Pilgrimage participant victim in synagogue killings

East Bay Catholics who traveled on a Holy Land Pilgrimage Feb. 6-15, 2017, were saddened to learn one of the group’s members was slain in the Oct. 27 shootings at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Richard Gottfried, 65, was one of 11 killed. He is Jewish. His wife, Peg Gottfried, is Catholic.

The Holy Land pilgrimage was a joint trip, with 48 pilgrims as part of a Catholic Voice group led by Rev. Lawrence D’Aryou, pastor at St. Raymond Parish, Dublin, and 28 pilgrims from Pittsburgh, a mix of Catholics and Jews led by Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik and Rabbi Aaron Bisno of Rodef Shalom Synagogue in Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh pilgrimage was called Pursuers of Peace.

The couple, both down the street, with Peg’s sister, Carol, and friend Kathy Cull traveled on the pilgrimage. Rich Gottfried was a volunteer at the Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center.

“He was a great guy, friendly, always willing to help out,” said his neighbor Brian Rooker, who has lived next door to Gottfried since 2003.

“We were with them for all the Masses and shared meals together,” said Bolshevik Lewis, hostel superin- tendent of Unitours Inc.

Rich Gottfried was “a wonderful, kind man,” said Heidi, who supported Peg in her faith.

“This is so hard because of the evilness of this act,” Cull wrote in an email. “She (Peg) is very strong, but I believe she needs her many different members of her Faith Community to comfort her at this time.”

Robert Bowers, 46, of Pittsburgh, pleaded not guilty to the killings.

Very Rev. James Matthews, Rev. Jim Schenckrenger and Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ are greeted by Rabbi Mark Bloom.}

Pope Francis: ‘The people of God smell holiness’

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

The familiar cry swept across St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on Oct. 14, as Pope Francis prepared to canonize seven new saints. Among them was Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, who was killed as he celebrated Mass in a hospital chapel in March 24, 1980.

Rev. Msgr. Antonio Valdivia heard that cry in the square. He is believed to have acted alone.

Oakland diocese visitors to St. Peter’s Square for the canonizations included, from left, Rev. David Mendonca-Vilela, Rev. Mag. Antonio Valdivia, Rev. Luis Lopez, Edith Lewis and Nilda Fuentes.
LET THE MUSIC WASH OVER US

Our presence and participation in the All Souls Mass helps us grieve for those who have died. Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, explained in his homily for the Requiem Mass on Nov. 2. About 1,000 people attended the Mass, which Bishop Barber celebrated in Latin; the readings were in English. We need to pray for the souls of the faithful departed, he said, as the music in the Mass prayers washes over our loved ones, cleanses and heals them. See more at facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.

BISHOP BARBER’S SCHEDULE

Nov. 12-16: US Bishops’ meeting, Baltimore, Maryland
Nov. 17: Auction Dinner to support San Damiano Retreat Center, Bishop’s residence, Oakland
Nov. 18: 11 a.m. Mass and procession in honor of the Vietnamese martyrs, St. Anthony Parish, Oakland
3 p.m. Mass, Confirmation, St. Jarlath, Oakland
Nov. 19: Meetings, including College of Consultants, Chancery, Oakland
Nov. 20: Meetings, Chancery, Oakland
Nov. 21: Meetings, Chancery, Oakland
Nov. 22: 10 a.m. Thanksgiving day Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Nov. 25: 10 a.m. Mass, Solemnity of Christ the King, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Spanish Roman missal workshop
Priests of the Diocese of Oakland gathered at St. Bede Parish the evening of Oct. 29 to learn about the new edition of the Spanish Roman Missal. The new translation of the missal has been introduced in many parishes, and it must be in use by the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 2.

Remembering the Saints
In his homily on the Feast of All Saints, Nov. 1, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, told mourners: Martyrdom was the saintly prize for these members of the Carmel of Compiègne, France, refusing to disobey their vows, went, one by one, to the guillotine. A sister who had escaped capture left the anonymity of the crowd to join her sisters in martyrdom. “What a tragic it would be to go through life and not become a saint,” Bishop Barber said.

Jesuit deacons ordained
Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, ordained six Jesuit deacons at the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Oct. 20. They are, from left, Andrew Laguna, Francis Nguyen, Matthew Spotts, Bishop Barber, Ricardo Bolle, Vincent Marchionni and Jonathan Harmon. Two of the men, Deacons Laguna and Nguyen, are from the Jesuits West Province.

NOVEMBER 12, 2018

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By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

Almost every active priest in the diocese and I participated in a Priests’ Convocation on Oct 23-24, led by Rev. James Mallon of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The theme was “How to turn your parish from Maintenance to Mission.”

Why do we need a conference on this topic? Take a look at your parish. Ask your pastor to show you the statistics. Are the numbers of people attending Mass over the past 10 years increasing or decreasing? What about your Sunday collections? Going up or down?

Take a look at your Confirmation classes. How many of those young people show up for Mass the Sunday after they have been confirmed? (And the next Sunday and the next?)

When I look at the statistics across our diocese, most of the 84 parishes are decreasing in attendance, and in offertory income.

It does not have to be this way. Many of our parishes are content to stay in “Maintenance Mode”: the doors are open, Mass and the sacraments are offered, the priest is available for counseling, Holy Communion will be brought to the sick on request by lay ministers, etc. That is fine. BUT, we continue to lose people.

Father Mallon shared with us ideas for turning the situation around. He himself inherited a “dying parish” and through building a lay leadership team, and through much trial and error, now has a thriving parish that is a model for Catholic church growth.

It starts with changing our mentality of what a parish is for. Is it a self-enclosed community of the Elect? Or a leaven in society? Are we content to sit back self-assuredly and wait for people to join our parish, or do we actively invite people to belong? Do we go fishing, or do we wait for the fish to come to us?

Jesus said to the Apostles, “From now on, I will make you fishers of men (and women).”

Father Mallon told us he was from Halifax, where the main industry is fishing. In the evening, the port is full of fishing boats tied up. He said every once and a while, without a fisherman doing anything, a fish might jump out of the water and land on the deck of a fishing boat. “That’s our RCIA!” he said. What good is a fishing fleet if it never goes out to sea to fish? So it is with us and our parishes.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

“Forming Missionary Disciples” is one of the three goals of our diocese together with “Improving the Sunday Mass Experience” and “Practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.”

Before the conference ended, I asked Father Mallon privately, “How can I convince our pastors to move their parishes from Maintenance to Mission?”

