Disaster strikes close to home: How to help

Staff report
With prayers, hospitality, and bottled water and supplies by the truckload, the people of the Diocese of Oakland responded to the needs of their North Bay neighbors in the wake of wildfires that began Oct. 8 and have burned for more than a week.

Oakland's Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, has asked for prayers for the people affected by the fire, which has claimed at least 40 lives and burned almost 220,000 acres. He also provided a list of supplies needed at the time by Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa.

Bishop Barber has directed parishes to take up second collections for the fire victims, and said that he will personally deliver the proceeds to Bishop Robert Vasa of the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

Bishop Vasa has been providing daily updates at http://srdiocese.org/signofhope. Those signs of hope included an Oct. 12 Mass at St. Rose Church in Santa Rosa, for families connected with Cardinal Newman High School and St. Rose Elementary School, which suffered damage in the fire's first hours.

“Pastors, as well as I, are visiting the major evacuation centers. Some parishes are hosting evacuees but the city or county shelters have more concentrated access to the services which those who have left or lost their homes need,” Rev. Jeffrey Kayes, CPPS, parochial vicar of the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa and former pastor of St. Edward Church in Newark, celebrated Mass at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds for the National Guard and responders on Oct. 14.

Bishop Vasa assured his people of his “ongoing and ardent prayers for your safety and well-being.”

“We are far flung and scattered I need you to (Continued on Page 12.)

Disaster strikes close to home: How to help

Father Castillo to lead Faith Formation and Evangelization

By Michele Jurich Staff Writer
Rev. Alexander Q. Castillo began his first meeting with the staff of the Department of Faith Formation and Evangelization by celebrating the Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples.

“I wanted to emphasize that’s the mission of the department,” he said. “It was a bilingual Mass. I wanted also to emphasize the fact we live in a multicultural reality.”

On Oct. 1, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, named Father Castillo, a native of Costa Rica who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Oakland in 2011, director of the Department of Faith Formation and Evangelization.

The department’s work encompasses faith formation for children and youth, young adults and adults, as well as (Continued on Page 12.)

Missions designed to shed light on liturgy

By Albert C. Pacciorini Staff writer
Early American Catholic churches may have been built using geometry and sunlight to highlight liturgical and religious events.

Ruben G. Mendoza, an archaeologist and chair of the School of Social, Behavioral and Global Studies at California State University Monterey Bay, contends these "illuminations" were intentional, perhaps part of an evangelization effort by New World missionaries during the Spanish colonial period.

They were first noticed at Mission San Juan Bautista in 1997. Mendoza and others have spent the last 20 years researching the illuminations.

“This is not coincidence,” Mendoza told about 200 people crowded into the Mission San Jose in Fremont on Oct. 4. “How they did this is anybody’s guess. People used to accuse me of seeing these illuminations themselves.”

Saints’ paintings, statues and parts of the altar can be illuminated, he said, often to coincide with a feast day.

“Mission San Jose has spectacular alignments,” Mendoza said. So he and St. Vincent, March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.

On the evening of Oct. 4, (Continued on Page 12.)
Nov. 3: Meet with new priests, San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville
Nov. 4: 11 a.m., Memorial Mass for deacons and their families, St. Joan of Arc Parish, San Ramon
Nov. 6-8: Catholic-Muslim Dialogue seminar, University of California, Berkeley
Nov. 8: 11 a.m., Holy Family Sisters’ building dedication, Fremont

Support for Malta Clinic

More than 250 people attended the annual fundraising dinner for the Order of Malta free medical clinic Oct. 4 at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco. More than $250,000 was raised primarily via auctions, enough to fund the clinic for 25 weeks of the year. The clinic is open only 3 days a week. To help this free medical clinic, which has offered health care to more than 25,000 uninsured patient visits, go to www.orderofmaltaclinic.com.

New music, choir at All Souls Day Mass

By Michele Jurich

Nov. 2

The Solemn Mass on All Souls Day, at 7 p.m. Nov. 2, will mark a number of firsts for the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

A 21st-century composition — David Briggs’ Requiem — will have its West Coast premiere in the 21st-century Oakland cathedral, at the direction of Rudy de Vos, director of music. “My aim here,” de Vos said, “was to have something that’s not built before. Let’s see if we can bring something pleasing to the ear, but new.”

The Choiral Cathedral of Men and Boys will make its debut that evening. The boys are students at Oakland’s Pacific Boychoir Academy. This Mass will be their first appearance as part of the choir that will sing at major cathedral events throughout the year.

Briggs’ Requiem, said de Vos, calls for “an interesting combination of instruments.” The cathedral orchestra will feature the organ, cello, flute, trumpet, harp, timpansi and glockenspiel. “I think it will be very effective in our cathedral,” de Vos said, “and help folks pray and remember their dead.”

The Requiem by Gabriel Fauré, which has been at the cathedral in previous years, features strings and woodwinds. In the Briggs Requiem, de Vos said, one can hear influences of 20th-century composer Maurice Duruflé. In future years, de Vos said, the cathedral might rotate the Requiem composed by Briggs, Duruflé and Fauré.

As he prepares the year of cathedral music, de Vos said, “I make it a point to include a certain number of living composers.”

While “continuing to foster the church’s rich history,” de Vos said, “we are utilizing the talents of living artists. You look for the best art of the living composers.”

Briggs, the artist in residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, had a previous engagement and will be unable to be part of the West Coast premiere.

To help cover the costs of presenting the work, donations may be made to honor the dead. They will be remembered at Mass and their names will be printed in the commemorative program. To make a donation, mail a check to Cathedral Music, The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Please note ‘All Souls’ Mass’ on the check memo line and include the names of those you wish to remember.

The annual Vigil of Light prayer service will follow the Mass. Very Rev. James Matthews, rector of the cathedral, will preside at the service in the Cathedral of Christ the Light Mausoleum.

“Let the Catholic voice . . . be spread in every diocese, in every parish, in every association, in every family.”

— Pope Paul VI

THE VATICAN

Amos synod

Addressing the challenges of evangelization in one of the world’s most remote areas and the connection between faith and environmental concern, Pope Francis announced a special gathering of the Synod of Bishops to focus on the Amazon region. “Accepting the wish of several episcopal conferences of Latin America as well as the voice of pastors and faithful from other parts of the world, I have decided to convene a special assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian region, which will take place in Rome in October 2019,” Pope Francis announced Oct. 15. “Guilty of embezzlement

A Vatican court found the former president of the Vatican-owned pediatric hospital guilty of abuse of office for using donations belonging to the hospital’s foundation to refurbish a Vatican-owned apartment used by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, former Vatican secretary of state. Originally charged with embezzlement, Giuseppe Profiti was sentenced to one year in jail and fined 5,000 ($5,900) euros on the reduced charge, but the sentence was suspended.

