In ‘hope and joy,’ educators begin school year

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

More than 900 teachers, administrators and staff members filled the Cathedral of Christ the Light Aug. 14 for the annual Elementary Staff Day Celebration. Father Larry Young, the pastor of St. Patrick School in Rodeo, who also served as interim superintendent during the past year, celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit. “Our children are facing so many critical issues,” Father Young said in his homily. “You are there to shape and form those young lives.”

He encouraged the educators: “Love one another. Be happy.”

New Superintendent Kathleen Radecke told the gathering, “I know the difference Catholic education makes. It is what we do. It is who we are.” In expanding on the theme of hope and joy, she said, “I see joy as a conscious choice, how we choose to live our lives, how we minister to our students and each other.”

The superintendent unfurled an altar cloth made for her as an end-of-the-year gift from her first class — second graders at Holy Spirit School in Fremont, 25 years ago.

The cloth features the children’s hand-drawn images of themselves. She has carried it with her, she said, to all her teaching assignments. It has a place of honor (Continued on Page 9.).

For health care providers, an opportunity for faith and fellowship

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

As the Diocese of Oakland prepares for its Second Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Health Care Providers at the end of the month, a fair amount of community building has already taken place.

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, will celebrate the Mass at 10 a.m. Sept. 30, to thank and honor those in physical, mental and spiritual health care professions.

“My biggest hope is that this Mass would offer them a sacred space, a moment of healing, a moment of reuniting themselves with the sense of the divine on their lives, the sense of God’s presence in their lives,” said Rev. Stephan Kappler, pastor of St. Jarlath Church, who is organizing the Mass, Father Kappler is also a psychologist at Kairos Psychology Group.

“They’re not alone in this. This is a loving community. New Superintendency to thank those engaged in this caring, compassionate ministry,” Father Kappler said.

“Alone is how many health care workers feel,” he said. “Many times health care workers are under a tremendous amount of stress, they work hard, they work long hours,” he said.

“Just like first responders, you come home and people don’t really want to hear about your stresses, or it’s hard to understand,” he said.

Conversations with health care providers in anticipation of the Mass have revealed a proposal to help counter that pain that comes with it, “there’s the concept of accompaniment is critical,” said Mimi Streett, who is spearheading the diocese’s efforts.

Through the California Catholic Conference, parishioners throughout the state will be engaging in those efforts. The annual Respect Life gathering, which will be held Sept. 16 in Oakland, will feature a keynote address by Ned Doyle, executive director of the conference, on state-wide initiatives.

Locally, the initiative leaders will launch a website offering additional information for those who seek, and those who give, care.

A committee of parishioners, many of them professionals in the health care field, has been looking at ways to help spread the message. The committee began meeting in April.

The effort is across the life spectrum, including physical, mental and spiritual care. It seeks to answer the question: How can we better accompany people in their life journey?

The concept of accompaniment is critical. “Just like first responders, you come home and people don’t really want to hear about your stresses, or it’s hard to understand,” he said, “there’s no space for that. We act as if that can be fully controlled and eliminated from our lives. That is not true.”

Think of the wide gate and the narrow gate, he suggested.

(Continued on Page 14.)

Catholics Care’ — diocese launches new initiative

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

From the pulpits across the diocese of Oakland on Sept. 9 and 10, Catholics will hear from priests and deacons about an initiative launching: Catholics Care.

The message is clear: Spiritual, Physical and Mental. We care. Catholics care.

Under the auspices of the Marriage and Family Life division of the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, the initiative seeks to provide avenues toward whole-person care, from conception to natural death.

“Whole-life care is attractive,” said Mimi Streett, who is spearheading the diocese’s efforts.

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(Continued on Page 14.)
THE DIOCESE

Voice collection coming up

Staff report

The annual collection to support the publication of The Catholic Voice, El Heraldo Católico, the annual Diocesan Directory and affiliated websites will take place in most parishes Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, or in other parishes later in October.

The money donated in this collection remains in each parish to offset the parish’s assessment for the Voice and affili-ated operations. Make the checks payable to your parish. Parish support, advertising revenue and other business income support these communication ministries of the diocese.

The Voice has 21 issues a year and is delivered to 90,000 Catholic households in the Oakland diocese — about half of all East Bay Catholics. El Heraldo Católico is available monthly at all parishes where Mass is said in Spanish and select retail outlets.

Every registered Catholic household is entitled to receive The Voice as part of belonging to a parish. Both newspapers are available online at catholicvoiceoakland.org and elheraldocatolico.org.

An online subscription to The Voice is also available, as are gift subscriptions to unregistered Catholics at $30 a year.

If you are not receiving The Catholic Voice and would like to, please contact your parish or The Voice at 510-893-6339 or via email at circulation@catholicvoice.org.

Pray to end terrorism

The Catholic Church must continue to work to understand the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and why they were made, rather than retitining them, Pope Francis said. After this magisterium, after this long journey, we can affirm with certainty and magisterial authority that the liturgical reform is irreversible," Pope Francis told participants in Italy's National Liturgical Week.