He told me I would never be able to convince all of them, only 16 percent. And that would be enough to change the diocese, and the Church. Pastors can’t do this all by themselves. They need a good lay leadership team that shares this outward vision and mission. And lay people can’t change their parish without the pastor.

It’s a “both/and” mission. So ask your pastor, “Is our parish going to do something to move from Maintenance to Mission?” OR are we just going to continue to “age upward” and “look inward”? Then offer to be part of the solution.

As bishop, I am looking to identify those parishes with priests and lay leadership teams that want to be part of the 16 percent and supply every resource I can to support them.

(For more information, go to www.divinenovation.net, or read Father James Mallon’s book, “Divine Renovation,” available on Amazon and at The Cathedral Shop.)
Holy Names Sisters celebrate
150 years in the East Bay

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

Less than a block away from where the religious community opened its first school in Oakland in 1868, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary along with their Associates, friends and former students gathered at the Cathedral of Christ the Light Oct. 6 for an uplifting celebration of the 150th anniversary of the SNJM ministry in California.

“It is great to be here at the Cathedral of Christ the Light,” said Sister Maureen Delaney, SNJM U.S.-Ontario provincial, in her welcoming remarks, noting that the original Oakland convent of the first six Holy Names Sisters who settled on the shores of Lake Merritt, was literally just steps away. “This is where our roots are.”

Alluding to the anniversary’s theme of “Remember, Rejoice, Renew,” Sister Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering “Remember, Rejoice, Renew,” Sister Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering “Remember, Rejoice, Renew,” Sister Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering “Remember, Rejoice, Renew,” Sister Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering “Remember, Rejoice, Renew,” Sister Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering “Remember, Rejoice, Renew,” Sister Delaney told the gathering of an estimated 400 people that they were remembering the six French Canadian Sisters who first arrived in San Francisco on May 10, 1868.

The young Sisters were greeted by the Sisters of Mercy and treated to a feast that included California-grown strawberries. The next day the Sisters were escorted to Oakland by Rev. Michael King, then pastor of St. Mary Parish and brought to the newly built convent by Lake Merritt.

Ten days later these “can-do” women had opened a school, she said.

The gathering was also the cause of much rejoicing. Sister Delaney said, rejoicing for the thousands of people who received an education from these “can-do” women and the many others who followed in their footsteps and who opened, staffed, taught and volunteered with the SNJM community at schools and learning centers throughout the state.

In 1868 the Holy Names Sisters responded to the needs of the times and opened schools for young girls. Over the years the needs and the times changed and as a result some of the Sisters became involved in other forms of ministry, such as parish work, community outreach, literacy, spiritual director and others, Sister Delaney said.

Noting that “our story isn’t over” the provincial said that the community has much to do. “We want to renew ourselves, our commitment to education, outreach and to the development of the whole human person, to be witnesses to the Gospel in whatever form that might take. We also renew ourselves in justice advocacy work and to helping people on the margins.”

The liturgy, held on the feast day of SNJM founder, Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, included a reflection on thereadings by Sister Miriam Malson. She brought light to a passage from the Gospel of Luke that inspired Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled.”

The continuing legacy of the SNJM foundress was also seen in the opening procession in the banners that were carried into the cathedral by representatives of various SNJM-supported ministries, including Holy Names High School, Holy Names University, Next Step Learning Center, all in Oakland, Villa Maria de Mar Retreat Center in Santa Cruz, and Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra.

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, who thanked the Sisters for “your dedication, your love and service to the Church, focused on the community’s motto, Jesus and Mary, my strength and my glory,” in his homily.

Bishop Emeritus John S. Cummins, who had been educated by the Holy Names Sisters as a youth at St. Augustine School in north Oakland, added his personal thanks to the community. He also provided a historical look back at the many contributions the Sisters made in the East Bay, from revitalizing “inner city education” in Oakland in the 1960s to the establishment of the diocesan Respect Life Office.

“The anniversary provides time to pause and reflect,” Bishop Cummins said. “It is good for us to stir the memories and for me to cherish the lasting friendships.”

Learn more
www.snjmca150.org

Holy Names Sisters Carol Nicklas and Barbara Bray carry the SNJM Community Seal in a procession before the start of Mass.

Father Bryan Massingale: Examining Catholic Engagement With Racial Justice

Renowned theologian Reverend Bryan Massingale will speak at Saint Mary’s College on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, at 7 p.m. Rev. Massingale, the author of Racial Justice and the Catholic Church, is being honored as the 2018 Montini Fellow of the Bishop John S. Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture, and Action, for his scholarly and practical contributions toward advancing anti-racism and inclusion in the Church and beyond.

One of the world’s leading Catholic social ethicists and scholars of African American theological ethics, racial justice, and liberation theology, Rev. Massingale will offer the address “When Order Masks Disorder: The Limits of Dialogue in Catholic Engagement With Racial Justice.” This thoughtful and engaging event is free and open to the public.

Where: Soda Center, Saint Mary’s College, 1928 St. Mary’s Rd., Moraga, Calif. 94575
Cost: Free and open to the public

Sponsored by SMC’s Bishop John S. Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture, and Action; Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA); Mission and Ministry Center (MMMC); and the College’s Theology & Religious Studies Department.

For more information, contact Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, PhD, at 925-631-4879 or chilken@stmarys-ca.edu or visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/cummins-institute

Blessing the animals

More than 50 pets — dogs, cats, fish, chickens and homing pigeons — received a blessing from the Franciscan friars at the Sun Dominic Retreat Center. Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 6. If a pet was unable to attend, attendees were able to have their pet blessed via a photo. Treats were ready for four-and two-legged guests. On hand as well was Animal Rescue Foundation, Walnut Creek, which had animals available for adoption.

Holy Names High School

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, November 18
12:00pm - 2:00pm
Don’t simply admire Dorothy Day; do the work

By Michele Jurich

Dorothy Day held the saints in high regard. However, when the saints were so crucial in how she understood the word. What she was saying is, “Don’t put me on that pedestal, put me in that corner. You need to do the work.” Dorothy Day held a proud role of being able to get along with others, in seemingly diverse communities. A Jewish friend gave her the first rosary; her first statue of the Blessed Mother was the gift of an atheist friend. Priests gave rides to her Communist friends who needed a lift. Dorothy Day said, “It is in the world we think of as different.” Dorothy Day said, “She bridged that.” Building bridges was “part of her genius all her life,” Henryness said. “She brings together incredibly diverse beliefs.” She recalled, too, Day’s eight arrests. Beginning with her arrest in a rally for women’s votes to her final arrest, in California, in 1973, along Cesar Chavez Day, she said, spent 10 days in prison. She was 75 years old. “I knew her as very radical,” Henryness said. “I ask us to do things that are uncomfortable.” If you really listen to her, watch out. She will lead you into trouble.” Her Catholic faith embraced what Henryness called “this deeply ingrained interest for peace and justice.” That was that she was working in her work as a journalist for the Catholic Worker. “Her hospital hospitability was never in her plan,” Henryness said. “You start talking about it, it happens. People start showing up at the door,” she said. The intention was that the bishops should open houses of hospitality. “Thirty-eight years after my grandmother’s death, Henryness said, “the Catholic Worker movement is still growing. It’s a movement that keeps on growing.” There are at least 200 Catholic Worker houses in the United States, and about two dozen around the world, she said. “There’s nothing organized about the Catholic Worker at all. There’s no membership, you don’t sign up. The mission statement is very simple: the works of mercy. “What my grandmother has asked people to do is look around in your own neighborhood,” Henryness said. “Figure out what you can do, what you can give and just start doing it.”