Friar named publisher

Conventional Franciscan Father Guido Casarosa has been appointed head of the Vatican Publishing House. The 39-year-old member of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual replaces Salesian Father Giuseppe Costa, who ended two-five year terms in June 2017.

— Catholic News Service

Seminarians visit parishes

Seminarians from the Oakland Parish Mission observed several parish visits recently, including Our Lady Queen of the World Parish in Bay Point. Pictured above, from left, top row, Anhvu Nguyen, Candelario Jimenez (seminarian candidate), Rev. Peter Duc Dung Ngo (pastor of OLQW), Mario Rizzo, Huong Dinh; bottom row, Mark Ruiz, Jesus Ramirez, John Pietruszka, Garrett McGovern, Peter Laxmangond, Jimmy Jimenez and Rev. Alexander Castillo.

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THE CATHOLIC VOICE

OCTOBER 23, 2017
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The fires in Santa Rosa and Napa have been on everyone’s mind, and not just because when we walk outside it smells like we’re at a campfire. How much worse it is for those who have lost their homes, and even their lives.

Many people have written, phoned and e-mailed me asking, “How can we help?” I contacted Bishop Robert Vasa of the Diocese of Santa Rosa (which includes Napa and Sonoma), offering our help, offered to host him, and any of his priests who might have been left homeless.

I asked him what he needed most. “Quite frankly, Mike,” he said, “we need prayers.”

In our effort to provide material assistance, which is certainly welcome, we often forget the supernatural power of God, to Whom we turn in times of distress. (“Quite frankly, Mike,” he said, “we need prayers.”)

I have spoken with Bishop Robert Vasa, the Bishop of Santa Rosa. He is grateful for our prayers, and is providing regular updates on his website: http://srdiocese.org/signofhope. He is encouraging everyone to participate in a holy hour of adoration to pray for those affected and for the fires to subside.

I ask all parishes to consider a special collection for the victims of the fires. Please select a weekend to accommodate your parish’s calendar, and send the money per our diocesan office’s calendar, and send this money immediately to the Santa Rosa diocese. Catholic Charities of the East Bay (www.srcharities.org/fire-recovery) is working with other agencies to provide short-term and long-term support for victims. People who are in shelters will need to find temporary housing while their homes are being rebuilt. Monetary donations will be the most useful contribution to that work, you can find information on how to donate at their website. They are also able to accept a limited number of the following items: diapers, baby wipes, face masks, twin size blankets, toiletries, towels and warm adult coats.

Catholic Charities is also in need of bilingual volunteers; you may dial 707-528-8712, ext. 160, for more details. Sometimes people in shelters appreciate having someone willing to listen and to pray with them. This ministry of presence is truly an act of mercy. I am grateful for your compassion and outreach to our sisters and brothers.

Thank you for your concern and generosity, generally expressed both spiritually and materially.

Bishop Barber

Michael C. Barber, SJ
Bishop of Oakland
Columbus Day support

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A new survey shows that 57 percent of respondents who said they were Catholic, or 63 percent of people who said they were “very favorable” to Catholicism and the national holiday that honors him. Overall, the poll found that Americans support Columbus and the observance of Columbus Day by nearly a 2-to-1 margin. The survey results were released Oct. 3 by the Knights of Columbus, which is based in New Haven. The Marist Poll conducted the survey, funded in partnership with the Knights of Columbus, and CBS News. Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries in the Americas and elsewhere to officially celebrate the anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ arrival in the Americas on Oct. 12, 1492. The federal holiday in the U.S. this year was Oct. 9.

10 million views

BOSTON — A hurricane-stricken Puerto Rican and a local fan who dropped off pizza are among the admirers of a video of the choir from Cardinal Shehan School in Baltimore that has gone viral and been clicked on approaching 10 million times. ABC’s “World News Tonight” broadcast a story about the middle school choir and its “baking boot.”

Planned giving ‘key’

LOS ANGELES — Colleges, hospitals and universities “are well-established” in the planning process as part of their development programs, according to the National Catholic Planned Giving Conference. The annual conference is hosted by the University of San Diego. Jelton made the comments in a recent interview with Catholic News Service, which is partnering with the National Catholic Planned Giving Organization based in Oakland, Calif., to sponsor the Nov. 1-3 conference in Long Beach for parishioners, high school students, elementary school students and entrants in the archdiocese and around the country. For more information, www.codesoweb.com.

Sessions affirms liberty

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop John D. Allen, the conference’s general secretary, affirmed the importance of religious liberty in a session Oct. 16. The conference’s executive committee approved the statement, which was passed by the U.S. bishops in 2005. The statement, which was entitled “Laudato Si’, on care for our common home,” was signed by the conference’s president, Bishop Robert J. McManus, of Worcester, Mass., and the conference’s vice president, Bishop Ronald G.看。Ns, of Edmonton, Alberta.

Court upholds wait

DENVENPORT, Iowa — An Iowa District Court judge Oct. 2 upheld the state’s 72-hour waiting period for abortion, signed into law in May by former Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad. Planned Parenthood of the Heartland had filed a petition for injunctive relief immediately after the bill was signed into law. The judge in his 5-page decision said that it would place an undue burden on patients, particularly low-income women who have to travel long distances for abortion services. The Iowa Supreme Court ordered a temporary injunction, allowing the enforcement of the law the same day.

Room for debate

BOSTON — While Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Boston are accepting students and enrollment inquiries from Puerto Rican families displaced to Florida after the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria, an informal survey conducted in early October by the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools indicated that some 50 students from Puerto Rico — including two from the U.S. Virgin Islands — had already been placed in Catholic elementary and secondary schools within the archdiocese and more placements are expected in the coming months.

New auxiliary in Orange

WASHINGtON — Pope Francis has appointed Father Thomas Nguyen, a priest of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida, to be an auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Orange, Calif. The appointment was announced in Washington Oct. 6 by Mgr. Walter R. White, chargé d’affaires at the Vatican’s nunciature in Washington. Born in Vietnam, Bishop-designate Nguyen, 64, fled the country in 1979 by boat with his family and spent 10 months in a refugee camp in the Philippines before arriving in Hartford, Conn., in 1980.