"Let us beg the Lord, God of mercy and peace, to free the world from this inhuman violence," the Pope said.

Building a just society

Pope Francis will visit the country in late November. After the Vatican announced Pope Francis will visit the country, a Muslim minority in Myanmar, a strong foundation, it is always in need of reform.

The Church is allowed a voice in answering more humane and just society, but only if we work to understand the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and why they were made, rather than retitining them, pope Francis said.

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Thank you for being faithful, generous followers of Jesus

By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

This month on Sept. 9 and 10 we are taking up our annual second collection for our retired priests.

Since I have become bishop, two pastors of our parishes have suffered heart attacks. Both of these men were serving in ‘one priest parishes.’ They were rushed to the hospital, underwent heart surgery and spent some weeks in recovery. Priests from neighboring parishes and religious orders covered the basic Masses in their absence.

Both men, although well over the age of permitted retirement, reported back to their parishes as soon as they were patched up. They resumed their full schedule of Masses, confessions, sick calls and all the thousand duties that make up the life of the parish priest.

This should tell you something of the caliber of men who are serving you and our Diocese of Oakland.

And these two are not even among the retired!

Our retired priests continue to help with Masses and confessions, penance services, quinceañeras — all to serve the people of God.

Some priests who have been long retired have returned to pastor parishes full time when we have had some ‘emergency gaps.’ We could not operate all our parishes or sent to the diocese will help storm victims

Volunteers and evacuees watch TV coverage of Tropical Storm Harvey Aug. 25 at a Sacred Heart Church shelter in Conroe, Texas. Officials blocked traffic after the storm brought heavy flooding to the area. The north Houston parish opened its doors when the massive storm crippled the Galveston-Houston region with continuous rains, causing rivers to overflow their banks and prompting mandatory evacuations.

In your time of need, nothing is more important than choosing professional experience and dedicated service. That’s why we are here. We have been, and will continue to be proudly serving our Catholic community for generations.
Sisters lose land
WASHINGTON — The Adorers of the Blood of Christ and other landowners in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, have lost their court case to keep a natural gas pipeline from being built on their property. In an Aug. 23 opinion, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Schmier ordered that Williams Partners and their Transco subsidiary can have permanent right of way of 1.05 acres to build the 42-inch pipeline, as well as another 1.66 acres of right of way on a temporary basis to build it. The pipeline will extend through Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Schmier ordered Williams to pay $359,000 to the Adorers and the other landowners for their property.

Beatiﬁcation planned
WASHINGTON — Catholics in Oklahoma have been preparing for a long time for this moment. Many, like Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, had faith it would come, but there’s still a sense of awe, to think that a farm boy, one of their own, is about to take a step toward official sainthood. On Sept. 23, Oklahomans will get a front row seat to the beatification of Father Stanley Rother, an ordinary man from an ordinary family, who died extraordinarily as a martyr in Guatemala while serving in a mission.

Apology from priest
ARLINGTON, Va. — A Catholic priest in the Arlington Diocese who wrote a column asking forgiveness for the time he spent as a member of the Ku Klux Klan 40 years ago when he was “an impressionable young man” has never paid court-ordered restitution for cross-burning and other racist actions he pleaded guilty of doing at that time. Father William Aitcheson, now 62, wrote in an Aug. 21 op-ed posted on the website of the Arlington Catholic Herald, the diocesan newspaper. “I am sorry. To anyone who has been subjected to racism or bigotry. I am sorry. I have no excuse, but I hope you will forgive me,” he wrote.

Urged to ﬁght racism
LOS ANGELES — The United States is seeing “a new kind of racism and nationalism” that is “rooted in fear,” and Catholics must work to overcome such new forms of racism and ‘every ideology that denies the equality and dignity of the human person,” the archbishop of Los Angeles said. “There is fear about what is happening in our society. There is fear about what is happening in our economy. Our country has become so angry and bitter, so divided — in so many different areas,” said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez.

‘Sin of racism’
WASHINGTON — Saying there is an “urgent need” to address “the sin of racism” in the country and first solutions to it, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has established a new Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism and named one of the country’s African-American Catholic bishops to chair it. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, initiated the committee Aug. 23 “to focus on addressing the sin of racism in our society, and even in our church, and the urgent need to come together as a society to find solutions.”

Brothers overlooked
PHOENIX — The church needs to look beyond ordained clergy for leadership, said Marist Father James Heft during an address at the annual meeting of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in Phoenix in early August. “Early on in the life of the church, religious life was a lay movement. Beginning in the third century, the desert fathers were typically not ordained, and a century later when monastic communities began to form, they remained a largely lay movement,” Father Heft said.

Vietnam must respect religious freedom
WASHINGTON — Vietnam is on its way to “eliminate” people with Down syndrome, a report from CBS News explained, causing uproar in the pro-life community over the high numbers of abortions following prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. With only one or two people, on average, born with Down syndrome each year, Vietnam’s population exemplifies what pro-life leaders say is the tragic reality of an-abortion driven society.

