A Dreamer envisions future and how to achieve it

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Arturo Fernandez is in his fifth year of his doctoral degree program in statistics at the University of California at Berkeley.

He was student body president at Pittsburg High School. He arrived on the Berkeley campus as a freshman in fall 2008. Four years later, he graduated with a degree in applied mathematics and statistics. He’s the eldest of five children of a landscaper and housekeeper, two people pursuing their small piece of the American dream.

Fernandez is the only one of their five children who is not an American citizen. He was carried into the United States from Mexico when he was 3 months old.

He is one of the faces of DACA — Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals. He is among 780,000 young people who have been protected by DACA since it began in 2012.

“We’re not all criminals,” he said, “we’re not all PhDs.”

Fernandez said he has not always been so open about his status, overcoming “fear, shame and embarrassment” to speak out.

As a Berkeley graduate student, he understood he occupied a place of privilege, and wanted to put that to use to draw attention to the spectrum of people who are living their lives “in pursuit of their part of the American dream.”

While pursuing his doctoral degree at Berkeley, where he has taught six classes but is mostly involved in research this year, Fernandez is carving out time to work toward immigration reform in East Contra Costa County, where he has lived almost all his life.

He made his first communion and confirmation at St. Peter Mary Parish in Pittsburg, where he was an altar server. Growing up, he played soccer.

(Continued on Page 11.)

CCHD grants help empower East Bay groups

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development awarded $165,000 in local and national grants to 14 nonprofit groups in the East Bay for their efforts in addressing economic and social inequities in their communities.

The grants are funded by the annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, an initiative of the U.S. Catholic bishops aimed at fostering a culture of life and hope in communities across the nation. Twenty-five percent of the $660,000 in funds collected remain in each diocese to support local anti-poverty projects. This year, that collection will be taken up in parishes Nov. 18-19, on the celebration of the First World Day of the Poor initiated by Pope Francis.

In his statement establishing the World Day of the Poor on the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Pope Francis called for Christian communities to mark the occasion with “moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance” with people living in poverty.

This year’s grant recipients gathered Oct. 11 at St. Columba Parish in Oakland to receive their awards.

Sister Maureen Duignan, OSF, executive director of the East Bay Sanitary Covenant was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by the CCHD Local Committee during the luncheon. Established in 1982 by five Berkeley churches, the EBS is being helped by lay leaders, refugees, and undocumented minor children with housing, employment, educational and medical needs. The organization has provided legal help for the “dreamers” and has provided scholarships and other forms of support to immigrants and refugees from Haiti.

“Sister Maureen has not only been an able administrator, but takes a personal interest in everyone who comes to the EBS for help,” said Monica Clark, a CCHD local committee member, who presented the award, and Marc McKinney, diocesan CCHD coordinator.

“We need to reach everyone, especially young people”

By Esperanza (Pera) Vázquez
Special to The Catholic Voice

It was a cold, but sunny morning Oct. 28, as parishioners from 34 parishes of the Diocese of Oakland gathered in the gymnasium of St. Elizabeth Church, Oakland, to participate in the Diocesan Encuentro. Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, opened the event with an enthusiastic welcome to the 550 delegates and outlined the three priorities he has for the diocese:

• To get more parishioners to attend the Sunday Mass to have the experience of God.
• To promote the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
• To form missionary disciples.

V Encuentro (Fifth Meeting) is the fifth national gathering of Hispanics initiated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; this year its theme is “Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God’s Love.”

The parish delegates came to the event armed with the result of surveys of people from the parishes and parishes about what the Church is doing and what needs to be done for the benefit of the Hispanics of the diocese.

Bishop Barber thanked all those who, following the impulse of the Holy Spirit and the call of Pope Francis, embraced the V Encuentro process, especially Rev. Alexander Castillo, Héctor Medina, in charge of the Hispanic ministry in the diocese, and the diocesan V Encuentro team.

We are an outgoing Church, we need to reach everyone, especially young people

(Continued on Page 11.)
Children talk to pope

Pope Francis said that there are no easy answers to the suffering and destruction wrought by hurricanes and that while such disasters happen naturally, human-kind must also take responsibility for not caring for the environment. In a video chat with young children participating in a program of the international network of “Scholas Occurrentes” Oct. 26, the pope spoke with children from Texas and Puerto Rico, where Hurricanes Harvey and Maria struck hardest.

Space chat

One perk that comes with floating above the International Space Station is NASA arranges for occasional calls with celebrities to keep the astronauts’ spirits high. Pope Francis’ first space mission began this year, and celebrities to keep the astronauts’ spirits high. Pope Francis’ first space mission began this year, and celebrities to keep the astronauts’ spirits high.

Pilgrims learn lessons

After weeks of navigating difficult terrain, avoiding wild animals and steep cliffs, the devout pilgrims and hiking enthusiasts who manage to traverse the 55 miles between Assisi and Rome on foot arrive in St. Peter’s Basilica and report a special kind of payoff. “It’s very moving when you get there and walk through the doors of St. Peter’s,” said Brett Thoman, director of St. Francis Pilgrimages. “It’s almost like walking from the world into heaven.” The Way of St. Francis is a network of walking trails that connects Assisi to Rome. Created 15 years ago by the government of Italy’s Umbria province, it attempts to mirror the path likely trod by St. Francis of Assisi when he went to Rome to meet Pope Innocent III in 1209.

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

A visitor from Rome

The Prelate of the Order of Malta, Most Rev. Jean Lublitte, paid a visit to the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Oct. 25, and celebrated the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the cathedral. With Bishop Loofit, left, are Very Rev. George Mocellin, vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland. 

A visitor from Rome

Deaf Mass times

St. Joseph Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SJCD) in Hayward, a pastoral ministry of the Diocese of Oakland, serves the spiritual and sacramental needs of the Catholic deaf community in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, as well as their hearing family members and friends. Mass is offered in American Sign Language (there is also voiced English and most of the Mass is presented on an overhead projector) at 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Joseph Center for the Deaf, 25580 Campus Drive, Hayward.