Contraceptive mandate

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration Oct. 6 issued interim rules expanding the exemption to the contraceptive mandate for religious employers, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, who object on moral grounds to covering contraceptives and aborting-inducing drugs and devices in their employees’ health insurance plans. Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops praised the action as “a return to common sense, long-standing federal practice and faithful collaboration between church and state.” The contraceptive mandate was put in place by the Department of Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act. While providing an exemption for religious employers, the new rules maintain the existing federal contraceptive mandate most employers. President Donald Trump had pledged to lift the mandate but placed it on religious employers during a White House signing ceremony May 4 for an executive order promoting free speech for religious employers. In a statement, the Archdiocese of Washington said that the bishops had considered the administration for a lack of action on that pledge in the months that followed.

People pray as they walk through the forest during an Oct. 7 mass rosary prayer on the Polish-Czech border near Skolarska Poruba, Poland.

Thousands gather to pray rosary

Catholic News Agency

On Oct. 9, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, which commemorates the victory of the Army of Lepanto, during which Mary, through the prayer of the rosary is credited for a key victory against the Ottoman Empire. It also fell a week before the 100th anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, who encouraged that world to pray the rosary for peace. Some participants also voiced concerns about the spread of Islam and the loss of Christianity and European culture. The event’s website noted that in a letter to Pope St. John Paul II, identifies as Catholic.

According to the New York Times, participants gathered for prayer at 300 churches near the border of Poland as well as in 4,000 designated prayer zones.

The prayer took place on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, which also commemorates the memory of the Battle of Lepanto, during which Mary, through the prayer of the rosary is credited for a key victory against the Ottoman Empire. It also fell a week before the 100th anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, who encouraged that world to pray the rosary for peace. Some participants also voiced concerns about the spread of Islam and the loss of Christianity and European culture. The event’s website noted that in a letter to Pope St. John Paul II, identifies as Catholic.

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Church’s urgent need to reach out to Hispanic Catholics

By Albert C. Pacciorini  
Staff writer

There must be a critical urgency to reaching out to Hispanic Catholics for the future of the US Church, speakers at a recent meeting of Oakland diocese priests.

The two main speakers both emphasized the cultural and generational differences between the Hispanic community, which will soon dominate the US church demographics, and the need to reach out to the community. The speakers were Hoffman Ospino, associate professor of Hispanic Ministry and Religious Education at Boston College, whose research focuses on Catholic parishes’ Hispanic ministry, and Armando Cervantes, director of youth and young adults programs at the Diocese of Orange. They were among a half-dozen speakers on different topics at the fall study day of the Diocese of Oakland: Its Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima.

All the speakers stressed the importance of being involved in the V Encuentro, a fifth nationwide initiative of US bishops at making more inclusive initiatives of US bishops.

Father Castillo explained for the last 18 months, Encuentro “is a process,” explained Rev. Alexander Castillo, newly named director of the Department of Faith Formation and Evangelization in the diocese. “It goes both ways. How do we commit Hispanics to the work of the Church?”

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, explained the mission of the Diocese of Oakland: Its three priorities are improve the Sunday Mass experience, focus on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and encourage people to become missionary disciples.

“Mass attendance is declining,” the bishop said. “We can’t sit back and watch it decline.”

Father Castillo explained for the last 18 months, Encuentro team members and clergy have been working to organize and train parish teams. Of the 41 diocesan parishes with Spanish-language Masses, 33 are involved in V Encuentro.

A diocesanwide meeting will take place Oct. 28, followed by 235 regional meetings and one big national gathering.

Why an Hispanic Encuentro and not say, an Asian or multicultural meeting, so everyone could be included, Ospino asked, because the Hispanic population dwarfs other ethnic groups and has an historical and cultural presence with deep roots.

In the 1960s, a picture of US Catholics would have shown they were 90 percent white, European-Americans, Ospino said. From 1900 to 2000, these German, Polish, Irish, Italian and other Catholic immigrants went from 7 million to 71 million. They made their own schools and eventually cohesive communities. They became the middle class and achieved the American dream.

But decades of turmoil in Latin America resulted in a tsunami of immigration. In the 1960s, there were 7 million Hispanics here; now there are 32 million.

Most of these immigrants are Catholic, so they are mostly affecting the Catholic Church.

“The gift and blessing of Hispanic Catholics is that they are reshaping our Church,” Ospino said.

While the non-Hispanic white population is now 47.5 percent of the population, down from 90 percent, he said, the Hispanic population is 50 percent.

This is the present, and in your diocese these numbers are even bigger,” he said.

“All minority populations are growing,” he conceded. “If you look from now, Asians will be 15-20 percent of the Catholic Church in this country, but Hispanics will dominate.”

There are 400,000 Hispanics in the East Bay, so I am appealing your churches are full, he asked the priests.

“Where is the disconnect?”

“How are we reaching out to Hispanic Catholics,” he asked. “That is the purpose of Encuentro.”

(Continued on Page 9.)
By Rev. Lawrence D’Anjou

I’ve recently had the great pleasure of participating in two pilgrimages sponsored through The Catholic Voice.

The first was in October 2015 to Fatima in Portugal, Santiago de Compostela in Spain and to Lourdes and Paris in France.

The second was in February to the Holy Land.

Both of these were sponsored by Unitours and both were tremendously blessed experiences; not just for me but (at least from what I hear), for everyone who participated in them.

I look forward to another pilgrimage soon; this one to the Marian apparition site of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico in February 2018.

The God who created and sustains all things seems to smile upon pilgrims. He knows the travail (the same root word for travel) that we undertake to get there. And He rewards that effort with something extra-special. A grace that, in my experience, is something just short of heaven.

“I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “… plans to give you a future of hope.”

Hope. Hope is what the captives who heard these words from the prophet Jeremiah received. As pilgrims whether we are conscious of it or not, we bring our hopes for heaven on our journey. And as we visit these holy places that hope blossoms and overflows. We experience this together — often with people we have just come to know.

This is what I would call the magic of the pilgrimage experience.

(Rev. Lawrence D’Anjou is pastor at St. Raymond Church, Dublin.)

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Fr. Lawrence D’Anjou
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Pilgrimages have a magic all their own
My amazing pilgrimage

By Regina Wilkerson
Special to The Catholic Voice
After 2½-years of planning meetings, prayer for God’s guidance and advertising, the time arrived to embark on this life-changing experience; June 5, 2017.

Upon confirmation that we had three ordained clergy joining our pilgrimage for a total of 14, and that Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, of Oakland, would be joining us on June 7, I knew God had something miraculous in store for us; this was to be a truly evangelizing journey.

We left SFO and arrived in Cartagena, Colombia, seven hours later on June 5. Accompanying us were the Very Rev. James M. Matthews, the Rev. Aidan McAleney and Deacon Earl Johnson, joined later by Bishop Barber.