Genocide continues
WASHINGTON — The Trump administration renews its commitment to the protection of religious minority groups threatened by the Islamic State in the Middle East, according to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in the release of the annual State Department report on international religious freedom, released Aug. 15. “ISIS is clearly responsible for genocide against Yazidis, Christians and Shia Muslims in areas it controlled,” Tillerson said in a statement Aug. 15.

Nun receives award
JAMAICA, N.Y. — Maryknoll Sister Janet Carroll, founding executive director of the U.S. Catholic China Bureau, was the recipient of the organization’s 2017 Matteo Ricci Award, an honor bestowed upon people who best exemplify the bureau’s mission to build a bridge of friendship and service between the Catholic Church in the U.S. and China. Okland’s Emeritus Bishop John S. Cummins was last year’s award recipient. The award, named for the 16th-century Jesuit missionary to China, was presented to Sister Janet at a banquet Aug. 12 during the China bureau’s 27th biennial national conference at St. John’s University.

SF parish attracts growing congregation
Father Joseph Illo, pastoral administrator of St. Mary Parish in San Francisco, greets parishioners after Mass July 2. Father Illo said, “Our mission statement is to evangelize God’s people beginning with the gift of the Holy Eucharist. That means putting a lot of energy into our music, our preaching, our Sunday Mass. Three years after Father Illo was appointed parish administrator in August 2014, bringing his powerful commitment to traditional Catholic practices to the famously Progressive city, Mass attendance and number of parishioners registered have increased about 10 percent each year.

Downs syndrome
WASHINGTON — Ireland is on its way to “eliminate” people with Down syndrome, a report from CBS News explained, causing uproar in the pro-life community over the high numbers of abortions following prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. With only one or two people, on average, born with Down syndrome each year, Ireland’s population exemplifies what pro-life leaders say is the tragic reality of an-abortion driven society.

Get your name on it
San Damiano Retreats
Day of Dialog for LGBTQ will discuss “Building a Bridge” by Fr. James Martin (9/10)
Tuesday Book Series: “Seven Sacred Pauses” by Macrina Wiederkehr with Kathy Miranda (9/12-10/24)
Journaling as a Spiritual Practice with Nancy Burchett (9/16)
Labyrinth Day: Seasons of Life with Dorothy Charbonneau (9/28)
What Is Yours to Do? Franciscan Spirituality Retreat with Anne & Terry Symens-Bucher, Jesse Manibusan, and Fr. Ray Bucher OFM (9/29-10/1)
Free! Working Retreat with Fr. Patrick Foley (10/8-10/12)

More information or register 710 Highland Dr., Danville, CA 925 837 9141 www.sandamiano.org and on Facebook

Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with us!
Blessing of the Animals (9/30 @ 2:00-3:00 PM)
Transitus of St. Francis (10/3 @ 7:30 PM)
Feast of St. Francis Mass (10/4 @ 10:00 AM)

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Archbishop: Message of Fatima can be found in silence

By Michele Jurich

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco celebrated Mass on Aug. 13 at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Berkeley, the Diocese of Oakland’s official pilgrimage site for the Centennial of the Appearances of Our Lady at Fatima.

The diocese’s two newest deacons — Rev. Mr. Arturo Bazan and Rev. Mr. Mario Rizzo — assisted the archbishop, who served as bishop of Oakland from 2009 to 2012.

The Berkeley church was filled with worshippers, many of whom arrived early to spend time in prayer at the Fatima statue, to the right of the altar.

In his homily, the archbishop said Mary’s role has been consistent. “First, in history, when she walked on Earth, and in heaven: To present her Son to the world and direct the world to her Son,” he said.

“Her message is always consistent,” he said. “She gives us the message of prayer, of penance.

The archbishop encouraged prayer, especially the rosary, and penance, during the Fatima celebration. He also encouraged silence. “We must seek the Lord in silence,” he said.

“We must always keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,” he said. “We must ignore the distractions around us.”

The Blessed Mother plays a role in this, he said. “She tells us to keep our eyes always focused on Jesus.”

During the centennial observance, Masses will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Sept. 13 and Oct. 13 at St. Joseph the Worker.

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, will celebrate the Oct. 13 Mass. At the conclusion of the Aug. 13 Mass, many worshippers returned to the Fatima statue, to light candles and pray. Some sang softly.

Fatima Centennial
The Diocese of Oakland has designated St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St., Berkeley, as the official pilgrimage site from May 13 to Nov. 26.

Masses will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Sept. 13 and Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Oct. 13, 7 p.m., Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, celebrant.

Catholics@Work announces 17th speaker series beginning Sept. 12

People attending the early morning monthly Catholics@Work speaker series sometimes are bemused by the group’s name.

“The group really could be called ‘at work on being Catholic,’” says Attila Bardos, incoming president of the group. “We are Catholics who find energy and take inspiration from each of the monthly Catholics@Work speakers. They are faithful Catholics who inspire us with their diverse Catholic ministries in the contemporary world.”