First for Berkeley parish

Rev. Nicholas Glisson was formally installed as pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Berkeley on Oct. 8 at a Mass presided over by the Very Rev. George Mocellin, vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland. Father Glisson is the first deacon-scholar priest to serve as pastor at St. Mary Magdalen.

The Prelate of the Order of Malta, Most Rev. Jean Lublitte, paid a visit to the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Oct. 25, and celebrated the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the cathedral. With Bishop Loofit, left, are Very Rev. George Mocellin, vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland.

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Notre Dame: Signs of faith on campus

By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

A few weeks ago, I was invited to the University of Notre Dame to join a conference composed of bishops and directors of campus ministry programs from across the United States. The goal of our meeting was how can we better reach out to youth and bring them to Christ and His Church.

I had been a university chaplain, which is the “Queen’s English” for a campus minister, at Oxford University in England, for a few years in the mid-1990s. It was an assignment I loved, and I am still in touch with many of the former students, who are now professionals with families.

But I want to tell you about my impressions of the University of Notre Dame. I’ve heard about it all these years, ever since I saw the famous movie, “Knute Rockne, All-American,” filmed in 1940 with Pat O’Brien and a very young Ronald Reagan.

I was picked up at the South Bend train station by a retired gentleman who knew all about Notre Dame’s history and the Fathers of the Holy Cross Order, who were its founders. He was an extremely loyal fan and a wonderful representative. He drove me to the University of Notre Dame hotel. It’s a college that has its own hotel smack in the middle of campus.

The hotel is amazing. You walk in and there’s a golden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the end of the corridor. You go in the elevator to go up to your room and there in the elevator in a giant poster are the mass times of all the masses offered on campus. They have 140 Masses a week in different chapels around the campus. I go to my room in the hotel, open the door and there’s a big crucifix right on the bed and there, in addition to the Gideon Bible, is the Notre Dame prayer book. Everywhere, I saw little elements and reminders of our Catholic faith.

Since we had so many meetings at this conference, I had very little time to tour the campus. As soon as I got there, before our conference started, I ran down to the university church, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. From the outside, it looks like a French cathedral. The Holy Cross Fathers who founded the University of Notre Dame were from France. I went in and was so moved by the spectacular beauty. The ceilings are all frescoed in gold and blue. On the high altar, there’s a giant golden tabernacle. But what impressed me the most: it was 4 o’clock on a Monday afternoon, hearing confessions. Students were lined up on both sides going to confession. It was amazing … on a Monday afternoon!

We were told that our group was going to have Mass the next morning at 7 in the Physics building across the street. I said out loud in amazement, “The Physics Building has a chapel?!” They said to me, “Oh yes, almost all the buildings on campus have a chapel in them, including all the dormitories.”

We walked over just before 7 a.m. and it was still dark outside. However, we could not get into the chapel where we were going to have Mass because there were eight professors saying a public rosary in the chapel. Physics professors, praying the rosary, in public! I’ve never seen such a thing!

One of the things I did while I was there was have lunch with a student who attends Notre Dame who is from Oakland. He served at my mass a year or two ago at St. Joseph’s Old Mission. I told him if I ever went to Notre Dame I would look him up. I invited him to lunch and asked him what he was studying. “Philosophy and religion, Pune, India.” I told him I had been a philosophy professor and that I taught at St. Andrew’s College at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Several physics professors were praying the rosary in the Physics building, including the one who sat at the high altar. It was amazing … on a Monday afternoon!

That afternoon, we walked on the university campus. There was a big statue of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. From the outside, it looks like a French cathedral. The Holy Cross Fathers who founded the University of Notre Dame were from France. I went in and was so moved by the spectacular beauty. The ceilings are all frescoed in gold and blue. On the high altar, there’s a giant golden tabernacle. But what impressed me the most: it was 4 o’clock on a Monday afternoon, hearing confessions. Students were lined up on both sides going to confession. It was amazing … on a Monday afternoon!

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So, I asked him, “What do you do for fun?” He said, “I am in the Schola, the choir for the weekly Latin Mass.” I asked, (Continued on Page 12.)
French priest honored

WASHINGTON — An Oct. 26 ceremony at the Capitol Hill Hill Office Building honored French priest Father Patrick Desbois for his work for nearly two decades in researching and telling the story of genocides past and present. But the event also challenged the audience to be vigilant and to take more responsibility for the world around them.

“We have an obligation to follow the path of Father Desbois,” said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland, noting that the French priest continues to groove every human life matter and that everyone should speak up for human rights.

Regrettable abortion

WASHINGTON — The head of the Susan B. Anthony List pro-life organization was deeply saddened to learn that Jane Doe’s child has been aborted.

Liberals and Wall Street CEOs in one room

WASHINGTON — “Everyone looks great tonight,” said Omar Lopez, 21, from St. Gall Parish. “For me, when I think about a celebrity, I think cockiness, selfishness, but to hear an artist say that he takes time to just pray, that’s an incredible feeling.”

COMMANDMENTS DISPLAY

FERALOUSAS, Louisiana — Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur, a World War II chaplain who gave his life while saving others, did not think he had seen this many New York Catholics gathered at the 72nd Alfred E. Smith memorial Foundation Dinner in white tie and tails at the 72nd Alfred E. Smith Pavilion Oct. 26. Wahlberg left an impression on the hearts of many young adults. “It’s powerful for a celebrity to feel that way about religion,” said Omar Lopez, 21, from St. Gall Parish. “For me, when I think about a celebrity, I think cockiness, selfishness, but to hear an artist say that he takes time to just pray, that’s an incredible feeling.”