I have no doubt that our prayers of thanksgiving and reconciliation were received by God, our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Peter Claver and the hosts of angels and saints in Heaven. I know God hears the cry of the poor and that we will continue to serve by sharing the Good News to all that will hear us. We saw the young Colombians hugging the statue of St. Peter Claver with such gratitude to God as they entered the church.

Next, we arrived in Panama City, Panama, on June 10, after a 14-hour flight from Colombia, to the most luxurious Wadford-Astoria hotel, where we were again treated like royalty.

We were able to tour the Panama Canal and, observed the cargo ships and again treated like royalty. When the cargo barely survived the journey. by...
MSJ Dominicans’ center offers retreats, reflections and enrichment

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

When the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose opened their new home in 2016, one could not help but appreciate the Dominican Community and Wellness Center, a two-level common space adjacent to the Sisters’ St. Joseph Residence. The community center’s design offers views of the Fremont hills; it seems to be a world away from city life. It is to this inviting space that the Sisters’ Center for Education & Spirituality welcomes the community to retreats, spiritual gatherings, concerts and talks.

The mission statement of the center tells it all. The center “provides welcoming space for those seeking to deepen their life-giving relationship with God, themselves, one another and all of creation. Grounded in the Dominican tradition of searching for truth wherever it is found and in keeping with the mission of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, the center provides opportunities for spiritual and educational enrichment.”

One such opportunity for enrichment occurred Oct. 14, when more than 50 people gathered at the center to hear three speakers, and share ideas of their own, on Laudato Si’, two years after the publication of Pope Francis’ groundbreaking encyclical. They provided more than lip service to sustainability. The center, as well as the residence, are certified by the US Green Building Council as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-certified buildings. The Sisters’ building project put their “care for creation” into thoughtful action.

“Laudato Si’: A Story of Right Relationships” began with prayer. Sister Patricia Siemen, OP, of the Adrian Dominicans of Michigan, was the first presenter. Sister Patricia, who is serving as prioress of her congregation, said she welcomed the opportunity to talk about the “topic of my heart’s love.” She is an attorney and founder of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence in Florida.

“The topic is simply the suffering of the Earth,” she said. “They indicated the suffering of the poor with the issue, but one of spirituality and morality.” It was published not just to Catholics but to “all people of good will.” It was published before the December 2015 UN Conference on Climate Change in Paris.

He addresses not just an ecological issue, but one of spirituality and morality. “In every sentence, Pope Francis connects the suffering of the poor with the suffering of the Earth,” she said. “They are connected.”

(Continued on Page 9.)
UPCOMING RETREATS

Saturday, Nov. 4
“Mystical Spirituality: How We Evolve Into Who We Really Are” with David Richo, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at San Damieno Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: $85 (includes lunch). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

Tuesday, Nov. 7
Journaling as a Spiritual Practice with Nancy Burchett, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: $30 (includes lunch). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

Nov. 8 to 9
Grieving with Gratitude with Rev. Pedro Greeme, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at San Damieno Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: $205 for shared room and $235 for private room. Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

Thursday, Nov. 9
“Quiet Prayer by the Sea with Pope Francis,” Retreat with Father Tom Weston, S.J., 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Villa Maria del Mar, 21918 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz. Information/registration: 831-727-1236.

Friday, Nov. 17
Stop, Look and Go: A Day of Gratitude, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mercy Center, 2300 Adaline Drive, Burlingame. During this season of Thanksgiving, come and join us for a day to reflect on all that we have been blessed with. Cost: $30 nonrefundable registration fee. Bring a bag lunch. Retreat team. Information: 650-340-7456 or www.mercycenter.org.

Nov. 17 to 19

Saturday, Dec. 2
Art and Soul with Ai Garrotto. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Information: www.vallombrosa.org.

Dec. 1 to 3
Men and Women Silent Retreat, At St. Clare’s Retreat Center, 2381 Laurel Glen Road, Soquel. “Fanning the Flame of the Fire Within” with Father Robert Barcelos, OCD. Information: 831-423-8093 or stclaretrecentcenter@gmail.com.

Advent Retreat with Mary Neil, OP, At Santa Sabina Center, 25 Magnolia Ave., San Rafael. Take this opportunity to ponder the fullness and emptiness of this particular time in our lives. Register by Nov. 1 for half-price. Cost: $830; $325 after Nov. 1. Deposit fee: $125. Information: www.santasabinacenter.org.

Villa Maria del Mar – Retreats Summer 2018

• June 1 – 11
Father Len Feeko
• June 18 – 25
Sister Mimi Maloney, SNJM
• July 10 – 17
Father Donald Bisson, FMS
• July 23 – 30
Father Jim Clarke

Reservations can be made after Jan 1, 2018 Visit the website for offerings all year long: www.villamariadelmar.org

Further information: 831-475-1336 21918 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95063

Church’s... (Continued from Page 5.)

Cervantes said, “We have to change the way we evangelize.”

“It is Hispanics who are having kids,” Osipin said, “94 percent are U.S. born, who is reaching out to them?”

“In the last two decades,” Osipin said, “14 percent — 25 percent — have stopped self-identifying as Catholics.”

“Every parish should establish a youth ministry for Hispanics,” Osipin said.

Walk with them, ask questions, listen, share, Cervantes advised. Go out to where they spend their time. “They will not get to us if we wait at the church.”

Finally, “we have to teach stewardship,” Osipin said. “Hispanics are used to government, have to understand a vision. We have to work with US Hispanic Catholics, walk with them to develop that culture of stewardship.”

Our model of giving does not exist, he said. Hispanics are used to government where they do not get to us if we wait at the church.”

Vallombrosa integrates the peace of a wooded setting with state-of-the-art meeting rooms: business grade wi-fi, a wonderful chapel and food to achieve a memorable experience. Easy Caltrain/BART connection. For Retreat information: 650-325-5614 or www.vallombrosa.org.

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St. Clare’s Retreat
2381 Laurel Glen Road
Soquel, CA 95073

November - December 2017
November 3-5 Spanish Retreat (Women)
Fr. Eugenio Aramburo
Mission of the Bible (Women in the Bible)
21918 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA
November 10-12 Chinese Retreat (Mandarin/Putonghua)
Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD
November 17-19 Spanish Retreat (Men & Women)
Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD
La dinamica del Espiritu Santo en Nuestra Vida.
December 1-3 Men & Women Silent Retreat
Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD
Panum Verum: The Fire of the Whole

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Our beautiful labyrinth garden, meditation room and chapel are available to guests and visitors: www.mercycenter.org.