C@W schedules eight speakers into the Oakland diocese each year for presentations on their work and faith as energetic Catholics. They range from archbishops and exorcists to moms and missionaries, both local and across the world.

The 2017-18 C@W season begins Sept. 12 with Jess Echeverry, who started a ministry to homeless parents and their families, named Sore Feet Saviors.

While each speaker’s work is different, the common theme is the power of their active Catholicism in the contemporary world. C@W began as an Oakland diocesan ministry 17 years ago; since then it has brought more than 125 speakers to the diocese.

C@W schedules early morning speakers monthly on the second Tuesday at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. The 2017-18 series begins with Mass at 6:30 a.m. followed by breakfast and the speaker at 7 a.m. The program ends promptly at 8:15 a.m., enabling working people to get to their jobs quickly — although many attendees are retirees and others not on 9-to-5 schedules.

“Our speakers bring a remarkable range of experiences and charisms to the Catholics@Work breakfasts,” says Bardos. “Everyone leaves our breakfasts inspired by the messages and motivated by the ministries we hear about.

“They make our faith more alive. Each person is another face of the universal church, and strengthens our love for the Lord.”

Bardos succeeds Diana Nagy, president for the last two years.

The full schedule and more information are at www.catholicsatwork.org.

Linda Del Rio, who leads the foundation of Oakland Raiders coach Jack Del Rio, speaks on Oct. 10.

People can sign on the mailing list to receive regular notices of the upcoming speakers.

While walk-ins are welcome, people are encouraged to register on-line to help plan for the audience size. The cost, including a generous breakfast, is $20 for members, $30 for non-members.

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, above, greets well-wishers after the Aug. 13 Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Berkeley as part of the Our Lady of Fatima centennial celebration.

At left, the archbishop receives the gifts at the altar. Behind him are the Diocese of Oakland’s newest deacons, Rev. Mr. Mario Rizzo and Rev. Mr. Arturo Bazan.

Catholics at Work 2017-18 Speaker Schedule

C@W is an official Oakland diocese ministry open to all. C@W’s focus is to schedule speakers who are active Catholics with inspiring ministries.

C@W’s breakfast programs take place on the second Tuesday each month in Danville, from 6:30 to 8:15 a.m. Programs are open to all.

2017

Sept. 12: Jess Echeverry (‘Souls for Sore Feet’ ministry to the homeless)

Oct. 10: Linda Del Rio (heads ‘Jack Del Rio Foundation’ for underserved youth)

Nov. 14: Nick Jordan (‘Wells of Life’ bringing clean water to rural Ugandans)

Dec. 12: Sister Francis Marie (Dominican School of Theology and Philosophy)

2018

Feb. 13: Chuck Fernandez (‘Clare House’ fighting Bay Area child sex trafficking)

March 13: Michael Collory (Photographer of St Teresa of Calcutta, St John Paul II)

April 10: Rev. Patrick Conroy, SJ (Chaplain, US House of Representatives)

May 8: Pending

Interested in more information? Want to get on the email list? Go to www.catholicsatwork.org

By Michele Jurich

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco celebrates Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Berkeley as part of the Our Lady of Fatima centennial celebration.

At left, the Archbishop receives the gifts at the altar. Behind him are the Diocese of Oakland’s newest deacons, Rev. Mr. Mario Rizzo and Rev. Mr. Arturo Bazan.

All: Michele Jurich / The Catholic Voice
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February 9-13, 2018    5 Days — $1,899
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Athens/Piraeus 4 Days/3 Nights Greek Islands Cruise – Featuring Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete & Santorini.

Athens – We visit the famous Greek Orthodox Monasteries that are listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list and catch a glimpse of Mt. Olympus. Visit the famous Temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. In Ephesus we recall St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians. We celebrate Mass at the Virgin Mary’s house, where she is said to have lived with St. John, after the death and resurrection of Our Lord.

Piraeus/Corinth/Athens – We enjoy spectacular views of the Corinth Canal, and celebrate Mass amid the ruins of Corinth, where St. Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. We visit the legendary Acropolis, the Parthenon and so much more!

CALL FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS
Contact: Unitours, Inc. – Marianna Pisano
1-800-777-7432 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST)
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or book online at http://bit.ly/Greece2018

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Fr. Lawrence D’A不到
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Diocese of Oakland
Spiritual Guide:

Fr. Neal Clemens
Queen of All Saints Parish, Dublin

The Catholic Voice & Unitours Inc. for a Guadalupe Pilgrimage informational Q&A meeting with Unitours, Inc. to answer all your travel questions. Light refreshments will be served.

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Diocese of Oakland
Spiritual Guide:

Fr. Neal Clemens
Queen of All Saints Parish, Dublin
Parish festivals a time of food, fun and fellowship

Raising fun — and funds

Fall festivals are a time-honored tradition, filling parish parking lots and school playgrounds with food, fun and, perhaps most importantly, fellowship.