Puerto Ricans’ spirit

Maria Santina works with her prekindergarten students at Good Heart of Mary Catholic School in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oct. 26, more than one month after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Abuse all material and financial considerations after Hurricane Maria’s severe devastation in Puerto Rico, one must highlight the brotherly spirit shown by the island’s people during the ongoing recovery period, said the island’s former governor. “Although the church’s financial burden has obviously become heavier as it strives to meet the increased emergency material needs of the faithful, it is the people’s ‘huge capability for solidarity’ that shines through in this disaster,” Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez Nieves of San Juan told Catholic News Service Oct. 26. Due to slow government response to Hurricane Maria’s victims in Puerto Rico, there has been an increase in church and neighborhood or town groups banding together to clear remote unpaved roads, remove fallen trees and debris, and provide material aid to the neediest.

Prieb arrested

WASHINGTON — A priest arrested for protesting a natural gas pipeline being built by Kinder Morgan during the protest. "I am a man of the Blood of Christ in Pennsylvania said he acted because he agreed with thepipelines that the project is desecrating the earth: “We just want to support them and symbolically stop the pipeline and put our lives on the side of justice,” Father Bill Piccirillo, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, said Oct. 23, two days after the protest.

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Haley visits Congolese bishops

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley is seen at the White House in Washington Sept. 15. She praised Congo’s bishops for their efforts for democracy in the embattled country. During a visit to the bishops’ conference headquarters Oct. 21, Haley thanked the bishops for mediating power sharing talks between the government and opposition after political violence last December. The bishops helped both sides sign a Dec. 31 agreement that said President Joseph Kabila would remain in office, but elections would be held before the end of 2017.

Mercy sister laureate

DENVER — Sister Marilyn Lacey, RSM, of Burlington, truly had a “once in a million” experience — on Oct. 11, she was named the prestigious 2017 Opus Prize Laureate that includes a $1 million award as part of the honor. Sister Marilyn founded Mercy Beyond Borders in 2006 to bring dignity to women and girls in South Sudan and Haiti through education and job training. To date, Mercy Beyond Borders has helped more than 1,400 women and girls in South Sudan and Haiti recognize their inherent worth and unique talents. In front of an audience of students, alumni, faculty, staff and members of the greater Denver community, Jesuit Father John P. Fitzgerald, president of Regis University, presented the award.

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Parish celebrates women religious and the gift of charisms

By Carrie McClish

During a vibrant celebration of women religious who are serving in the Diocese of Oakland, members of the Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Oakland participated in the festivities that took place on October 8. The gathering, which drew representatives of nearly 20 communities of women religious to St. Columba, was part of the parish’s year-long celebration of its 120th anniversary. Among the congregations represented were Mother Teresa’s Missions, the Missionaries of Charity, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and many others. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sisters of the Presentation, among others, came together to celebrate these great women of the Church and in the Church of the life of Oakland,” said Rev. Aidan McAlenean, St. Columba pastor. “We give thanks to God for their gifts of ministry, their gifts of the gospel of love, their gifts for all of the challenges that God has given them and celebrating the gifts of who and whose they are.”

Following Sister Finlayson’s talk, Father McAlenean brought a microphone to the women religious seated near the front of the church and asked one Sister from each congregation to identify her religious community and then provide a “charism one-liner” to describe her charism in one sentence. A Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia said: “peace, reconciliation and right relationship.” A Sister of Charity of Nazareth said: “humility, simplicity and charity,” a Franciscan Sister of Peace said “peace-making,” while an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland said “to transform society through justice and contemplation.”

“I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of them, as the presence and ministry of the Religious Orders have been an essential part of the history of the Diocese of Oakland even centuries before it was erected,” said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, in a letter he sent to Father McAlenean. The bishop explained that he was not able to attend the Mass due to previously scheduled commitments. “The contributions of those generous men and women have brought to us an essential part of who we are as a Church,” the bishop wrote. “The poor have been fed, children have received Catholic education, the sick have been comforted, and much, much more has been done for the sake of the kingdom of God thanks to the presence of the Religious Orders.”

Several SNJM Sisters and Associates attended the ceremony. From left, Sister Maureen Delaney, SNJM, provincial; Marilyn Mackinnon, SNJM Associate; Rosemary Brownin, SNJM Associate; Sister Maureen Viani, SNJM (director of religious education, Christ the King Parish, Pleasant Hill); Sister Dianne Nixon, SNJM, and Carrie McClish.

Our reporter becomes a Holy Names Associate

Editor’s note: Carrie McClish, a staff writer of The Catholic Voice, became the newest Associate member of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary during a commitment ceremony held Oct. 22 at Sacred Heart Church in Oakland. With members of the parish community, Rev. William Mason, OMI, Sacred Heart pastor, and invited guests, including Bishop Emeritus John S. Cummins, looking on, McClish promised to “live the Charism of the SNJM Community.”

Good morning, Sacred Heart...” I would be lie to take this opportunity to thank all of you here for your support and prayers over the past year during my discernment journey. I also thank the many wonderful souls who make up who I am, the Sacred Heart section of heaven which is populated by many people who also have shaped my journey of faith over the years. (Such as Charlotte Bremond, the Rebels, Priscilla Scotlan and Dorothy Allen.)

Another one of those wonderful souls is my mother. Though born and raised in the Baptist Church she first taught me to love the Lord. While her conversion to the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith pre-dated the RCLA or the Rite of Christian Initiation program she made sure that I received a solid and thorough education in the Catholic faith. By Carrie McClish
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Fr. Lawrence D’Anjou
St. Raymond Parish, Dublin

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- Mass celebrated at Tulpetlac Church, the site of the fifth apparition of Mary.
- View the Church of San Francisco, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace and the Anthropology Museum!
- Journey to Cuautitlan, the birthplace of St. Juan Diego and view his original sackcloth.
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Spiritual Guide:

Fr. Neal Clemens
Queen of All Saints Parish, Concord

Highlights
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- Mass celebrated at Tulpetlac Church, the site of the fifth apparition of Mary.
- View the Chapel of Tepeyac, where the first apparition occurred in 1531.
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To receive a mailed brochure contact: Camille Tompkins at The Catholic Voice at ctompkins@oakdiocese.org
Carondelet students help fire victims

Special to The Catholic Voice

Carondelet students help fire victims. When Carondelet High School’s Jefferson Awards, Students in Action (JA-SIA) Team heard about the evacuated seniors from the North Bay wildfire areas being temporarily housed at Montecito Senior Living in Concord, they immediately wanted to help them.