For retreat calendar and rental information call: 650 747-7474

The Catholic Voice — 9

Retreats
By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

At the bottom of the Pilgrims’ Path leading to the Oakland’s Cathedral of Christ the Light stands the Order of Malta Clinic of Northern California, a tiny space where more than 25,000 times over the past nine years, patients with no medical insurance have been treated.

The clinic runs on what’s been described as less than a shoestring, staffed primarily by volunteer doctors and nurses who provide medical care without an insurance card or copay, and with a major dose of compassion.

Among the clinic’s latest additions is a physician who wears a white coat embroidered with his name. And beneath that coat is a Roman collar.

In the clinic, he’s Doctor Diaz. Up that path at the cathedral, where he serves as parochial vicar, he’s Father Diaz. One man, one vocation.

“My first vocation was a priestly vocation,” Rev. Francisco Javier Diaz Diaz, SJ, said. “Everything started from there.”

It started early. “I was 10-years-old when I felt called to become a priest,” he said. His intent was to leave his native Costa Rica and become a missionary, like St. Francis Xavier.

He told his parents. They recalled their reply: “You need to grow up first before you join religious life.”

Eventually, they came to terms; he said. “I was not going to join a monastery at 12.” But he was a Boy Scout, and an aptitude for first aid led him to consider how medicine might help him serve.

“Maybe medicine will allow me to grow into an awareness of many aspects of human life,” he said. “It would be helpful for the mission.”

He described the journey through medical school as “tough—when you have your heart always driven to Mass and religious life.”

There was “always a longing for that eventuality of becoming a priest.”

He finished medical school, he said, “with the support of my classmates. He finished, too, without ‘doing things that were contrary to my conscience.’ He avoided, for example, opportunities to attend surgery for sterilization.

“I did not want to have anything to do with it,” he said.

His practice of attending daily Mass took away time that other students might have spent studying. Sometimes he had to travel far from school to attend Mass in his available hours.

He began practicing medicine after his graduation. “I studied medicine as a work of mercy,” he said. “I told my parents I don’t want to earn a coin with medicine.”

His parents supported his decision.

“I started volunteering my services as a doctor in a public clinic,” he said. “When I came there, I said I just wanted to give my time. The state provided my education. My parents paid a little. I would like as a Catholic to give my time. I practiced for three years, mostly with youth at risk.”

With an eye toward becoming a missionary in Russia, you say, Diaz began learning German. “My first thought was about serving youth that has lost the faith,” he said.

“I wrote a letter to the provincial in Germany, requesting permission,” he said.

The reply: “You need to start as a Jesuit in your own country.” But he didn’t quite fit in his own culture. “You are too religious for the secular spirit of our order,” was one rejection.

He went to Mexico. “I felt the Lord called me there. I hid my cross a little bit, put my rosary in my pocket. My deviations were hidden,” he said.

He did not give up daily Mass. “I will be a rebel on that too,” he said. He took poor youths, going to every corner in Guadalajara” to invite them to parish programs.

But Mexico was not the place he was able to enter “You need to start as a Jesuit in your own country.” But he didn’t quite fit in his own culture. “You are too religious for the secular spirit of our order,” was one rejection.

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But Mexico was not the place he was able to enter.

Undaunted, he decided, “I keep going north until someone says yes.”

The “yes” came in Oregon, where he was welcomed into the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus. His formation put his medical experience in the background at first. He was allowed to serve as an interpreter at a medical clinic, and visit Loyola University in Chicago to help students.

After his fourth year, he was sent to Chicago to pass the examination to allow him to practice in the United States. He began his medical residency at Texas Tech in El Paso, where being bilingual was an advantage.

To assist in his practice of family medicine, he studied natural family planning techniques, including the technology, which is a technique that can help infertile couples achieve much-wanted pregnancies.

After his residency, he practiced at Catholic Charities of Washington, DC. In June 2016, he realized the calling that he had at 10: He was ordained a priest in Spokane, Washington, by Bishop Thomas Daly.

Father Diaz welcomes the opportunity to serve in the medical clinic, and the cathedral parish, where he celebrates the Spanish Mass on Wednesday and Sunday, and makes himself available for the sacramental needs of the Spanish-speaking parishioners.

He sees himself as a “priest-physician. I see my work there brings up the works of mercy, the hospitality of the cathedral. It is not separate. It is a part of our Catholic heart.”

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YOUNG MEN’S INSTITUTE

Who are we?

Since 1883, the Young Men’s Institute (YMI) has operated as a fraternal Catholic order supporting its motto of “Pro Deo, Pro Patria” (For God, For Country). Today, over two thousand members (called brothers) honor this motto by working together on worthwhile programs & activities for Catholic faith & for our communities.

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A vocation that is the definition of determination

At the Order of Malta Clinic of Northern California, Dr. Thomas Wallace; Albrecht von Boeselager, grand chancellor of the Order of Malta; and Dr. Francisco Javier Diaz Diaz, SJ, who also serves at the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

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18 advance to candidacy of permanent diaconate

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

Through the Rite of Candidacy to the Permanent Diaconate, 18 men from parishes across the Diocese of Oakland moved a step closer to ordination. The men, who range in age from 35 to 55, are entering the third year of a five-year formation.

In his homily during the Oct. 1 Mass at St. Stephen Church in Walnut Creek, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, defined the role of the deacon: “Not primarily liturgical, not primarily even sacramental.”

“The greatest need I see is to help in ministry to the sick and the incarcerated,” the bishop said.

As an example, Bishop Barber told them of Deacon Ruben Gomez’s ministry. For more than 20 years, he has ministered every weekend at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin. Deacon Gomez prepares the women incarcerated there for baptism and confirmation.

“Make sure you have a ministry to the poor, the sick and the incarcerated,” Bishop Barber advised the candidates.

Each candidate was seated, with his family, on the church’s center aisle. When his name was called after the homily, each answered and walked to the altar, where his name was called after the homily, each answered and walked to the altar, where his name was called after the homily.

The bishop accepted their candidacy to the permanent diaconate. Among them: a building inspector, an immigration official and an accountant.

Two parishes — St. Bonaventure in Concord and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Brentwood — have two deacon candidates.

For Alex Ebarle of St. Edward Parish in Newark, the call has been part of his life for a long time. “I heard it when I was younger,” he said. “I kept following it. It led me to the diaconate.”

He credited the guidance of Rev. Jeff Finley at St. Monica in Walnut Creek. “He always told me ‘to keep following the Lord’,” Ebarle said.

Dominic Tarantino “is very active in social justice,” said Deacon Bill Gall, who serves at St. Bonaventure Parish. Tarantino and Peter Pasion are candidates from the parish.