There’s nostalgia as a new generation masters the bean bag toss that Mom or Dad once did themselves. It’s saying yes to cotton candy, it’s lining around a string of lights as long as your arm and seeing how many games, snow cones and knock-knacks you can get before asking Mom for more money.

Parishes pack as much fun and games into a day or two of festivities, but it could be hard to top Our Lady of Grace parish in Castro Valley. “Once Upon a Time” is the theme for the festival, which runs noon to 7 p.m. Sept. 23 and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 24.

Two days of nonstop entertainment — including high school bands and local dance schools; pancake breakfast, food booth and a food truck; games; karaoke; carnival rides; art; bounce houses, dunk tanks, bungee jumping, fireworks.

The Diocese of Oakland provides its parishes and schools with guidelines that preclude high-risk activities — which include use of aircraft, trampolines and livestock, among other things — during activities.

But then you’d miss the grand finale — the raffle — that ends the festival by 7 p.m. Sept. 24.

The icing on the raffle cake just might be hard to top Our Lady of Grace parish’s “Once Upon a Time” festival, which runs noon to 7 p.m. Sept. 23 and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 24. “It’s not unusual for grandparents, who recall fun times they’ve had in the more than 40 years of festivals, to bring their grandchildren,” said Colleen Lindberg, business manager of Our Lady of Grace Parish.

School children participate in a design contest, with the winning design printed on the annual T-shirt.

The festival also offers the opportunity for an additional Sunday Mass. It’s celebrated on the festival stage at 9 a.m. “It’s a nice witness to who we are,” Lindberg said.

St. Joseph Parish in Pinole is hosting its 39th Oktoberfest Oct. 7-8. “This is a very special event,” said Emily Southwell, the parish office manager.

What you won’t find at fall festivals:

The Catholic Voice thanks them for their support. We encourage our readers to show their support by taking some time and attend these events.

Have some fun and help carry on these time-honored traditions.
Parish festivals . . .

(Continued from Page 7.)

close community,” said Ava Mandeta, parish business manager. “It’s an opportunity to renew friendships,” she said, “and invite neighbors.”

It’s also an opportunity to support the parish and the school. Proceeds from the festival will be split equally between them. The school’s portion supports tuition assistance, Mandeta said.

“We have the whole community helping us,” Mandeta said. “That’s a major event that planning begins early. We usually start right after Lent,” she added.

With such a worthy goal, it’s important to maximize those proceeds. The cost of the food for the festival is defrayed by proceeds from a pasta feed on Sept. 30, a week before the festival begins. Three hundred people can be seated at the dinner, and 10 to 15 gift baskets are raffled.

The diversity of the St. Joseph community is reflected. There’s a booth for food of every ethnicity, Mandeta said, with volunteers chairing each booth.

School parents earn service hours for their participation.

In addition to the array of foods, there are games for the children.

“It’s a family affair,” Mandeta said. The festival began in the 1970s, and the children who recall those early festivals now are the parents watching their own children have some fun.

Tickets are required to attend the Sept. 30 pasta dinner, from 6 to 9 p.m. The festival is open to everyone. The cost is $10 adults, $6 children 12 and under, $5 adults and $10 dollars for kids 12 years and younger for the family.

Just because the fair ends on a Saturday doesn’t mean that the parish fun is over. The following morning after Mass, the parish is hosting a pancake breakfast ($15 adults and $10 for kids 12 years and younger).

“Malo Malo Thanks Be to God.”

If you have some fun written all over it, according to Fred Schaub, 71, it’s a family-affair. "It’s a mix of everything," Schaub said. "It’s a family affair."

A host of gastronomic delights await visitors at this international festival which includes 70 food booths representing French, Polish, Filipino, Vietnamese foods as well as hot dogs and hamburgers cooked up by the local Knights of Columbus council chefs.

After the Mass the afternoon’s activities is filled with lots of games for kids, live entertainment that include Filipino music, Aztec dancers and karate and tae kwon do demonstrations.

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Fall Festivals – Listings in Datelines, Page 17

Parish festivals . . .

(Continued from Page 7.)

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The festival’s success follows a difficult period in parish history, Schaub said. Geographically the parish is made of up of Walnut Creek, a mostly white-collar community, and a Concord neighborhood known as the Monument Corridor made up of mostly lower income Spanish speaking people that formerly was part of Hispanic Concord Ministry. This ministry was created to provide pastoral care to the growing Spanish speaking community at a time when there were not enough Spanish speaking priests to minister to them.

When the Hispanic ministry disbanded in 2006 the Spanish speaking community was absorbed in three Concord parishes and a good number of those families became members at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. This created a “them vs. us” tension in the parish with some English speaking parishioners feeling that the newcomers were “taking over the church.”

Schaub said. The international festival was created as part of the effort to bring people together. Schaub said. Each ethnic group, which also included Polish, French, Mexican communities, along with the parish school was recruited to participate in the event which became a “roaring success,” he said.