Day held the saints in high regard. However, when the saints were so crucial in how she understood the word. What she was saying is, “Don’t put me on that pedestal, put me in that corner. You need to do the work, too.” Dorothy Day held a proud role of being able to get along with others, in seemingly diverse communities. A Jewish friend gave her the first rosary; her first statue of the Blessed Mother was the gift of an atheist friend. Priests gave rides to her Communist friends who needed a lift. Dorothy Day said, “It is in the world we think of as different.” Dorothy Day said, “She bridged that.” Building bridges was “part of her genius all her life,” Henryness said. “She brings together incredibly diverse beliefs.” She recalled, too, Day’s eight arrests. Beginning with her arrest in a rally for women’s votes to her final arrest, in California, in 1973, along Cesar Chavez Day, she said, spent 10 days in prison. She was 75 years old. “I knew her as very radical,” Henryness said. “I ask us to do things that are uncomfortable.” If you really listen to her, watch out. She will lead you into trouble.” Her Catholic faith embraced what Henryness called “this deeply ingrained interest for peace and justice.” That was that she was working in her work as a journalist for the Catholic Worker. “Her hospital hospitability was never in her plan,” Henryness said. “You start talking about it, it happens. People start showing up at the door,” she said. The intention was that the bishops should open houses of hospitality. “Thirty-eight years after my grandmother’s death, Henryness said, “the Catholic Worker movement is still growing. It’s a movement that keeps on growing.” There are at least 200 Catholic Worker houses in the United States, and about two dozen around the world, she said. “There’s nothing organized about the Catholic Worker at all. There’s no membership, you don’t sign up. The mission statement is very simple: the works of mercy. “What my grandmother has asked people to do is look around in your own neighborhood,” Henryness said. “Figure out what you can do, what you can give and just start doing it.”

Henryness

Kate Hennessy may have been inspired in her vocation by her grandmother, Dorothy Day, but don’t assume she is following in her footsteps. “I’m a writer,” Kate Hennessy said. She shared one of her earliest memories: “Don’t call me a saint, I don’t want to be on a pedestal, put me in that corner. You need to do the work.” Dorothy Day was often quoted as saying, “Don’t put her aside,” she said. “Engage her.” Hennessy cautioned her audience not to. “You need to feel comfortable,” Hennessy noted Day’s ability to get along with others, in seemingly diverse communities. A Jewish friend gave her the first rosary; her first statue of the Blessed Mother was the gift of an atheist friend. Priests gave rides to her Communist friends who needed a lift. Dorothy Day said, “It is in the world we think of as different.” Dorothy Day said, “She bridged that.” Building bridges was “part of her genius all her life,” Henryness said. “She brings together incredibly diverse beliefs.” She recalled, too, Day’s eight arrests. Beginning with her arrest in a rally for women’s votes to her final arrest, in California, in 1973, along Cesar Chavez Day, she said, spent 10 days in prison. She was 75 years old. “I knew her as very radical,” Henryness said. “I ask us to do things that are uncomfortable.” If you really listen to her, watch out. She will lead you into trouble.” Her Catholic faith embraced what Henryness called “this deeply ingrained interest for peace and justice.” That was that she was working in her work as a journalist for the Catholic Worker. “Her hospital hospitability was never in her plan,” Henryness said. “You start talking about it, it happens. People start showing up at the door,” she said. The intention was that the bishops should open houses of hospitality. “Thirty-eight years after my grandmother’s death, Henryness said, “the Catholic Worker movement is still growing. It’s a movement that keeps on growing.” There are at least 200 Catholic Worker houses in the United States, and about two dozen around the world, she said. “There’s nothing organized about the Catholic Worker at all. There’s no membership, you don’t sign up. The mission statement is very simple: the works of mercy. “What my grandmother has asked people to do is look around in your own neighborhood,” Henryness said. “Figure out what you can do, what you can give and just start doing it.”
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Pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey

Pilgrims on The Catholic Voice pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, Oct. 14-23, stop for a group photo in front of the Library of Celsus, in Ephesus, Turkey. The pilgrims walked in the footsteps of St. Paul, visiting the places where he preached the Gospel. The 40 pilgrims, many of them holding maps of their pilgrimage, were accompanied by Rev. Jim Schexnayder. They visited sites such as the Acropolis and the Parthenon and celebrated at Mass at Mary’s House, where Blessed Mary lived after the Resurrection.

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Father Schexnayder will lead Voice pilgrimage to France, Lourdes

By Rev. Jim Schexnayder
Special to The Catholic Voice

Welcome Pilgrims!

In the season of Easter and spring, 2020, we will set out to France, beginning in Paris and beyond to places of saints whose lives inspire us — St. Therese “The Little Flower,” St. Catherine Laboure, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Bernadette Soubirous, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. John Vianney and most especially Mary, Mother of God, whose healing intercession at Lourdes amazes all who visit.

On our pilgrimage we will visit renowned churches to admire their history and beauty and in a number of them we will celebrate our daily Eucharist. They include Sacre Coeur, Saint-Pierre de Montmartre, Notre Dame, Cathedral of Chartres and the grotto chapel of Lourdes.

The conclusion and high point of our journey will be the Shrine of Lourdes where we will have two full days to participate in the Eucharist, rosary, candlelight procession, opportunity to experience the healing waters of the miraculous Lourdes spring, free time for personal prayer and reflection and the opportunity to explore the town of Lourdes on foot.

It will be a joy for me to share with you this journey, to celebrate daily Eucharist with you and to be inspired by your presence.