Deacon Gall said he had been ordained 22 years ago; including the formation process, he and his wife Sylvia have been involved in the diaconate for almost 30 years. “It’s really been a blessing to us,” Deacon Gall said.

“A blessing for my whole family,” said Dominique Aragon said that the Mass, surrounded by his wife, young children and extended family. Aragon’s call to serve God “started when I was in youth group at Holy Angels in Daly City,” he said. Parishioners often suggested to him that he would make a good priest. He went to a vocation retreat.

“God spoke to me and said marriage was my call, but I needed to serve Him in a deep way,” he said.

When he told Maria Renee of his calling, she didn’t shy away.

“He said, ‘It would be a dream come true for me to see you as a deacon,’” she recalled. She smiled.

National Vocations Awareness Week

Discerning a call?

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18 advance to candidacy of permanent diaconate

Candidates (spouse) for the Permanent Diaconate

Paul Abanoja (Cristina)
Jorge Aragon (Maria Renee)
Larry Aseo (Lily)
Juan Bermudov (Vette)
Tom Bodech (Kette)
Alberto Cruz (Claudia)
Leladi DeFrates (Silvia)
Alex Ebarle (Linda)
Robert Falco (Lauria)
Benjamin Lai (Denise)
Peter Nixon (Gina Cattalini)
Sunser Porey (Veronica)
Arsenio Reyes (Teresita)
Frederick Sark (Manza)
Rene Solozano (Bly)
Dominic Tarantino (Rebecca)
Paul Turek (Imma)
David Weiss (Darcie)

Priesthood: Determining what God wants for you?

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

Men who are discerning a call to the priesthood are not alone in the Diocese of Oakland.

“The process of discernment is really trying to understand and to hear what God wants for them in their lives,” said Rev. Wayne Campbell, vocations director, Diocese of Oakland.

That process is assisted by a group. Father Campbell has formed that meets monthly. Eight men, in their 20s and early 30s, are participating, but there’s room for more. The group currently includes college students, college graduates and a military veteran.

The men met in September at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Oakland, with Father Campbell and Rev. Brandon Macadieg, parochial administrator at St. Lawrence O’Toole/St. Cyril and St. Paschal Baylon parishes in Oakland. Father Macadieg was ordained in 2013.

As vocations director, Father Campbell’s role is to journey with those discerning the priesthood and religious life. Also in his care are the diocese’s 17 seminarians, who are in formation at seminaries from Menlo Park to Boston.

Father Campbell welcomes inquiries from women who are discerning a vocation to religious life, and will put them in contact with women religious.

“My vision of the Church, emphasized by Pope Francis, is that we are to bring the mercy of God to the battleground, the field hospital, he calls it.” Father Campbell said.

“You really want men and women who have a heart that’s capable of expansion,” he said. “The academic part, while necessary, is not the most important part of the vocation.”

The priestly and religious life are not a default position.

“Sometimes, people whose lives aren’t going the right way say, ‘I might as well become a priest or I might as well go into the convent. The seminary or the convent is not the place to run away from yourself.” It can be, instead, the place to discover ‘am I capable of loving the way God loves and Jesus loves’,” he said.

Father Campbell recently returned from a meeting of vocation directors in New Orleans, where it was said that Jesus is the vocation director in each diocese. “Our job is to accompany,” he said. Vocations, he said, begin in the home and in parishes.

One of his parishioners at St. Monica in Moraga, where he served as pastor for nine years, is Rev. Mr. Mario Rizzo, who was ordained in August to the transitional diaconate for the Diocese of Oakland. Another former parishioner is in formation with the Dominicans in the Western Province.

Father Campbell invites men who are interested in joining the monthly discernment group or participating in a retreat Feb. 16-18 at St. Patrick’s Seminary & University to contact him at 510-267-8345 or wcampbell@oakdiocese.org.

You are invited!

Join us for a February retreat at St. Patrick’s Seminary & University to contact him at 510-267-8345 or wcampbell@oakdiocese.org.
Disaster . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

know that you are not alone,” he wrote. “We are still in survival mode rather than recov-
ering, and many are still unprepared, especially for our impacted schools, to provide a path forward.”

That path forward has drawn the attention of students at St. Michael Parish, schools in the Oakland diocese, Bishop O’ Dowd High School has designated a “dollar day” collection, and stu-
dents at St. Joseph Notre Dame High School are also planning to help the recovery. The storm, which damaged or destroyed thousands of homes, and caused a truck destined for the evacuation centers with hundreds of supplies they collected during one of its trips on Oct. 13.

Holy Names High School partnered with Yankee Truckway, a local trucking company, to send toiletries and dry goods to the North Bay shelters.

St. Raymond Church in Dublin worked with the Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa to provide much-needed ready-to-eat food, such as peanut butter, foil-packaged tuna and granola bars, as well as bottled water, for distribution in the evacuation shelters.

Parishioners at St. Michael Parish joined with the Livermore neighbors to send bottled water, canned goods, personal care items and flashlights.

More than 40 Piedmont Troop 6 Scouts — including Bishop O’ Dowd’s students Benicio de Palm, Tedi Blynn ‘18, Kieran Okada ‘19, Jeff Roberts ‘19, Mawen Hu ‘16, and Noelia McKiop ‘21 — put their cooking skills to good use. With their adult leaders and parents, the Scouts put together a mobile kitchen, then prepared and served lunch for more than 200 Redwood Empire Council Boy Scout volunteers working over two miles from the fires.

Also on the front lines, Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa is working with other agencies to provide short-term and long-term support for victims. Monetary donations will be the most useful con-
tribution to that work. They are able to accept a limited number of diapers, baby wipes, face masks, twin-size blankets and toiletries, and warm adult coats. Check its website at www.catholiccharities.org for information on how to assist those in need.

As of Oct. 17, Mont La Salle, the San Francisco New Orleans District Provincialate of the Christian Brothers, remained undamaged by the fires. The Brothers of Mont La Salle’s Provincialate and Holy Family Communities evacuated the property on Oct. 10, and will stay with the Brothers’ communities in Concord.

Father Castillo . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

as marriage and family life, justice, Latino ministry and SPRED, the ministry to people with developmental disabilities. “I couldn’t think of anything more important to say to them than the words of appreciation, and the life and work of San Jose,” he said. “From there, all we do is for that.”

Father Castillo also serves as the bishop’s secretary and episcopal master of cer-
emonies, director of the Office of Worship, and academic dean for the Spanish-
language division of the St. Francis de Sales School for Pastoral Ministry. He will continue in all of those roles.

Of his new post, Father Castillo said, “I am one who needs to learn how the department works.”

First, he needs to pay attention to those still in the church but they are not involved in the church,” he said. An example might be parents who take their child to faith formation, but are not involved themselves.

