those white students (early “Karens,” no doubt) were ever educated on this.

Even in elementary school, as enlightened as our teachers were, there were moments when I experienced impurities. The teacher, Mr. Bently, was talking about classical music, wrote the names of famous composers on the blackboard. I was in the back row and asked if anyone could pronounce it. I name, I rose and proudly did so, correctly. I remember the look of utter surprise and shock on Sister Bonita’s face. No more “Yo man,” no more “yo.”

Coming up in the late 1960s, and 1970s, I was inspired by the works of Malcolm X, Dr Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy and Cesar Chavez. The late Father Bill O’Dell was the pastor of my home parish, St. Joseph, in Berkeley, and became my mentor as a young man. He has always been an inspiration and model of urban priesthood, but I’m willing to place the mantle of his leadership on Father Aidan McAleenan, my successor at St. Carolino.

Television, movies and literature reflected the white majority of the culture and its value system, and I knew that even came close to looking like me. (OK. Hop Sing on ‘Bananza’, Mr. Sulu on ‘Star Trek’, and most of the cast of ‘Hawai’i Five-O.’) But in the late 1960s, Oakland-based Morrie Turner published ‘Wee Pals,’ the nation’s first syndicated comic strip that featured multiracial characters. He has never seen a cast that looked like my elementary school — the Berkeley public schools. Yet, he has given us the Wee Pals and prominently featured Mr. Turner’s works at its Main Branch library on ‘The Black and White Struggle’. I remember sitting on the floor there as a third-grader, absently thinking that there was a character, George, an Asian American, who looked like me. My eyes welled up even now when I think about empowering that was as a child.

My parents’ experiences as ethnic minorities, being in so many ways compared to those of my African American siblings, were no less frustrating to them as they endured racial discrimination. Though reluctant to share much details and specifics, my father (Hawaii’s) born, ethnically Filipino), spoke of his Army days at Fort Benning, Georgia, in the early 1950s, and being considered ‘colored’ and having to abide by the Jim Crow laws of the South. My mother (Hawaii’s born, ethnically Hawaiian, Irish), whose maiden name is O’Sullivan, spoke about applying for jobs in San Francisco in the late 1950s, placements applications, being selected for an interview, and then noticing the expression on the interviewer’s face that the Frances O’Sullivan they expected was not the one in front of them. She didn’t get the jobs, of course.

As a Berkeley born and raised priest for the Diocese of Oakland for 13 years, I always have to prove myself, the white privilege. There is a sense in that I don’t belong. Whenever I have to preside or speak at a parish that I’ve never been before, I always feel the need to speak my clearest and most unencumbered English so that the people question which might include, “Where are you from? No, where are you REALLY from? Where did you learn to speak English? You have no accent?”

Even today, I am deeply aware of my minority status and where my ‘place’ is here in American culture and society. This after serving our country in the Army and with federal law enforcement.

I am writing this article from the FBI Caucus in Quantico, Virginia, where I am serving as the chaplain to the Academy about three times a year. A few days ago, as I was driving through the Virginia countryside to visit Civil War sites, I became more aware of my race in a very rural area. Whenever I was near a pickup truck with the Confederate flag, or an AR-15 profile, or a Trump-Pence bumper sticker, I felt my distance shave and not look at their direction, out of fear. Later that day, when I was in a grocery store, noticed who got their groceries bagged by the checker and who didn’t (I didn’t, and guess who did), I noticed, in the midst of this pandemic, who’s wearing masks and who weren’t.

We are now addressing police reform measures, which includes redirecting resources away from patrol and to professional, non-sworn personnel to deal with the mentally challenged and the homeless, among other things; the firing of racist cops; hiring more police officers from local communities, particularly to the city’s African American populace. More measures to deeply change law enforcement culture are evolving to reflect the concerns of the African American community and people of color disproportionally affected by police brutality.

A time to learn
This is a teaching and learning moment that we are called to be a part of, and to educate ourselves on issues related to our African American sisters and brothers. As Father Andrew at Saint Francis High School in Berkeley in the late 1970s, the late Bobby Barnett, an African American teacher (and father to later chancy employee Karen Barnett), introduced me and my classmate to the “Autobiography of Malcolm X,” a book that transformed my life and helped to lessen the childhood anger I had toward white folks.

The history of the Catholic African American community in the United States is a long and complex one that begins with slavery. I would invite you to Google “A Black Catholic Syllabus” from the U.S. Catholic Magazine website. Please Google as well the National Black Catholic Congress. Other such resources include Michelle Webber’s website, "Racial Injustice: A List of Resources for White People Why am I Not on Twitter 24 Hours a Day?"