Cindy Lawrence, community service coordinator, contacted Montecito Senior Living to find out what items the seniors needed. The JA-SIA Team spent more than half of the club’s award money to buy T-shirts, socks and ChapStick for the residents. They even donated gently used men’s jeans.

“My heart immediately went out to all of those who were forced to evacuate their homes from the fire. I could not imagine what they were going through,” said Adriana Conte ’18. “This service project allowed me and the Jefferson Awards team to make a valuable difference in someone’s life and bring happiness to them despite what they had been through. I could never pass up this opportunity.”

The JA-SIA is a nationally recognized club that promotes volunteerism and helps others with community service projects/events. Each year, Carondelet competes in the JA-SIA Regional Competition with other Bay Area schools.

Last year, Carondelet’s JA-SIA Team was one of the winners for Third Place and they received a monetary award from the Jefferson Awards Foundation, which they used to fund these donations to the fire victims.

Halloween spirit

Pupils at St. Felicitas School in San Leandro had a parade of costumes on Halloween morning.

St. Teresa: Example of undemanding love

By Al Donner

Special to The Catholic Voice

Mother Teresa, now St. Teresa of Calcutta, continues to inspire people to a deeper love of God through simple acts of loving. The Albanian girl who became a nun in India moved people to love God by being God in every person, no matter how humble, no matter how impoverished in wealth or health.

St. Teresa moved people sometimes simply holding them, recognizing that even the most downbeat or abject person is a rich treasure in God’s view. Her example of undemanding love continues to draw uncounted thousands to deeper love of God in their own lives.

Photographer Michael Collopy of Hayward is one of those. He first encountered Mother Teresa in San Francisco and her simple love captured him. In the end Collopy photographed Mother Teresa over several decades and produced a highly acclaimed photo book that captures much of her deep love of God. A Collopy photo was chosen as the official Vatican photo of Mother Teresa for her canonization last year.

Collopy talked of the nun’s deep love to the October Catholics@Work breakfast, telling how it deepened his faith.

“My heart immediately went out to all of those she encountered. She kept her faith strong and let God’s love flow through her to those who encountered her.

Collopy said his own faith was deepened through her.

Collopy saw Mother Teresa bring hope to the abandoned, to the severely ill, to the hopeless simply by looking deep into their eyes, reassuring them of God’s love and of her love. Even during her many years of darkness in her relationship with Jesus, she kept her faith strong and let God’s love flow through her to those she encountered.
West Oakland center struggles to help homeless seniors

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

For 15 years Timothy rode the buses at night around the East Bay because he didn’t have a roof over his head. He began riding the buses because he had grown weary of having to compete with other people who were also in the streets trying to find shelter.

Everybody else (who was homeless) was going through the same thing,” he said.

Timothy (who wouldn’t give his last name) learned how to survive by working hard to stay out of trouble. But it hadn’t been easy. A number of people on the streets prey on others, he said. “Some young people test you,” he explained. “I’d rather have a peaceful life. I don’t wish bad on anyone.”

Timothy, who found that he needed to finally trust someone, eventually came to St. Mary’s Center earlier this year where he was assigned a caseworker.

Now that he is in transitional housing his life has changed for the better.

“It’s much better than trying to sleep on a bus,” he said.

“It’s a hard life for an elder out there on the streets right now,” said Danny Castillo, coordinator of the Senior’s for Hope and Justice Program at Oakland’s St. Mary’s Center, a nonprofit community organization that offers programs and services for at-risk seniors and serves pre-school aged children in one of the city’s poorest neighborhoods.

“It’s hard to find a safe place to sleep,” said Stafford, 63, who said God will lead her “in the right direction.”

Brenda Stafford, 63, says God will lead her “in the right direction.”

Winter shelter

St. Mary’s Center will open its annual winter shelter starting Dec. 1 and will be offering 28 cots for homeless seniors age 55 years and over through the end of April 2018. Volunteers are needed to help serve meals and other needs.

For more information visit the center’s website at www.smarycenter.org or dial 510-923-3650.

A discussion we must have about dementia

By Ki Siadatan
Special to The Catholic Voice

Our society needs to have a serious and honest conversation about dementia. In my career of almost 15 years caring for seniors, I have seen first-hand the havoc that dementia can play on an individual and the person’s support system.

Guilt, grief, anger and frustration are commonplace when dementia hits. Most often I encounter confusion and a lack of awareness.

Dementia refers to a range of symptoms commonly found in people with brain diseases that result in damage to, or loss of, brain cells. It is a condition that results in a person’s mind becoming progressively impaired and causes the loss of remembering, thinking and reasoning.

Dementia itself is not a disease, but a syndrome that is defined by a specific set of symptoms. While there are a number of identified dementias, the most widely known is Alzheimer’s.

Numbers are a major reason for the need to start the conversation about dementia. Numbers such as 47 million: the number of people, according to the World Health Organization, that suffered from dementia worldwide as of 2015. Or the number 3: as in one new case of dementia is diagnosed every three seconds. Or the number $818 billion: the annual cost, in dollars, to treat and care for those with dementia.

Perhaps it is the number 1, however, that is the most pressing need for our discussion about dementia. The number 1 represents the spouse, grandparent, friend or neighbor that many of us will encounter at some point who will battle the effects of dementia. And dementia does not discriminate. It is an equal opportunity monster that does not care about sex, race, religion, socioeconomic status … or anything.