Pope Francis has been emphasizing the first movement of evangelization can-
not be doctrine anymore,” Father Castillo said. “People don’t respond to doctrine. They don’t respond to experts. They respond to witnesses.

So the first movement of evangeliza-
tion tends to be showing them the fruits of the Gospel in our own lives, showing them what the Lord has done for me,” he said. “It is also to say empowering parents to do the same would be a priority.

Next, Father Castillo said, “is to embrace the missionary face of the church, those who have never heard, or believed in, Christ.”

He recalled Pope John Paul II’s admo-
nition that if the church is not a missionary church, it is not the church of Christ. “The church is not here for itself,” he said, “it’s here for the sanctification of the world.”

The end of the year brings many opportunities for people to be missionary, such as the Dec. 2 pilgrimage of Our Lady of Guadalupe that brings thousands through the streets of Oakland.

“They feel the presence of God because the pilgrimage brings the image of God,” he said.

Appointing Father Castillo to the new position, Bishop Barber said in a state-
mement: “Father Castillo’s deep commitment to our faith and to the people of God in our Diocese is inspiring. I know he will lead our work in faith formation and evangelization with integrity and fidelity.”

“I am deeply humbled by Bishop’s Barber decision to entrust me with this mission,” Father Castillo said in a state-
mement: “I embrace this new responsibility with much hope, and trust in our Good Lord and our bishop more than myself. I repeat the prayer of one of my favorite saints as I face this new challenge: ‘Fiat, adimpleatur, laudetur et in aeternum super omnia. Amen. Amen.’”

Mission . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

sunlight from a window above the choir loft shot a beam of light directly onto a cherub carved on the altar. In March, the sunlight directly hits a statue of St. Joseph atop the altar.

Because of the movement of the earth, the sun will strike differ-
ent parts of the interior at different times of the year.

These churches were built with a level of precision and attention to detail, he said, though as some of them have been renovated, they’ve lost their illumination.

Not just the California missions, but other South American and Philippine churches demonstrate this phenomenon.

More than 110,000 churches were built in Mexico alone in a 100-year period,” Mendoza said.

How to help

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa

Donate online: www.catholiccharities.org/fire-recovery

By phone: Pamela Swan, 707-479-7140

By mail: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, PO Box 4900 Santa Rosa, CA 95402 Write “community recovery” on the memo line of your check.

Bilingual volunteers needed: 707-528-8712, ext. 160

Also: Donate to a special collection in your parish

Moraig, Berkeley and San Francisco until it is safe to return home.

All were reported to be doing well, accord-
ing to a post by the community’s website.

Brother Dominic Ruegg, 59, was so at home on the Saint Mary’s College campus in Moraig that he attended an Oct. 17 lecture by Kate Hennessy, Dorothy Day’s granddaughter. He is among five Brothers visiting the Saint Mary’s campus. “We’re happy to welcome them here,” said Carole Swan, vice president of the college’s Office of Mission.
Blue Mass honors ‘guardians of safety and justice’

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

An American flag, suspended between the ladders of two Oakland Fire trucks flew high over Harrison Street in front of the Cathedral of Christ the Light on a sunny Oct. 6 morning for the Blue Mass, which honors and asks God’s blessing on police, firefighters and all first-responders. Oakland motorcycle officers rode onto the Cathedral Plaza. A bagpiper stood at the side at the altar, the music mournful. The Honor Guard of the Pittsburg Police Department presented the flags of the United States and California.

“You move toward the source of danger,” Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, told the first-responders, many in uniform, in his homily. “We civilians instinctively run away from the source of danger!” As the first-responders move toward the source of danger — whether a shooting, a fire or a car crash — “angels are there to minister to you and protect you,” the bishop said.

Two of the motorcycle officers in attendance — Oakland Officers Tom Dolan and Mike Huppert had missed last year’s Blue Mass. In the rain on their way to Oakland Officers Tim Dolan and Mike Huppert had missed last year’s Blue Mass. In the rain on their way to Pittsburg. They had an accident on Interstate 580 at Seminary Avenue. On this October day, they were among the blue Mass. They had an accident on Interstate 580 at Seminary Avenue. On this October day, they were among the blue Mass.

Albany Police Officer John Torres, right, was accompanied at the Blue Mass by his wife Brenda, and their eldest child, Sophia. They met Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, after Mass.

At the Mass, Mike Foley, a veteran Alameda County Sheriff’s deputy who died in February after being hit by a motorcycle in a line on the Cathedral Plaza. A bagpiper stood at the side at the altar, the Honor Guard of the Pittsburg Police Department presented the flags of the United States and California.

“You move toward the source of danger,” Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, told the first-responders, many in uniform, in his homily. “We civilians instinctively run away from the source of danger!” As the first-responders move toward the source of danger — whether a shooting, a fire or a car crash — “angels are there to minister to you and protect you,” the bishop said.

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Albany Police Officer John Torres, right, was accompanied at the Blue Mass by his wife Brenda, and their eldest child, Sophia. They met Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, after Mass.
**NEW EVENTS**

Oct. 23 to Nov. 21

The 2017 Regional Applied Ethics Courses, Mid October through Mid-November. St. Albert's Primary and Advanced Courses offered by Rev. Gerald Coleman (Conscience and Consciences; Issues of Life and Death; Life to the Full). Discovering What’s in My Life, Ministry or Craft: A Journey to the Heart of Who To Whom, Naige Pacelli (What Will You Do with Your Life??). For more information or to register, visit www.saintalsbert.org or call 503-652-1051.

Oct. 26 to Nov. 16

Bible Study at San Ramon Retreat, Mesta Thunder Cricket, 7715 Lomitas Ave., Concord. Bible Study: Getting Ready for Advent and Christmas. 1:30 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday at 10 a.m. (Oct. 27; Nov. 20). Cost is $5 per session. For more information, visit www.sanramonretreat.org or call 503-857-9141, ext. 315.

**October 23, 2017**

**Diatre**

Moorave Catholic's dinner, auction

Empowering the next generation to pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) is a passion for Guillermo Diaz Jr., thealumnus of St. John Vianney High School. St. John Vianney Catholic High School's ninth annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction, sponsored by the school's Torch for Student Support. The Torch for Student Support plays a vital and important role by providing tuition assistance for our neediest students. The proceeds of the Torch for Student Support will be used to provide scholarships to deserving students in the heart of Silicon Valley. On Friday, Nov. 24, the evening will be underwritten by Oakland diocese superintendent of Schools Kathleen Racette ’83, ence for the event.