Father Bryan Massingale, professor of systemic theology and social ethics at Fordham University in New York, recently wrote a powerful piece, "The Assumption of White Privilege and What We Can Do About It." Please read this challenging and eye-opening article if you want to hear the pain from the perspective of an African American Catholic priest and noted author.

Engage in meaningful conversations or other structured dialogue with groups with the intent of fostering understanding and experiences from the African American perspective. St. Joan of Arc in Richmond and St. Rita of Cascia in Martinez have done an admirable job of being there to serve the community. They do this through their parish website becoming bullied by officers who have committed atrocious acts of homicide and the firing of Chapter 10 police officers.

Sister Bonita’s words ring true — because all houses matter. Yes, our house — but we need to speak about racism — because all houses are on fire — because all houses matter. Yes, our house is on fire — because all houses are on fire.

Griffin writes, “Speaking out against white supremacy and race-based violence doesn’t make you anti-white, anti-police, or a racist. It makes you pro justice, pro black life, pro accountability and pro democracy. Speaking up is part of another’s political.”

Having served as pastor of the two largest parishes of the Diocese of Oakland — St. Benedict Parish in Oakland, the biggest in the diocese, and St. Theresa of the Thorn Parish in Northern California, the depth in the saving power of Jesus has always moved me and touched my soul, and sustained the African American community through terrible trials and jubilant celebrations during this COVID-19 pandemic and current moments of racial strife. I end with how I conclude my homilies at St. Benedict and the United States Black Catholic Movement: "Who Are Not on Twitter 24 Hours a Day?"

Father Jayson Landesa is pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Oakland.
VANTAGE POINTS

As the Body of Christ is hurting, do we hear God’s voice?

By Meg Bowerman

Several years ago, a parishioner from this Diocese wrote a letter to the Catholic Voice complaining about the phrase “Black Lives Matter.” Several people throughout the East Bay responded to his complaint in his letter, which stated “Black Lives Matter, we never said only Black lives matter. We know that all lives matter.”

In my response to him I invited him to come to St. Columba Church in Oakland and meet some of my fellow parishioners who are African American, to hear their stories, which included fearing for their lives at the hands of police.

However, I will add that we can’t turn to our African American brothers and sisters and louder for us or the broader system. White Catholics need to do that. Listen to people of color and feel their exhaustion and despair. I am still learning and I go to root out how I was taught in my country and in the Catholic church, to support the concept of “white people as all knowledgeable.”

One of the best responses to this frequent reply from some white Americans (“All Lives Matter”) was on a sign I saw in a peaceful demonstration this past weekend: “Black Lives Matter; we never said only Black lives matter. We know that all lives matter. We just need your help with Black Lives Matter because Black Lives are in Danger.”

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) includes “preferential option for the poor” which understanding the poor or any group not in power. CST is similar to triaging: Help those in most need first, and then treat the other less affected. Why did bishops write when I have that articles that say that the poorarseille begins to examine every other bone in the patient’s body. Exasperated, the patient tells the doctor, “I’m not here because of the broken bone. The broken bone is my arm and that’s what needs medical attention.”

By embracing and supporting Black Lives Matter, we Catholics would recognize Black lives are the ones broken by centuries of racism, including within our church, and therefore must be the priority for the church to help and sustain a redress within our nation and within our church.

As the Body of Christ is hurting, bleeding and dying, do we hear God’s voice? Can we open ourselves to listen and follow teachings? What if we started with just one or two ways to put our faith into action in our vital way to change lives? Is it uncomfortable? An emphatic yes. There are so many ways to act, listen, and be in community again.

I would advocate in programs such as Faith and Racial Equity through justud.org, Diocese of Oakland’s racial equity initiative.

Excellent books to read include “White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo and “Racial Justice and the(value of) the White People” by Rev. Bryan Massingale. There are many ideas in the recent article: medium.com/they-think-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-0d18b6020324. Interrupting and stopping racism demands praying, learning and acting.

I will sing at St. Columba: “I Need You to Survive.”

Meg Bowerman

PARISHIONERS OF ST. COLUMBA CHURCH IN OAKLAND gathered in a socially distanced and appropriately masked action outside the church on June 7.

Parishioners of St. Columba Church in Oakland

How can we help?

Let us know.

(510) 267-8334

Every other month: (facilitated) survivor support groups for survivors of sexual abuse, including children.

Santa Maria Parish Library (upper tier) 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The first Saturday of August

Lenten resources

The first Saturday of August

History and Literature

Lenten resources

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