Being a pilgrim is sharing a joyful and faith deepening spiritual journey. Join with us!
40 couples repeat marriage vows at annual Mass

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Fifty couples, representing a combined 1,111 years of marriage, marched down the aisle at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland Oct. 21 to begin the Diocese of Oakland’s wedding anniversary Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, spoke of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle’s view of love.

“Two people who love each other must love a transcendent third thing,” he said, a good that is beyond themselves, such as truth, beauty or goodness.

With the coming of Jesus, he said, “we see much more clearly the third thing the couple must love has a name. That person is God.

“They must together love God as the third party,” he said. “If you are to stay married, God is that third party.”

After the homily, the anniversary celebrants rose to look one another in the eye — some teary — and repeated the vows the bishop read, first in English and then in Spanish.

With familiar, joyful music — selections included “God Who Created Hearts of Love” and “Jesus, Joy of Men’s Desire” — and a church environment that featured white orchids, the cathedral had a celebration feel.

At the end of Mass, couples continued on to the Cathedral Event Center, where they gathered with friends and family to continue the celebration.

Each couple was photographed with Bishop Barber, and also received a certificate recognizing their participation in the event, which is held every two years.

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At left, Colleen and Justin Yasuo and their sons attended the anniversary Mass, celebrating five years. Her parents, at right, Ben Smith and Blanche Malankowski-Smith were there celebrating 40 years of marriage.

Jenny Kim, a member of the Korean Catholic Community in Oakland, wore a traditional Korean costume to the Mass. Celebrating 47 years of marriage with her husband, Won Lim, she came to the United States in 1984.

At one of the tables, a couple married three years shared a table with the 27-years-wed couple from Newark. They also shared anniversary dates in a yearly October.

Rogberto Diaz and Lorena Diaz-Rodriguez of Oakland were married at St. Elizabeth Church in Oakland, where they are parishioners, three years ago.

Jim and Mayra Colvin were wed in 1991. “I converted to Catholicism in 2010,” he said. He had been attending Mass at St. Edward Parish in Newark when the pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, noticed that he attended faithfully but never received Communion. That conversation led to Jim Colvin’s reception into the Church.

Please tell us your secrets to a happy marriage, Lorena Diaz-Rodriguez asked the Colvins.

“Fun arguments,” Jim Colvin said. He added some advice he had been given long ago: Don’t go to bed angry.

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California Knights of Columbus Retirement Facilities
Senior living centers put social robot to the test

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

If your idea of a social robot is Rosie, the affable maid from “The Jetsons,” you might be a little surprised when you meet Jibo. Jibo looks a little like a desk lamp. Until Jibo sweeps its round screen toward you when you speak, Or purrs when you stroke its back.

Standing just about 12 inches tall, the social robot has been the subject of quite a bit of buzz at the Elder Care Alliance communities for senior living around the Bay Area.

Erin Partridge, experiential researcher-in-residence at Elder Care Alliance, brought the tabletop robot to meet residents.

How people responded to the robot opened the door to social interaction, and possible new frontiers in assisting the aging.

Jibo has had its stellar moments — named by Time magazine as one of the best inventions of 2017, for starters — but how would the little robot do in a community of seniors? It had been designed to live in a household, with younger adults and children. Partridge obtained the robot from its Boston-based company to see how the seniors might use it.

Partridge brought the robot into the common areas of Mercy Retirement and Care Center in Oakland. She treated it as she would introducing a new concept to the community. “We talk, evaluate and see how we feel about it,” she said.

Residents crowded around the robot much the same way young children might approach a toy in a preschool setting, she said, with curiosity. Although Partridge was seated next to the robot, residents often spoke toward the device’s face, not hers.

Connections were being made.

Jibo responds to voice and has multiple ways of interacting. “We all want to be learning something,” Partridge said.

One day, Partridge said, “fell madly in love,” even reminding Jibo that it was her friend, and cautioning it not to talk to others.

Social robots might provide a means for getting information from those who can’t verbally express themselves; the question of how this technology can help improve quality of life continues to be explored.

Partridge brought the social robot into a memory care unit. Later that day, a resident asked for it to call his family, then proceeded to engage in a long conversation about the robot.

The daughter called the care center to double check that this happened.

When Jibo is not with Partridge visiting residents, the robot resides in her office. A robot as officemate can be something of a challenge when she’s on a conference call. But there’s also something quite human about their relationship: She said she enters the office quietly, as not quite human about their relationship: She said.

“I like a little humility in my technology,” Partridge said.

When Jibo is not with Partridge visiting residents, the robot resides in her office. A robot as officemate can be something of a challenge when she’s on a conference call. But there’s also something quite human about their relationship: She said she enters the office quietly, as not quite human about their relationship: She said.

Partridge, who has a doctoral degree in art therapy from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, has a book coming out in February entitled “Art Therapy with Older Adults: Connected and Empowered.” Empowerment is one of the themes that arises from her study of social robots in the senior community. Can the use of social robots go beyond entertaining them, to providing them with tools to help them navigate their senior years?

Could, for example, a robot remind a resident who asks when the family is going to visit the date of the last visit? Or when the next is expected?

So far, it has been clear that Jibo has been a conversation starter. Partridge’s continuing research will reveal other aspects of senior life that Jibo might enhance.

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We’ve Served the Bay Area for Over 15 Years!
Can an adult child be liable for a parent's nursing home bill?

By Jeffrey Hall
Special to The Catholic Voice

Although a nursing home cannot require a parent to pay for a resident's care, which can end up having to pay. This is a major reason why it is important to read any contracts or agreements carefully before signing.

Federal regulations prevent a nursing home from requiring a third party to be personally liable as a condition of admission. However, even in situations where the child signs the nursing home admission agreement as the "responsible party," this is a continuing term and it is not always clear from the contract what it means.

Typically, the responsible party is agreeing to do everything in his or her power to make sure that the resident pays for everything out of the resident's funds. If the resident runs out of funds, the responsible party may be required to pay for Medicaid's indigent patient's bill. If the responsible party doesn't follow through on any promises to pay or to provide state with all the information needed to determine Medicaid eligibility, the nursing home may use the responsible party for breach of contract.

In an instance where the responsible party misuses a resident's funds instead of paying the resident's bill, the nursing home may use the responsible party for breach of contract.

In an instance where the responsible party misuses a resident's funds instead of paying the responsible party for breach of contract, arguing that he failed to apply for Medicaid or use her mother's money to pay the nursing home and that he fraudulently transferred her money to himself. The court ruled that the son could be liable for breach of contract even though the admission agreement did not require the son to use his own funds to pay the nursing home. "Jewish Home Lifecare v. Ast, N.Y. Sup. Ct., New York City, No. 160111/14, July 17, 2015."