When dementia surfaces, awareness is a powerful mechanism to provide answers and enable people to cope. Encouraging a discussion about dementia is an attempt to create the awareness we all need to understand the challenges as we search for solutions.

With that goal in mind, let’s discuss dementia:

What are the signs and symptoms of dementia? Signs and symptoms can include memory loss, impaired judgment, faulty reasoning, loss of communication skills and disorientation to time and place. Neglect of personal care and safety are also common signs. In

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 downhill people living in encampments around the city of Oakland. And the percentage of persons age 50 years and older who are homeless has risen, said Carol Johnson, St. Mary’s executive director.

There are many reasons for the increase, starting with the growing cost of living in the East Bay over the past several years, Johnson said. An increasing number of low-income people, especially those on SSI, can’t afford housing. “You can’t find housing in the area for under $800 per month,” she said.

At the same time, while the number of poor seniors is also growing there is not enough senior housing for the senior population. “It’s not a good formula,” she said.

Despite these mounting challenges St. Mary’s Center, located on the site of the former St. Andre’s- St. Joseph’s church at Brookstreet Street and San Pablo Avenue, has continued to encourage and support this segment of the unhoused community.

The organization offers two sites to help the homeless transition from temporary to permanent housing. One of those sites, Closer to Home, on the SMC property, opened in 2008, and the other is Presentation House, at a nearby site which opened in 2015. Each of these sites accommodates up to six seniors at a time and includes individual bedrooms with shared common areas.

A Friendly Manor, a drop-in center for homeless women that also offers transitional housing for homeless women, is a more recent St. Mary’s Center program.

The West Oakland center provided a lifeline to Brenda Stafford, who had been homeless for more than a year. “When I came here I really didn’t know what I was going to do,” she said.

Stafford, who is approaching her 68th birthday, had worked consistently for 39 years in various jobs when her son became ill and she needed to take care of him. He subsequently died of his illness.

“Now I’m trying to regain employment,” she said. “I have to look after me now.”

At St. Mary’s Center (Continued on Page 10)
Volunteer-made Memory Bears offer families grief support

By Tamar Blaj
Special to The Catholic Voice

VITAS Healthcare has a special program to provide grief support for patients’ loved ones. Memory Bears are sewn by volunteers with compassion and love, creating forever friends who can offer a hug or a hand to hold to help ease a hurting heart.

We know it’s hard to imagine life without those you’ve loved. VITAS offers grief support to patients, family, and friends. VITAS offers opportunities for individuals to express their emotions around the loss of a cherished family member. They may not want to share their feelings in a group, but when they receive a bear made from that favorite shirt of their dad’s, or their wife’s comfy pajamas, the memories of joy, love, and loss begin to flow. And while they’re reminiscing, they literally get a bear hug.

Sewn from the clothing of the departed, Memory Bears may recall the closeness of a loved one or bring a smile to someone in distress. They could offer a sense of security to a child who feels alone or afraid after the loss of a parent or adult. The affect of a Memory Bear can be just like a pair of warm hands and a loving hug. By sewing the finished bears, most requests from each family are for 3-4 bears (maximum). VITAS will supply the bear stuffing and arrange for drop off and pick up of the clothing and finished bears. Most requests from each family are for 3-4 bears (maximum).

If you’re interested in being part of this grief support team by sewing memory bears are very much requested by the bereaved by sewing memory bears. All that’s needed is a generous donation to the bereaved by sewing the memory bears may recall the closeness of a cherished family member. They may not want to share their feelings in a group, but when they receive a bear made from that favorite shirt of their dad’s, or their wife’s comfy pajamas, the memories of joy, love, and loss begin to flow. And while they’re reminiscing, they literally get a bear hug. Sown from the clothing of the departed, Memory Bears may recall the closeness of a loved one or bring a smile to someone in distress. They could offer a sense of security to a child who feels alone or afraid after the loss of a parent or adult. The affect of a Memory Bear can be just like a pair of warm hands and a loving hug. By sewing the finished bears, most requests from each family are for 3-4 bears (maximum). VITAS will supply the bear stuffing and arrange for drop off and pick up of the clothing and finished bears. Most requests from each family are for 3-4 bears (maximum).

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• We provide both male and female caregivers.

• The senior staff all have personally experienced the importance of competent and compassionate home health care— it truly makes a difference in the patient’s well-being and health outcomes.

A discussion . . .

(Continued From Page 8)

some cases, inappropriate behavior, hallucinations, agitation and paranoia are also noticeable.

Is dementia a normal part of aging? Forgetfulness is not in and of itself dementia. In fact, the insidious nature of dementia can make it hard to spot at first. To be clear, dementia is NOT a normal part of aging. Undeniably, the likelihood of getting dementia rises with age, but just because we age does not mean it is a given that we will be faced with that challenge. In fact, sadly, for reasons still unknown we are seeing a growing number of cases of dementia in those under 65.

What causes dementia?

Scientists have worked feverishly to understand the causes, and they have uncovered much, but there is still a lot that we don’t know. What we do know is that there are a variety of risk factors including genetics, environment and lifestyle. Dementia can be caused by conditions that attack brain cells, conditions that disrupt flow of oxygen or nutrients to the brain, drugs, alcohol, single or repeat trauma to the brain, and infection of the central nervous system. It is important to note here that a person is not prone to developing dementia just because a relative is diagnosed and confronted with it.

What do we do if we notice symptoms of dementia?

As with all things concerning health, it is always important to consult with a medical professional. Report your symptoms to your doctor as soon as possible. Keep a list of your concerns and ask loved ones to share their observations. Is it possible to live an active life with dementia?