"Us vs. them became all of us," Schaub said. "It really brought people together and helped heal wounds. People have really taken this on."

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Registration open for Faith Formation Conference

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Join hundreds of catechists, liturgists and lay ministers from parishes and Catholic schools for the annual Faith Formation Conference — two days of education, collaboration, worship and inspiration. The conference takes place Nov. 3 and 4 at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara. The conference has become an annual oasis for religious education leaders, teachers and seekers during its decades-long existence. San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy, who will address the conference, is among the featured speakers over the two days. The conference includes school sessions where you can hear the latest information on faith formation for children. All teachers, principals and pastors are welcome. Newly added are leadership sessions delving into best practices and accountability in the management, finance, communications and human resources development of the Catholic Church. In addition to English, the day welcomes multiple speakers in Spanish, Vietnamese and other languages. For more information, https://scffc.org.

Walk for the Poor Sept. 30

San Pablo. All Friends of the Poor Walk funds remain in Contra Costa County to help the poor through St. Vincent de Paul programs, including food pantries, free dining room, free medical clinic, dental program for the uninsured, job training program, daytime homeless shelter and thrift stores.

In ‘hope and joy’ . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)
Center.

In a spirited Mass, with music under the direction of Armond Seishas, principal of St. Joachim School in Hayward, the educators remembered Sister James Marien, principal of St. Francis of Assisi School in Pittsburg, who died Aug. 5.

In ‘hope and joy’ . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)
In ‘hope and joy’ . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)
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(Continued from Page 1.)
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(Continued from Page 1.)
Brother James Alfred "Santiago" Miller, an
community is named in memory of Christian
fourth year students, was born. The com-
ings. They participated in service projects
nights for community dinners and meet-
lege residence hall, gathering on Monday
ministry center, McClelland said.
Pamela Thomas, of the mission and
John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the
students were offered the opportunity to
residence hall component began a year
and service began in 2005-06. The
students live in the Lasallian community, named for
Lasallian community will be tutor-
the college's own backyard. The
mission and volunteering at the monument Crisis
school for low-income boys, in Concord;
Corridor in Concord; and Moraga, right in
Alameda point Collaborative in Alameda;
emphasize service in four areas: the
life of Jean Baptist de La Salle and
their second year of college, learn about
values McClelland sees in the program.
"If you put in effort, you get a lot of it back.
"You join with the intention of living in
the college experience, she said. "I found my
support system and my friends."
The Santiago community will work with the Alameda Point Collaborative and
the Gael Food Pantry, an on-campus
service for Saint Mary's College students.
"We do service," McClelland said. "I think what it looks like
for it, not doing it for credit."
"We want to explore what it means to serve another human," McClelland said.
What have the college leaders learned from the students after more than a
decade? "They're seeking community," she said. "Time and time again, the community
began with a
The school year begins with a retreat and other community-building opportunities for members of the Lasallian and Santiago Living and Learning Communities at Saint Mary's College of California.

For more information, please visit www.stmarys-ca.edu

A Catholic, Jesuit, undergraduate and graduate liberal arts college.

Saint Mary's College of California
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www.stmarys-ca.edu

Their principal vow is association with the educational mission," McClelland said. "To live this way, she said, is transformative.
McClelland has personal experience, having lived in a Lasallian community after her graduation from college 30 years ago.
At least 10 communities seek to model for
college students the Brothers' experience of the "benefits and challenges of living in community."

From there, she said, the question becomes, "What does that say about your spiritual life and relationship with God?"
The students will take part in stu-
gies during the school year. "Not all are Catholic," she said, "not all are Christian."
Life in intentional community and service were among the drawing points for Ericka Lacsamana, a fourth-year student at Saint Mary's College, who is entering her third year in a living and learning community.
"You join with the intention of living in community," Lacsamana said. Living and
learning communities have enhanced her college experience, she said. "I found my
support system and my friends."
The Santiago community has grown from 40 students to 62, she said.
"You get out what you put in," she said. "If you put in effort, you get a lot of it back."
The communications major, with a
music minor, also embodies one of the values she sees in the program.
She sees the communities as a place where students "cultivate spiritual prac-
tices" and consider "what it will look like
beyond Saint Mary's College.
Lacsamana has a plan. "AmeriCorps," she said, "and work my way to the Peace Corps."

Those in the Lasallian community in their second year of college, learn about the life of Jean Baptist de La Salle and what it means to live Lasallian.
At Santiago, community members focus on Catholic social teachings.
This year, the college is planning to emphasize service in four areas: the Alameda Point Collaborative in Alameda, Oakland's Fruitvale District; the Monument Corridor in Concord; and Moraga, right in the college's own backyard.
The Lasallian community will be tutoring at De La Salle Academy, a middle school for low-income boys in Concord; and volunteering at the Monument Crisis Center.

"They're seeking community," she said. "Time and time again, the community
piece is the piece they're seeking." What's special about the communities echoes what's special about the Brothers.