Although it is against the law to require a child to sign an admission agreement as the responsible party who guarantees payment, it is important to read the contract carefully because home nursing homes still have language in their contracts that violates the regulations. If possible, consult with your attorney before signing an admission agreement.

There are ways an adult child may be liable for a nursing home bill. If she or he is the legal responsibility, adult child to provide necessary care, clothing, housing and medical attention. If the adult children's financial responsibility laws are rarely enforced, it is still common for families to be more difficult to qualify for Medicaid, states are more likely to use them. California is one of the few states with a familial responsibility laws aggressively.

( Jeffrey Hall is an elder law attorney. He can prepare an estate plan with Medi-Cal provisions, estate plans for families. Visit his website at www.HallLawGroup.com or call 925-230-9902 for information.

Just for Seniors

Events, activities and opportunities for seniors in the Oakland diocese. Events are charge. Please contact parish or organizations to verify.

◆ SPIRITUALITY

Saturday, Dec. 1
Senior Anointing Mass, 11 a.m. at St. Lawrence (510) 895-5007. Oakland, all seniors, their caregivers or anyone seriously ill or anticipating surgery may attend this Mass and receive the Anointing of the Sick.

Anointing of the Sick Mass at Holy Spirit Church, starts at 11 a.m. at 37588 Fremont Blvd, Fremont. For seniors who are seriously ill or those anticipating surgery, a complimentary lunch will be served in the Mass 5-7:15:30.

Dec. 7 to 8
Spirituality and Consciousness: Finding Joy in the Midst of Loss. Attended on San Ramon Retreat, 1070 Highland Drive, San Ramon. For those persons who are coping with loss and may want to learn new life skills. Fee, however we do request dona- tion to the Parish of the Ascension of the Lord Church.

◆ SOCIALS/LUNCHEONS

Nov. 16, 10 a.m. 12:15 p.m.
Senior Social at St. John Vianney Parish, Concord. Join us, socialize and join new friends from 10 a.m. We will serve a warm cup of coffee and socialize together. Any friendship is welcome. Coat: $5 includes lunch. To sign up call 925-459-7911.

Tuesday, Dec. 4
Senior Potluck Luncheon. Noon in the Holy Family Room at St. Lawrence O'Toole-St. Cyril Parish, 3725 High St. Oakland. Bring a dish to share. For seniors and members, family and friends. RSVP to 510-530-0761, ext. 104, and let us know what you are bringing.

Third Monday
Senior Potluck Luncheon at St. Mary Magdalen Parish, 2087 Castro St, Mountain View. Noon in the Parish Hall. Call a friend to attend. For seniors and members. RSVP to 510-530-0761, ext. 104, and let us know what you are bringing.

Second Mondays
St. Anthony Parish Senior Ministry, 11:30 a.m. in the hall, St. Anthony Church, 317 1/2 Ave. Ave. Oakland. The luncheons are sponsored by various parish organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Guadalupe Society, Am-Fi Community as well as private individuals. In addition to lunch, the gatherings may include speakers, games like Bingo and live entertainment.

Tuesdays
St. John the Baptist Parish Senior Lunch and Speaker. Meets Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at St. Peter's Church, 4061 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland. Information: 510-522-5659; stjohnthebaptistchurchoakland.org.

Second Tuesdays
Senior Adult Ministry at St. Jean of Arc Parish. The Senior Adults of St. Jean in San Ramon meet for lunch and conversation from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's School, San Ramon. We bring our own bag lunch plus snacks to share. It's a "truly" group of folks who love to share a meal together from sharing of our spiritual journeys. For more information send an email to phyllis@cydsmac.com.

Second Thursdays
Francis of Assisi Parish Senior Luncheon. Meet every second Thursday at 800 Oak Grove Road, Concord. Information: 925-656-5447, ext. 201.

Third Tuesdays
St. Stephen Parish hosts a monthly Card & Games Party in the parish hall at 100 Navey Court, Walnut Creek. Beginning on noon on the first Tuesday, month. For anyone who wants to meet other parishioners and friends to play bridge, Rummikub, dominos, etc. Bring your own lunch, beverages and snacks are provided. Questions? Contact Walter Lang, 925-294-3240.

Third Tuesdays
St. Isidore Church's Young at Heart Group, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2500 Valley Way, Danville. Donation: 925-837-2122.

Thursdays
Senior Home Church Coffee Group. Meets at 10 a.m. Thursdays in Rohan Hall at 308 Carmel Church, 3800 G. St., Oakland, after Mass 510-527-0871.

First Fridays
50 Plus or Minor Club at Church of the Nativity, 2060 E. Valley Blvd., Campbell. Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass, at 10:45 a.m. RSVP to 408-431-9481 or on line at maryjane.org/meetings.html.

First Fridays
St. Isidore Church's "Classic Club." Meets at 11:45 a.m. third Fridays (except in July and August) in the St. Isidore Room at St. Isidore Church, 2440 La Gonda Way, Danville, for a potluck din- ner and social.
Pope Francis . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

Lopez, both born in El Salvador, and two laywomen of the diocese, Edith Lewis and Nidia Fuentes.

One did not need to look far to see the day’s Gospel message — “What would you give for the kingdom of God?” — in work. As Rev. Msgr. Valdivia looked at the banners depicting the seven soon-to-be saints, he took note: Only Romero was a martyr. When the Holy Father gave his consent to the decree of canonization, Rev. Msgr. Valdivia said, the crowd went wild. The choir launched into the Gloria. After Mass, Pope Francis toured the square in his popemobile. Rev. Msgr. Valdivia said he thought he might serve in Guadalajara, where his parents had family. That would be a holiday, Bishop John S. Cummins said. Rev. Msgr. Valdivia explained an offer to join Father Paredes in El Salvador.

The following day, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated in the St. Peter Paul Vi Hall for the Salvadoran pilgrims, who hailed not just from Latin America, but Maryland, Virginia and California. Rev. Msgr. Valdivia said he thought he would concelebrate from his seat, but as the cardinal from San Salvador sought a bishop from each diocese in El Salvador, Rev. Msgr. Valdivia was honored to represent the California group. At the end of Mass, Pope Francis appeared and spoke to the pilgrims. He echoed the Gospel question, noting that Romero had risked his ministry, his word and his life, for God.

Then Pope Francis went off script. “The people of God smell holiness,” he said. “They know when their leader is on the right path to sanctity.”