Yes, there are many people around the world facing dementia resolutely. They develop support systems and tactics to live well with the condition and slow its progression. In fact, programs such as the NEXUS program at Stanford, have demonstrated that people can build and maintain cognitive ability when regularly engaging in physical exercise, stress management, brain fitness exercises, engaging in purposeful social activities, participating in support groups and eating a brain-healthy diet.

Where do we turn to for help?

There are many resources available to help individuals and their families when faced with dementia. As mentioned provi-

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If you’re interested in being part of this grief support team by sewing memory bears, please contact Tami Blaj, VITAS volunteer services manager, at 925-945-3829 or tami.blaj@vitas.com.
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West Oakland...
(Continued from Page 8)
Stafford participated in a six-week program that helped her feel at home at Presentation House. The process was not without its challenges — “It was a struggle because you have a curfew and rules,” she said. “And when you do get out during the weekend, it’s hard to follow rules.”

Now, a year after the program, Stafford is happy and is looking forward. “It’s all about a bright future,” she said. “I ask God to lead and guide me, I am positive that He is looking forward. “It’s all about a bright future,” she said.

Just for Seniors
Events, activities and opportunities for seniors in the Oakland diocese. Events are subject to change. Please contact parishes or organizations to verify.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS
Thursday, Nov. 16
Busy Bee Seniors Thanksgiving Holiday Luncheon, Noon at Senior Center, Alameda.
Second Thurs., 5:30 dinner tour from Harry’s Hofbrau. Call to RSVP: Frances Lepp, 510-845-5300.
Friday, Nov. 17
Holiday Senior Social at St. John Vianney Parish, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Mullens Commons, 1010 Tennyson Road, Walnut Creek. Suggested donation of $5. Call for more information. 925-938-7911.

HEALTH/fitness
Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays
Wellness Classes at St. Benedict Parish, 6 to 7 a.m. at 2245 62nd Ave., Oakland.

SOCIAL EVENTS
Monday, Nov. 13
Senior Lunch at St. Benedict Parish, 10 to 3 p.m. at 2245 62nd Ave., Oakland.

Rental
Line Dancing at St. Benedict Parish, 10 a.m. at 2245 62nd Ave., Oakland.

First Fridays
St. Joseph’s Church, 10:30 a.m. in the hall at 971 O’Hara Ave., Oakland. All are welcome in a prayer service (optional), lunch or Bingo. 510-206-2494.

Second Fridays
St. John the Baptist Parish Senior Lunch and Supper, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays at El Cerrito Royale, 6058 Glady Street, corner of Benvenue and Benvenue Drive, El Cerrito. Information: 510-323-5680. www.elcerritohealth.org.

Catholic Charities, 22824 Second St., Hayward. 510-923-9600. Host a Sunday dinner or volunteer at A Friendly Meal.” Call 510-923-9600 or visit www.stmaryscenter.org or 510-925-7726 or write to Debbie@HopeHospice.com.

Saturday, Nov. 11
Medicare: An Overview and Update. 9:45 a.m. registration. 10 a.m. in room, class will be held at Hope Hospice, 637 Clark Ave. (second floor conference room). Dublin. Information: Debbie at Debbie@HopeHospice.com.

Donations Needed
St. Mary’s Church, 925 Brockhurst St., Oakland. St. Mary’s is looking for volunteers to serve a meal for guests at their upcoming Winter Shelter, held on Saturday and volunteers are needed. Contact 925-417-6080.

Holiday Senior Social at the Visitation Parish Community Hall, 440 LaGonda Way, Danville. Information: 925-837-2322.

Social Activities/Classes
Third Fridays, Nov. 17, Dec. 15
St. Isidore Church’s “Classic Club.” It meets at 5:45 p.m. in the St. Isidore Room at St. Isidore Church, 440 LaGonda Way, Danville. Enjoy a potluck dinner and social.

Community
Catholic Charities, 22824 Second St., Hayward. 510-510-820-0280.

First Fridays
St. Joseph’s Church, 10:30 a.m. in the hall at 971 O’Hara Ave., Oakland. All are welcome in a prayer service (optional), lunch or Bingo. 510-206-2494.

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A Dreamer . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

in a league formed to help students with too much time on their hands.

Not that Fernandez had a lot of spare time. His gift for mathematics did not go unnoticed. As a middle-schooler, he took a math class at community college. If he enrolled, he could receive college credit.

He asked his mother for his Social Security number.

He recalled replying, "You don't have one."

Of his activism, Fernandez said, "I'm in pretty deep." Having felt the vitriol of people who call others "illegal," he said, felt like someone "trying to rip away your humanity."

"I can't be on the sidelines, when another group of people is being treated unjustly," he said. "I try to be an ally of people who are fighting for their rights."

"I want to be part of a group of people" is being treated unjustly, he said, felt like someone "trying to rip away your humanity."

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Surviving are: her brother John Tom and Don, and her sister, Mary Harkins, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral mass was held Oct. 12 at St. Mary Church in Los Gatos. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

Sister Nicole Nguyen Thanh, DC

Sister Nicole Nguyen Thanh, a beloved teacher and social worker who taught at a number of parish schools throughout the world, died Oct. 17 in Los Altos Hills. She was 93 years of age and had been a member of the Daughters of St. Vincent of Paul for 76 years.

Born in Cholon, Vietnam, Sister Nicole attended high school in Saigon and entered the community at age 16. She was sent to Los-Léz-Lié, France, in 1950 where she received a bachelor’s degree in science home economics. Upon returning to Saigon she taught nutrition, sewing and infant care. She then moved to the Gogry public housing project in Saigon where she also helped in an orphanage for Vietnamese and American-infants sponsored by her community.

In 1971, she founded Regina Fasis, the first preschool for Vietnamese and American infants in Vietnam. Eventually the U.S. Department of Education sent her to Washington, DC, to learn more about college administration. She returned to the land of Saigon in 1975 she relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area, attended San Jose State University and graduated with a master’s degree in social work. In 1975, Sister Nicole was assigned to Rosemead in Southern California where scores of refugees from Vietnam had settled. After leaving Rosemead in 1980 she served as an immigration counselor at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara. The following year she became a U.S. citizen. She moved to Hayward in 1991 and served the Vietnamese elderly as part of the Diocese of Oakland’s Ethnic Pastoral and Cultural Ministries Centers.