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer
Living and learning communities may appear to be in vogue on colleges and
universities across the country. At Saint Mary's College, living and learning com-

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This fall, HNU welcomed a record number of first-year, traditional undergraduate students to its idyllic, hillside campus.

New dean at USF School of Education

By Ed Carpenter

Special to The Catholic Voice

Shahram Koirala-Azad has been named the new dean of the School of Education at the University of San Francisco.

The appointment, by Provost Don Heller, takes effect immediately. Koirala-Azad was interim dean since January. She started teaching at USF 12 years ago and was promoted to associate dean and then interim dean. As a faculty member, she expanded the comparative and global studies dimension to the school, and served as the department chair of the Department of International and Multicultural Education. She also co-founded USF’s master’s program and doctoral concentration in Human Rights Education — the first ever in the country.

In addition, she secured almost $400,000 for scholarships and helped to create a new need-based scholarship program that tripled support for students over three years. Koirala-Azad’s scholarship and passion for education center on the connection between education and social change. She is inspired to build on the work that was done by training excellent social justice scholars and practitioners.

While all of these values are integral to the Holy Names University experience, radical hospitality is especially present during this time of year. Radical hospitality at HNU is, simply put, being welcomed as a member of the family.

Michael Miller, vice president for Student Affairs, and student life IV coordinator, explains it this way: "The concept of hospitality is well-understood, but radical hospitality is different. It’s about meeting others where they are, embracing them as who they are, helping them and working with them. For students, it’s about welcoming them into our community of learners while being in their community. It’s about expanding "Do. Know. Become." As educators, we help students prepare to be in the next place on their journey. Working with the Sisters for 12 years, I’ve learned that demonstrating radical hospitality is a critical means to striving for fairness and social justice."

This fall, HNU welcomed a record number of first-year, traditional undergraduate students to its idyllic, hillside campus. These students experienced an orientation that was infused with radical hospitality.

Orientation activities began with the tradition of "Rite of Passage" ceremony, in which incoming students climb the 106 stairs at the center of campus, cheered on by their families and the HNU community. The stairs are climbed by upper-class students, who inscribe them with the name of each new student’s name. On the day of their graduation, students will see their names on the stairs again and process down them as a community out into the world.

During the first two days of orientation at HNU, 100 families are extended an invitation into the HNU family. While new students meet the Sisters over dessert the first evening, parents and families have their dessert with staff and faculty, the School of Education stands strong in its vision of promoting equity, unity and cohesion. We choose to align ourselves with the forces of integration. Our work is cut out for us, and our legacy and proven record of enhancing educational justice provides us with a solid footing from which to build further."

Koirala-Azad was chosen from more than 30 applicants after a nationwide search, said Shirley McGuire, USF senior vice provost and chair of the committee that oversaw the dean’s hiring.

"Dr. Koirala-Azad is a widely respected international, multicultural and human rights educator and researcher," McGuire said. "She is curious, wise and approachable — characteristics that students, family, faculty and staff reported they wanted to see in their new dean in surveys conducted during the process."

"Decisive leadership"

Another thing that stood out about Koirala-Azad was her ability to be decisive while at the same time listening to all sides of an issue, McGuire said.

"We learned that she is a spiritual person. She takes the Jesuit idea of being men and women for others very seriously, and embraces and promotes that trait in others," McGuire said.

"As a USF Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award winner, Koirala-Azad has a doctoral degree in social and cultural studies in education from the University of California."

"Our work is especially significant in this moment," Koirala-Azad said. "At a time of division, fragmentation and attacks on the very communities we seek to serve, separately. The dessert is special — it recreates the experience the Sisters had when they arrived in Oakland in 1868 from Quebec, Canada, and were served strawberries by Father Michael King, prior of Saint Mary’s Church. There are also special orientation sessions for parents and family members that help them understand how they can help students succeed in college.

"Being intentional about including people here on campus is really important to us. The mission of student orientation is making our students feel welcome and part of their experiences. As educators, we help students prepare to be in the next place on their journey. Working with the Sisters for 12 years, I’ve learned that demonstrating radical hospitality is a critical means to striving for fairness and social justice."

"Our work is especially significant in this moment," Koirala-Azad said. "At a time of division, fragmentation and attacks on the very communities we seek to serve,
University brings Catholic worldview to law, health care

Special to The Catholic Voice

In a 25th anniversary report on Pope John Paul II's landmark document on Catholic education, “Ex corde Ecclesiae” (“On Catholic Universities”), the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops redoubled its conviction that Catholic universities are essential to the growth and to the development of Christian culture and human progress.

The impact of properly formed Catholic graduates in all aspects of society — medicine and health care, education, law, public policy, to name a few — is incalculable. That is one reason why Franciscan University of Steubenville — known for its evangentic Steubenville Youth Conferences, including one held July 28-30 in Hayward — regularly receives accolades from church leaders for integrating Catholic teachings and values into its academic and student life programs.