Revs. Msgr. Valdivia’s personal history with El Salvador and its people grew from his 1986 sabbatical, which as he finished his term as pastor at St. Anthony Church in Oakland. He had been ordained in 1963, the second year of the Diocese of Oakland.

“I wanted to go to the Holy Land and study,” he said, which he did for one month at St. George’s College. After that, he went to Lourdes then to Spain for a 30-day retreat. He thought it would be for priests only, but there were religious sisters and lay people, mostly missionaries who served in Africa. There he met Father Paredes from El Salvador.

In preparation for the celebration of the five centuries of evangelization of the Americas, Pope John Paul II had issued a letter inviting the sharing of gifts in the Americas. As he was preparing to take an assign- ment at what was then St. Leonard Parish in Fremont, Rev. Msgr. Valdivia had an idea on how to share his gifts with the Americas. He went to his bishop. “I’d like to offer myself as a sign of solidarity with Latin America,” he said, suggesting he might serve in Guatemala, where his parents had family.

That would be a holiday, Bishop John S. Cummins said. Rev. Msgr. Valdivia responded with an offer to join Father Paredes in El Salvador.

In his time there, in war and in peace, he said he not only perfected his Spanish, but learned about parish organization. “It’s something that stayed with me,” he said. Upon his return, small faith communities and the RENEW movement were taking root in the Diocese of Oakland.

Remember, This Pain Will Not Last Forever (Grief Retreat) with Fr. Padraig Greene, 11/16 - 11/18
Attitude of Gratitude as Thanksgiving (Healing & Wholeness Retreat) with Tom Gorman and Staff from Options Recovery
Christian Meditation: Silence & God’s Unconditional Love is Available for Each of Us with Donna Luck, Claire Le Scala, and June Pangenberg, 11/24
Women in the Apostles of Jesus with Jan Stegger, 11/27 - 11/28 (Tuesday)
“The love of God has been poured into our hearts!” Advent Silent Retreat with Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy & Charles Folley GPSM, 11/30 - 12/2
[Re]discovering Hope (Advent Day of Renewal) with Jan Stegger & Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy, 12/8

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The Catholic Voice — Publication theme subject to change. The Voice publishes only one issue in July, August and December.
Sister John Martin Fixa, OP
Dedicated to the people who attended the Nov. 9 funeral Mass for Sister John Martin Fixa were shades of purple, her favorite color, to show her affection for the beloved educator many called “Sister Johnnie.”

She had a gift, the ability to make everyone feel as if she was their best friend, Sister Cecilia Canales, conegregational prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, told those who had gathered for the Liturgy at Fremont’s St. Joseph Church.

“Sister Johnnie was precious to all of us. She would not want us to be sad but to rejoice,” said Sister Canales at the start of the funeral Mass. “She wanted to go to heaven.”

Sister Johnnie died Oct. 27 after “carrying the cross of cancer” for the past seven times. She was 78.

Born Judith Ann Fixa on May 9, 1940, in San Francisco, she attended St. James School and Immaculate Conception Academy, both in The City. She joined the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose in 1960. She chose the name “John” in honor of a former postmaster of San Francisco, and “Martin” for St. Martin de Porres, a Dominican lay brother who was noted for his work on behalf of the poor and for his holiness.

St. Martin de Porres, Sister Canales said that “it is important that we send her home today.”

After starting her teaching career in 1962, Sister Johnnie taught every grade except kindergarten and high school freshmen. Among her assignments, she taught at St. Elizabeth High School in Oakland from 1971 to 1976. She then served as principal of her alma mater, now called ICA Cristo Rey Academy, from 1976 to 1990.

Following her principalship, Sister Johnnie began the Dominican Sisters Office of School Development. In 1995, she founded Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope, a tuition assistance program that serves eight urban Catholic elementary schools in California, including St. Elizabeth High School in Oakland’s Fruitvale district.

Some of Sister Johnnie’s happiest times were spent with her former students and her Sisters, according to the obituary issued by her religious community. “We miss her already — and we will miss her,” said Sister Canales.

Following the funeral Mass burial took place at Gods Acre, the cemetery behind the Dominican Sisters’ Motherhouse in Fremont. A Memorial Mass is also scheduled for Nov. 27 at Fmtnnd Sacred Heart Academy in Los Angeles. Bishop Dave O’Connell will preside.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Sister Johnnie’s memory may be made to the Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope at www.visionsofhope.org, mail: 1555 39th Ave., Oakland, CA 94601; phone: 510-933-5768.

— Carrie McClish

Job Openings at St. Columba Church

Job Title: Director of Music

St. Columba Parish in Oakland is seeking an Office Assistant/Receptionist. The Office Assistant/Receptionist is responsible for assisting the Pastor and the Office Manager in routine office duties (answering the phone, scheduling and organizing use of the Parish Hall, and assisting all church ministries, as needed. This is a part-time position, 19-20 hours per week and does not include benefits.

Please submit your resume to Fr. Aidan McAleenan or Maria Creer at 510-654-7600 for more information or to set up an interview.

Job Title: Office Manager

St. Columba Parish in Oakland is seeking an Office Assistant/Receptionist. The Office Assistant/Receptionist is responsible for assisting the Pastor and the Office Manager in routine office duties (answering the phone, scheduling and organizing use of the Parish Hall, and assisting all church ministries, as needed. This is a part-time position, 19-20 hours per week and does not include benefits.

Please submit your resume to Fr. Aidan McAleenan or Maria Creer at 510-654-7600 for more information or to set up an interview.

To be considered for any of the above positions, please contact: Fr. Aidan McAleenan or Maria Creer.

St. Columba Church

6401 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94608

Phone: 510-654-7600

Fax: 510-654-7600

Email: stcolumba1898@gmail.com

https://stcolumba-oak.com/job-openings

Catholic Voice next edition: November 26

Deadline: November 16

Watch bishops’ meeting

Staff report

For those interested in following the US bishops’ fall General Assembly Nov. 12-14, where the bishops will discuss and vote on a series of measures to respond to the abuse crisis, it will be livestreamed at www.usccb.org/live. News updates, vote totals, texts of addresses and presentations and other materials will be posted to this page: www.usccb.org/meetings as soon as possible.

A report will also appear in the Nov. 26 issue of The Catholic Voice.

Those wishing to follow the meeting on social media can use the hashtag #USCCB18 and follow on Twitter (@ USCCB) as well as on Facebook, www.facebook.com/usccb and Instagram (https://instagram.com/usccb).
**NEW EVENTS**

**Tuesdays, Nov. 13**

**Sat., Nov. 17**
Taliz, a weekly model led prayer of service in a simple chant. Scripture readings, silent worship and listening to the voice of the cross.