In 1995, she moved to Lynwood, California, where she worked in a program that provided shoes for children. She moved to Los Altos Hills in 2012 where she resided until her death. The funeral mass was held Oct. 25 at St. William Catholic Church in Los Altos. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos the following day.

Rev. Anthony Herrera

Rev. Anthony Herrera, a priest of the Diocese of Oakland who most recently served as parochial vicar at St. Theresa Parish in Oakland, died Oct. 25. He was 58.

A native of Hayward, Father Herrera was a graduate of Moreau Catholic High School. He attended Saint Mary’s College in Moraga briefly before going to work in the catering business. He completed his college studies at St. Joseph’s College Seminary and attended St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park for one year. Then he went to teach in a southern California high school, worked as a laborer in Montana, and then became a chef and food advisor in northern California before returning to St. Patrick to complete his seminary studies.

Ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1991 at St. Bede Church in Hayward, Father Herrera served as pastor at St. Columbia Parish in Oakland (1998-99); parochial administrator at St. Barnabas in Alameda (2004-06); temporary administrator at St. Joseph Basilica Parish in Alameda (2007-08); and as parochial vicar at All Saints Parish in Hayward and the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. He also had been chaplain at Magee Catholic High School.

In 2016, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his priestly ordination, the archbishop recalled being fascinated by the personalities of the priests at his parish throughout his youth. Ultimately it was his reverence, especially for a father who said, “always be open to what God wants us to do,” that brought me to my life as a priest. In that reflection Father Herrera went on to say that “Many times over the course of the last 25 years, I have been touched and humbled by the presence of God at weddings, baptisms, and in bringing someone out of faith just before death. My medical challenges coupled with life in parish ministry have given me hope and clarity to recognize God at work around me. Every day is an opportunity to exercise my faith and give witness to who I am as a man of faith.”

A vigil was scheduled for Nov. 5 at St. Theresa Parish, Oakland, with a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. on Nov. 6. Interment was at All Saints Parish, 2284 Second St., Hayward.

Notre Dame . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

“You have Latin Mass on this campus?” “Oh, yes!” he replied, “and a good one at that. I have already been elected president of my dorm and I arrange the altars. And I have a table in the college store at Notre Dame of a lot of students come. It’s on a weekly night where we have a pizza after Mass. It’s less formal, but a lot of kids come.”

At the end of our last night, I was invited to the Jesuit Community for a dinner. The Holy Cross Order run Notre Dame but the Society of Jesus, my order, has a house of studies there because so many young Jesus priests are doing masters and doctorates at Notre Dame.

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Concerts celebrate veterans
Help celebrate veterans at St. Joseph Basilica, 1109 Chestnut St, Alameda, at noon. Each Sunday features a live concert with three performing groups, the Ecumenical Praise Band (barbershop style), the Dulcet Four (a women's vocal quartet) and singer/songwriter Richard Marcey/Heroevois. Donations benefit Heroevois, which teaches several programs that help veterans (particularly those with effects of PTSD) through music education. Listen for Life at 510-540-1136 or www.FourVeteranInvestment.blogspot.com.

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Wednesday, Nov. 29
Nativity of Our Lady Grief Support Group, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., 7430 Sunset Dr., Concord. Information: Sandy Heinisch, 925-372-4223.

Friday, Nov. 30
Casting Crowns Christmas Tour, 7 p.m., Mountain View Center, 3501 De Anza Blvd., Cupertino. Information: 408-954-7800.

Saturday, Dec. 1
Family Christmas Party, 2:30 to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 11001 S. Fwy., Houston. Information: 713-966-2822.

Monday, Dec. 4

Thursday, Dec. 7
Barber Shop Quartet Concert, 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 4847 Madison, San Francisco. Information: 415-668-4571.

Friday, Dec. 8
Catholic/Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Saturday, Dec. 9
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Sunday, Dec. 10
Tallahassee Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the rectory at St. Augustine Church, 3950 Bernal Ave., San Bruno. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Saturday, Dec. 16
Catholic/Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Sunday, Dec. 17
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Monday, Dec. 18
The Pentas — A Barbershop Vocal Group, 7:30 p.m., St. Ann’s Church, 1469 W. Mondale Rd., San Antonio. Information: 210-829-8888.

Tuesday, Dec. 19
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 20
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Thursday, Dec. 21
Catholic/Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Friday, Dec. 22
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Saturday, Dec. 23
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Sunday, Dec. 24
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Monday, Dec. 25
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Tuesday, Dec. 26
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 27
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Thursday, Dec. 28
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Friday, Dec. 29
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Saturday, Dec. 30
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Sunday, Dec. 31
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, online. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.

Monday, Jan. 1
Catholic Women’s Christmas Dinner, 5 p.m. to midnight, in person. Information: www.ChristmasDinner.org.
Pope Francis: Death penalty is against the Gospel

By Rev. Gerald D. Coleman, PSS

Supporting capital punishment, secular and religious traditions have drawn from centuries-old reasoning rooted in Scripture, St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. The death penalty was contemplated for murder (Exodus 21:24; blasphemy (Lev 24:16), idolatry (Ex 22:19), working on the Sabbath (Ex 31:15), kidnapping (Ex 21:16), homosexual activity (Lev 20:13), bestiality (Ex 22:20) and adultery (Lev 20:10).