The gala will begin at 6 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Fremont Marriotte Silicon Valley. Milk and Wine. No tickets needed. Please RSVP Fr. Pat: francis@stjohnvianney.org or francis@fremontmarriott.com.

**Monday to Thursday, Oct. 23**

2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Felicito Church Chapel, 1005 Beld Dr., San Leandro. 510-351-5244.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25**

7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. John Vianney High School, 1037 Fern Ave., San Leandro. 510-741-4900.

**Saturday, Oct. 28**

**TAIZE**

(A ecumenical, candlelit service of prayer in simple chant, Scripture readings, silent worship and veneration of the cross)

**Friday, Oct. 27**

8:30 to 9 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 199 Broadway Blvd., Pinole. 510-923-2976. In Ministry Center next door to church. Ecumenical every Friday, on the third Friday of the month at different sites.

**Support Groups**

**Saturday, Nov. 19**

3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 199 Broadway Blvd., Pinole. 510-923-2976. In Ministry Center next door to church. Ecumenical every Friday, on the third Friday of the month at different sites.

**Support Groups**

Thursday, Nov. 16

Divorced Catholic Widowed Separated of Combined Families, 7 p.m. Third Thursdays at St. Mary Church, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Information: 510-925-1620.

**Through Nov. 29**

Grief support group at St. Columba Parish, 6401 Altamont Road, Dublin. For information or to attend, call 510-632-8056 or visit www.sandycrabeghotel.org.

**Tuesdays/Wednesday**

Grief widows/grief support group. 5 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Church, 2102 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Information: Sandy Heintisch, 925-513-3412 or sandycrabeghotel.org.

**Parenta Who Have Lost a Child Grief Support Group**

Saturday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Cristo Rey Catholic Church, 11500 Alvarado-Fremont Blvd, Fremont. Information: Randy A. Rios, 510-312-5412 or sandycrabeghotel.org.

**CFCs Grief Ministry Support Groups**

Presented by the Catholic, Funeral, Cremation Services Grief Ministries. Diocese of Oakland. Information are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.

**Grief Workshop Schedule**

**Saturday, Oct. 28**

Coping with the Grief of the holidays. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holy Angels Church, 2504 85th Avenue, Oakland. Bring a photo of your loved one. Information: 510-334-5114 for information.

**Thursday, Nov. 9**

Coping with the Grief of the Holidays. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 2540 25th Church Lane, San Pablo. Bring a photo of your loved one. Information: 510-532-8777 for information.

**Saturday, Nov. 4**

St Peter Martyr School Annual Craft Boutique. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Barnabas School, 1405 88th Ave., Oakland. Tickets $5. More information: Jovi Boatwright, 925-305-4662. Joah Phelan, 510-809-0380. Proceeds benefit SPM school. Information: terry@925-432-7292.

**Nov. 6 to 8**

“Taking our faith back,” a Revival at St. Bernardine Catholic Church, 2834 482nd Ave., Oakland. The energetic and inspirational message will be led by Rev. Anthony M. Balzani, SSL of New Orleans, Parish Liaison. 510-632-1847 and sanberniediocese.com.

**Saturday, Nov. 4**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage Dec. 2**

Thousands are expected to take part in the Diocese of Oakland’s 14th annual pilgrimage to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe. 7:30 a.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, 7340 Balmoral Blvd., Pinole. 510-741-3744 or kindle@odcdio.org. Photo is from the 2016 pilgrimage.
Why is the Mass so important? Why is it the “source and summit” of the Christian life? I could say many more things in answer to these questions, but suffice it to say for the moment that it is the most beautiful encounter between friends and that it is an anticipation of the play that will be our permanent preoccupation in heaven.

— Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

### What is happening at Mass

**By Most Rev. Robert Barron**

As many Catholics know, the Second Vatican Council famously referred to the liturgy as the “source and summit of the Christian life.” And following the promulgation of the great figures of the liturgical movement in the first half of the 20th Century, the Council Fathers called for a more conscious and more active participation in the liturgy on the part of Catholics.

That the Vatican II dream of a revived liturgical awareness and active practice has, at least in the West, largely remained unrealized goes without saying. In the years since the council, Mass attendance in Europe, North America and Australia has plummeted, and for many, Mass is a visit, attending Mass in those parts of the world happens between the lines of life and work, and often not realizing that an extraordinary number of those who self-identify as Catholics in the West have very little idea what the Mass is about. As I write this, my place of employment that I might make money; I work at my place of employment that I might make money; I work for money; I work for money. I could say many more things in answer to these questions, but suffice it to say for the moment that it is the most beautiful encounter between friends and that it is an anticipation of the play that will be our permanent preoccupation in heaven.

— Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

### The power of ritual

**By Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OFM**

I don't always find it easy to pray. Often I'm over-tired, distracted, caught-up in tasks, pressured by work, short on time, lacking the appetite for prayer, or more strongly drawn to do something else. But I do pray daily; despite the fact that I often don't want to and despite the fact that many times prayer can be boring and uninteresting. I pray daily because I am committed to a rhythm, a regular time for prayer, the office of the Church, lauds and vespers, the Eucharist and daily Mass.

And these rituals serve me well. They hold me. They hold me steady and keep me praying, even when, many times, I really feel like I just can't keep going. I feel like I just can't pray very regularly. I pray at least once a day, usually twice a day. So I work on my car that I might drive it; I work at my place of employment that I might make money; I work for money; I work for money. I could say many more things in answer to these questions, but suffice it to say for the moment that it is the most beautiful encounter between friends and that it is an anticipation of the play that will be our permanent preoccupation in heaven.

— Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

### Want to write?

Contributors to the Reader's Forum should be limited to 250 words. Letters must be signed and must include your writer’s address and phone number for verification purposes. All letters are subject to editing. Writers are generally limited to four letters in any 12-month period. Mail your letter to: The Catholic Voice, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Fax: 510-853-4743.

Our e-mail address is: Forum@catholicvoice.org

### Forum

*Letters to the editor provide a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and concerns in a climate of free and civil discourse. The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily of the Catholic Voice or the Diocese of Oakland. While a full spectrum of opinions will sometimes include those that challenge or contradict the Catholic teachings of the Church, it is hoped that this forum will help our readers to understand better others’ thinking on critical issues facing the Church.*
Celebrate God’s presence in the Mass at 11:00 am on the first Saturday of every month at each of our Cemeteries. Please join us in remembrance of loved ones.

Hayward: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Antioch: Holy Cross Cemetery
Lafayette: Queen of Heaven Cemetery
San Pablo: St. Joseph Cemetery
Oakland: St. Mary Cemetery
Livermore: St. Michael Cemetery*

* Saturday Mass not available

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