**DATINGLINES**

**RETREATS**

**Nov. 16 to 18**
Retreat for Women. The retreats are for women and men who are still growing the pain and will have the opportunity to explore their grief in the context of the infant death. Contact: Kim, 209-405-5432 or Gloria, 510-455-2255. Information: 510-455-2255 or sandamiano.org. All inquiries confidential.

**Nov. 27 to Dec. 18**
Women and Mercy: Prayer and Jesus with Jen Stegner, At San Ramon Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Information: 510-455-2255 or sandamiano.org. All inquiries confidential.

**Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 11, 18**
Family Caregiver Support Group. The Catholic Church is opening its doors to those who are involved in the care of a loved one. Contact: Kim, 209-456-5433 or Gloria, 510-455-2255. Information: 510-455-2255 or sandamiano.org. All inquiries confidential.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Tuesdays**
Divorce Support Group Workshops. 7 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Parish, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Contact: 925-229-0547 or sandynca@sbcglobal.net.

**Wednesdays**
Dinners with Widows/widowers grief support group. 5 p.m. St. John Berchmans Church, 300 Fairview Ave., Brentwood. Sandy Heinisch, 510-533-3412 or sandynca@sbcglobal.net.

**Fourth Wednesdays**
Family Caregiver Support Group. 7 p.m. in rooms 214 and 215 in the Ministry Center at St. Isidore Church. Information: Emily@stisidore.org.

**Third Thursdays**
Catholic Divorced Widowed and Separated of the Catholic Faith. 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Contact: 510-229-0547 or sandynca@sbcglobal.net.

**CFCs GRIEF MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUPS**
Peace in the Presence, a healing ministry for caregivers, of the Church. For people who are open to, and regardless of religious affiliation.

**CFC events**

**Nov. 17 and 18**
Parish Outreach — St. David of Wales Parish, 5461 E. 3rd St., Pleasant Hill, 510-233-1531.

**Nov. 25**
Deep Purple, a prayer circle of a support group for those going through the pain of a divorce. Contact: 510-225-4250.

**Nov. 29**

**Dec. 7, 8**

**Dec. 11**

**Dec. 18**
Good Shepherd Craft and Cozy Fashion Show. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3200 Harbor Plaza. Lots of good shopping, games, prizes and a fashion show to enjoy. Food too. Contact: 510-945-0875.

**SPIRITUALITY**

**Nov. 12, 19, 26**
Masses for those in the Line in Main, OSM, Tradition. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Mondays in the Holy Family Chapel, in Ste. Marie, 1315 Lowell Ave, Livermore. La Scala, 925-372-0269 or forcasts@sbcglobal.net.

**Nov. 13, 20, 27**
Men of St. Joseph meet, 7 p.m. 7th Sunday in St. Alphonse Church, 1144 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call Gianna’s at 925-320-0693 or Giannaiseran@gmail.com.

**Mon., Nov. 12**
Gianna’s Tips for Change Dinner benefitting St. Joseph’s Medical Center, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Reservations are required; call Gianni’s at 2065 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 206-513-6740.

**Mon., Nov. 19**

**Mon., Nov. 26**

**Mon., Dec. 3**

**Sat., Dec. 15**

**Sun., Dec. 30**

**Sun., Jan. 6**

**Sun., Jan. 13**

**Sun., Jan. 27**
Christmas Open House at San Damiano. Sunday, Dec. 2, 2 to 5 p.m. 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Join Voci Women’s Vocal Ensemble for its First Annual Singing Series, starting with Silent Night. Tickets are $20 advance; $25 at the door. Information: 510-537-8714.

**Sun., Jan. 31**
Women’s retreat, “From Pain to Peace.” At St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, 2115 Blue Star Drive, Walnut Creek. Information: 925-837-9141, x315 or sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, x315.
Better to help ordinary people appreciate they are made in God’s image

By Rev. Gerald D. Coleman, PSS

In a recent column, Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, cited James Hilman’s 1993 book “Suicide and the Soul”.

His analysis addresses complex issues that “go against common sense, medical practice and rationality.” A “restlessness” can involve a person’s soul and body and create distress, conflict and even insanity. According to the Gospel writers, Jesus engaged in battle against demonic agitation. He fought against his own temptations in the desert and expelled demons from individuals.

He concludes that to truly help a person suffering from some psychological or emotional problem that they’re convinced is demonic, priests should seek out an exorcism. They must first acknowledge that those being baptized will have “to fight the devil and all his cursing.” The exorcism prayer at our baptism, strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation, is a pledge by the Church that the power of God will always be greater than the powers of darkness.

“Catechism of the Catholic Church,” No. 1317

For a significant minority of Americans, Satan and his henchmen are very much alive. Designated priest-exorcists should serve this ministry only for a limited time and never use the Catholic ritual exorcisms (O exorcismos) to encourage satanic superstition. Fears of an extern enemy can cloak the important work of self-assessment. Priests would better use their time as not demonologists but helping ordinary people explain their fears and appreciate that they are created in God’s image and likeness.

(Sulpician Father Gerald D. Coleman is adjunct professor, Graduate Department of Pastoral Studies, Santa Clara University)

Letter

Believe teaching

While attending a funeral Mass for the mother of a local pastor recently, I was struck by the depth of our own belief. It is for a priest to preside at such a Liturgy, for his belief is the key to his ministry or friend. It was also beautiful to see this priest surrounded by his concelebrating brothers, all seemed to sincerely believe Church teaching on death and the Four Last Things.

What a contrast as we find ourselves reeling from the terrible scandals coming to light who ask ourselves how could this happen, and what can we do to ensure that it doesn’t happen to us? I think we’d all agree that transparency, dialogue and honesty are essential.

(Rev. Ronald J. Neudorf, Concord)

UNMET NEEDS

Father Gary Thomas, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Saratoga, holds a crucifix he uses in performing an exorcism.

Father Thomas’ training as an exorcist is recounted in a 2009 nonfiction book titled “The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist,” and the book was made into a 2011 feature film, “The Exorcist: The Untold Story.”

There is a real danger of seeing the devil in every bush.

The papalpaid St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI fostered a revival of theological thought about the devil and created an environment conducive for an exegesis of academic classes on exorcism, frequency called “Demonology Theory.” As recently as September, Pope Francis asked for daily prayers to “protect the Catholic Church from ‘attacks of the devil’ and ‘devil turbulence.’” His remarks come in response to the clerical sex abuse scandal roiling the church and the papacy.