St. Paul and St. Thomas Aquinas's authority that a governing authority is the "servant of God to execute God's wrath on the wrong doer" (Rom 13:4). Aquinas argued that the criminal was akin to a poisoned limb and could be cut off to safeguard the community. While biblical and moral reflection generally affirmed the legitimacy of capital punishment, early Christianity affirmed the Mosaic precept against all killing. Capital punishment was considered irreconcilable with Christian faith. Judaic and Islamic traditions share this belief as "God only is the lord of life." However, the death penalty was "contrary to the Gospel," Pope Francis recently stated in his apostolic exhortation, "Lumen fidei." Pope Francis addresses participants at an encounter marking the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Church at the Vatican Oct. 11. The death penalty is "contrary to the Gospel," the pope said in his speech.

The least religious generation in US history

By Most Rev. Robert Barron

Jean Twenge's book, "iGen" is one of the most fascinating — and depressing — texts I've read in the past decade.

Twenge, a professor at San Diego State University, has been for years studying trends among young Americans. Unlike most recent books focus on the generation born between 1995 and 2012. Since this is the first cohort of young people who have never known a world without iPhones and iPads, and since these devices have remarkably shaped their consciousness and behavior, Twenge naturally enough has dubbed them the "iGen.'"

One of her many eye-opening findings is that iGen'ers are growing up much more slowly than their predecessors. A baby-boomer typically got his driver's license on his 16th birthday (I did), but an iGen'er is far more likely to postpone that rite of passage, waiting until her 18th or 19th year.

Whereas previous generations were eager to get out of the house and find their own way, iGen'ers seem to like to stay at home with their parents and have a certain addiction to "adulting." And Twenge argues that smartphones have undeniably turned this new generation in on itself. A minute ago she would rather text her friends than go out with them and would rather watch videos than go to a theater to see a movie.

One of the upshots of this screen-induced introversion is a lack of social skills and another is depression. "Depression is an illness that, though explicit affiliation with religious institutions is not widespread, Twenge shares that the objective statistics in this area are alarming. As her chapter on religious attitudes and behaviors among young Americans. Her most recent survey, "iGen," has been for years studying trends among young Americans. Unlike most recent books focus on the generation born between 1995 and 2012. Since this is the first cohort of young people who have never known a world without iPhones and iPads, and since these devices have remarkably shaped their consciousness and behavior, Twenge naturally enough has dubbed them the "iGen.'"

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Which Reformation? What Reform?

By George Weigel

Despite the formulation you heard before and after Oct. 31 (the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 theses), there was no single “Reformation” to which the Catholic Church could be said to be “counter-”Reformation was the similarly unisolocal response.

But as the historian Carlos Eire shows in his eminently readable and magisterial work “Reformations: The Early Modern World, 1450-1650,” there were multiple, competing reformation efforts in play in the first centuries of modernity. There was the reformation of international politics led by humanists steeped in the Greek and Roman classics: men like the Dutchmen Erasmus (whose scholarshipped deeply influenced those who would become known as “Protestants” but who never broke with Rome) and Thomas More (who urged Erasmus to deepen his knowledge of Greek, the Church teaches, and the New Testament in its original language).

There were at least four major flavors of “Protestant” reformation — Lutheran, Zwinglian, Radical and Calvinist — and plenty of substrates within those categories. There were impressive pre-Luther Catholic reformers like the archbishop of Toledo, Cardinal Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros. There were the Catholic reformers who led a left-of-center, the French educator Guillaume Budé, for example, influenced both the Protestant reformer John Calvin and the Catholic reformer Ignatius Loyola. The latter had established a Catholic reformation mandated by the Fifth Lateran Council but never implemented by Pope Leo X (the first last will to keep an albino elephant as a pet). And there were the Catholic reformers, observant theological and pastoral dispositions, who shaped the teaching of the Council of Trent and then vigorously implemented its reforms.

There were, in short, multiple Reformations. Their sometimes-violent interaction created much of what became the modern world, for better or worse.

The bad bits are the concern of Notre Dame’s Brad Gregory in “The Unintended Reformation: How Calvin and His Peers Created the Modern World” (Random House). A sociologically trained, eccentric, opinionated, variously weird and utterly wonderful, Gregory’s argument, among the things “The Reformation” — in this case, the various Protestant Reformations — bequeathed the modern world were hyper- individualism, suspicion of all authority, moral subjectivism and relativism, skepticism about the truth of anything, the banishing of religious thought from western academic life and the reduction of all true knowledge to what we can know from science. That’s a broad, indeed, to be sure, but amidst Gregory’s dense prose and complex presentation, serious readers will get a glimpse of how bad ideas — such as the mistaken notion of God as a willful (if infinite) being among others — can play themselves out in history with devastating results.

The 500th anniversary of one of the enigmatic acts in this cultural tumult was a Reformation to lead to a deepening of esunomical dialogue among what is quite many modern reformation efforts were such and not just for the world, but primarily for the Church.

That deepened conversation would do well to focus on what makes for authentic “reform” in the Church. In the fall issue of Plough, the editor of the Brothers’ Community, I propose that all authentic reform in the Church must begin from a recovery of some of the Church’s essential “form” or constitution (in the British sense), which was given to the Church by Christ. True ecclesial reform is thus always re-form.

It is not something we make up by our own cleverness. It does not mean surrender to the spirit of the age. It does not involve substituting our judgment for God’s revelation. True Christian reform always begins from the point of view of something the Church has laid aside or misplaced, and making that Christ-given something into an instrument of renewal (to boldly quote Michaelmi:h/ turbine in a relatively small church).

And how, on this quincentenary of the 95 theses, should we measure the authentic reform? The evangelical criterion seems decisive here. If the reform and renewal in question really does restore to the Church something of its Christ-given “form,” then the results will be evident evangelically — in the church’s Way and who share the gift they have been given with the others, thereby healing a broken and often death-dealing culture.

By the same token, empty cry of a diacritical ecumenism and surrender to the prevailing cultural moral signals false reform and failed renewal, which can be dressed up in either romantic-nostalgic or political-moda disguise.

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Have you finalized your cemetery and funeral services?

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

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