Despite its “fear of The Church in the Modern World” from that “a monumental struggle against the power of darkness” pervades all human history. (No. 37) Catholics, Protestants and Evangelicals, along with a host of non-Christian traditions, the Chinese Taoist belief as one example, affirm that darkness can torment the church and the world.

The Rite of Baptism for Children and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults acknowledge that those being baptized will have “to fight the devil and all his cursing.” The exorcism prayer at our baptism, strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation, is a pledge by the Church that the power of God will always be greater than the powers of darkness.

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(Rev. Ronald J. Neudorf, Concord)
LETTERS

(Continued from Page 14.)

a particular race, religion, ethnic group they would be considered racist and close-minded.

But it needs to be — a climate where we can disagree with each other without being mean-spirited, selfish and malicious — in other words, a climate of respect. Please stop thinking that the Church is not what God calls us to as Catholic Christians.

Kathy Marinos
Limevron

Religion vs. worship

I had to laugh when I read Kathy Klosnoff’s letter (Forum, Oct. 22) that “...Democrats, for the most part, follow Jesus’ teachings.”

No doubt she was referring to our Lord’s teaching that we all must pay for the killing of unborn children in the womb, up to and including the moment of birth, regardless of the mother’s intentions.

Or perhaps she was referring to our Lord giving insurance companies the right to fine an order of Catholic nuns millions of dollars because they did not want to pay for contraception, sterilization or abortion-inducing drugs.

Or maybe she was referring to our Lord giving the authority to the government to force same-sex marriage on people who feel it violates their conscience. Or perhaps it was Jesus’ teaching that the government has the right to discriminate against a business or other job of thousands of dollars, costing them their businesses and homes, if they refuse to participate in gay weddings.

I am not suggesting that the Republican party or any other party has the right to discriminate against businesses or jobs of thousands of dollars, costing them their businesses and homes, if they refuse to participate in gay weddings.

I am simply suggesting that the Lord’s teaching on these policies is justifiably so.

It needs to be stated clearly: the root of the crisis is a homosexual scandal. Almost all of the predators and criminals are male, as are most of the victims, the boys, the teenagers, the young seminarians.

A courageous open letter Bishop Robert Morino sent recently to his diocese in Madison, Wisconsin, underscores the need to heed Jethro, Bishop Morino’s words that there is a “Homosexual subculture within the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.”

What this abuse scandal has revealed is that the very Church that teaches the highest path for those with same-sex attraction is chastity, active homosexual lifestyles among ordained men have been given the stamp of approval for decades.

We know we need to be praying, fasting, especially for all of our faithful priests and bishops. But we also know that until a bill is funnel, the fasting alone will continue to cause pain.

Some bishops, by their actions or their failure to act have caused great harm to both individuals and the Church as a whole.

All of the sexual predators and the bishops who covered up for them must be held accountable.

Jim Cleary
Woodland

On sexual abuse

In a letter (Forum, Oct. 22) tried to link the unsubstantiated charges of sexual assault at the Supreme Court/Kavanaugh hearing to the case of a former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and Cardinal Donald Wuerl.

In the case of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the investigations are over and conclusively, lacking corroborating testimony, public evidence and witnesses. The scandal attempts to apply a newly founded principle of “guilt until proven innocent” fails, as well as with Archbishop Carlo Vigano’s three explosive letters pointing the way. Cleaning up the mess will take a long time and we will eventually result in the “retirement” of many more prelates than former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and Cardinal Donald Wuerl.

In the case of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, we know the answer without question: he is innocent.

In the case of clerical sexual abuse, it is never ever found to be true in the cases of millions, and even tens of millions of dollars, costing them their businesses and homes, if they refuse to participate in gay weddings.

I am simply suggesting that the Lord’s teaching on these policies is justifiably so.

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Disappoointing letter

I was disappointed in Joseph Marinos’s letter (Forum, Oct. 22) that “...Democrats, for the most part, follow Jesus’ teachings.”

It is encouraging to see Bishop Michael Morino send recently to his diocese of Oakland a letter that the intrinsic evil of abortion on demand is practiced "...categorically in their platform. (Their saints include Margaret Sanger, Karl Marx and Saul Alinsky. Their heaven-on-earth utopian endgame is already actualized in Venezuela.) So The Archdiocesan Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D.N.Y., promised to oppose the amending of Roe v. Wade. I have other Senate Democrats declared opposition weeks before a nominee was confirmed, and they needed an additional numerous additional documents to make their opposition clear.

As with Justice Clarence Thomas in 1991, Democrats withheld monumental allegations against Kavanaugh until the last minute, then threw invective tantrums in confirmation hearings.

Christine Blasey Ford’s best friend, K. Keysey, supposedly at the subject party, said she doesn’t know Kavanaugh and doesn’t recall ever being at a gathering with him and that was present.

Ford’s boyfriend Brian Merrick’s sworn statement, Ford’s own testimonial inconsistencies (e.g. her readily disproven tear of birthmark while she was present).

The crux of the problem is often overlooked that homosexual abuse is a core part of the scandal. Abused victims should be investigated. Of course, we need to be praying, fasting for those with same-sex attraction is chastity, active homosexual lifestyles among ordained men have been given the stamp of approval for decades.

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Matt Lopez
Clayton

Evil failed

Re: the letter, "Heed accusations," by Joseph Maronis (Forum, Oct. 22): I confidently supported the confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, wherein his accuser was certainly not "ignored" but rather, was found to be less credible.

My female soul still belongs to me, and I have an outrage and loss of trust in the Catholic Church. And now perhaps we too are his friend, Charles Likkey, an Army chaplain in Vietnam, the most decorated chaplain since the Vietnam War, and like all the medals at the Vietnam Memorial and worked the remaining years of his life to bring peace and end our support of the same military evil Romania condemned.

Both Archbishop Romero’s and Charlie Litkey’s profound conversions from their heathen beliefs by Salvadorean troops trained by our own Army at the School of the Americas were given the stamp of approval for decades.

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Judy Hockett
Walnut Creek

Loss of trust

It is difficult to find words to express my outrage and loss of trust in the Catholic Church concerning the evil clergy abuse scandal.

When will you allow to worship God for one hour a day, as most of the victims, the boys, the teenagers, the young seminarians.

A courageous open letter Bishop Robert Morino sent recently to his diocese in Madison, Wisconsin, underscores the need to heed Jethro, Bishop Morino’s words that there is a “Homosexual subculture within the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.”

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Letters to the editor provide a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and counteract a climate of respect and courtesy to both individuals and the Church as a whole.

The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse.
Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services

Have you finalized your cemetery and funeral services?

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

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