Speaking at the 2016 Baccalaureate Mass, Boston Cardinal Sean Patrick O’Malley, OPM Cap., praised Franciscan University for its alumni’s work in the Church and thanked its current and former presidents for making it a “center of spirituality, catechesis, vocations, evangelization, community, a truly passionately Catholic university.”

Located near Pittsburgh on a bluff overlooking the Ohio River, Franciscan University offers 40 majors and eight graduate programs, both on campus and online. Franciscan also recently began exciting partnerships with other Catholic universities with established programs in pharmacy, engineering and law.

The concept is simple. The students begin their education at Franciscan University where they immerse themselves in the school’s strongly Catholic core curriculum, excellent science and professional programs, and vibrant student and spiritual life activities. Then, after a successful two or three years at Franciscan, they are given preferred admission to partner universities with established programs in law, engineering and pharmacy.

Daniel Kempter, vice president for Academic Affairs, said, “At Franciscan, our students will not only take fundamental courses toward their professional degree, but the faithful Catholic theology and philosophy courses for which Franciscan is so well known.”

Franciscan’s Engineering Dual Degree Programs enable students to transfer to the University of Notre Dame School of Engineering. The Catholic University of America School of Engineering or Gannon University for degrees in chemical, civil, mechanical, aerospace, biomedical, electrical, computer, environmental or software engineering.

The Doctor of Pharmacy Program enables Franciscan students to obtain a doctor of pharmacy degree from DuValle College School of Pharmacy in Buffalo, New York, or Duquesne University School of Pharmacy in Pittsburgh after beginning their studies at Franciscan.

Responding to the need for lawyers who are educated with a Catholic worldview, Franciscan University entered into partnerships with the Columbus School of Law of The Catholic University of America and with Ave Maria School of Law for an accelerated juris doctor program.

Instead of the traditional seven-year route to a law degree, qualified students will spend three years at Franciscan and three years in law school, saving on a full year of tuition costs.

“As society continues on a trajectory that ignores the Catholic understanding of natural law, there is a pressing need for lawyers who can integrate faith and reason into their professional life,” said Franciscan University President Father Sean O. Brennan. “Our core curriculum teaches students how to understand the human person from a Catholic perspective, giving an excellent foundation for any student seeking a career in the legal profession.”

For more information on Franciscan University of Steubenville and its partner programs in engineering, pharmacy and law, visit Franciscan.edu or contact the Admissions Office at admissions@franciscan.edu or 800-763-6220.
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Parish support, along with advertising and other business income, allows us to continue this vital communications ministry. You can help your parish defray its costs by donating during the annual Voice Collection Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Make checks payable to your parish.
there's also a one-night session. There is the Healing the Heart ministry at St. Bonaventure Church in Concord, where Father Kappler said. “All that's necessary is to be there.”

passion, not with judgment, not with easy grace, to accompan-ny each other in times of grief and suffering. 

compassionate Catholic care is. We do, Father Kappler said. “that's what hospital chaplaincy is, and the companions, who meet at Santa Clara University’s Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, work with people on the margins of society.”

Although Catholic Care reaches the people of life, there is a special concern for those facing the end of life. “The caregivers themselves, whether they're family or professionals, really need support,” Streett said.

As a form of improvement, state wide, is hospital chaplaincy. One diocese offered an on-site number to reach a priest in time of need.

The Oakland diocese offers hospital chaplaincy at 30 hospitals and health care providers.

For health care . . .
(Continued from Page 1.)

One participant has suggested that we have a whole group out there that’s not coming. they may come with their spouse or friends, that they are "You know how many aren't there," he said.

Some women outnumber men, 10-1. Men don’t come. They may come with their spouses, they don’t come alone,” he said. “You have a whole group out there that’s suffering. The increase in mental illness has opened many discussions on life issues. “We’re seeing, so many times, this isn’t just an elder issue,” Streett said.

In the search, both Alameda and Contra Costa counties for resources to assist those with whole-life issues, there have been some happy finds.

“We discovered the Ignatian Companions, during the year of Mercy,” Streett said. The companions, who meet at Santa Clara University’s Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, work with people on the margins of society.”

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In the search, there are both Alameda and Contra Costa counties for resources to assist those with whole-life issues, there have been some happy finds.
Hundreds of the faithful marched in a long procession from the parish hall, around the newly paved and striped parking lot, and into Our Lady Queen of the World Church on Aug. 20 to honor the Blessed Mother, patroness of the Diocese of Oakland and for whom the parish is named.

“The Catholic Faith is flourishing in your community,” Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, told the crowd.

Bishop Barber and parochial administrator Rev. Peter Dung Duc Ngo, assisted by a half dozen priests, said Mass before a standing room only crowd. At the end of the liturgy, Bishop Barber read a proclamation and blessing to the parish from Pope Francis. A number of awards to parish volunteers were given, and the event coincided with the Bay Point parish’s 55th anniversary. A festival followed on the expansive parish grounds.

In his homily, Bishop Barber explained that at the first ecumenical council, called by Roman Emperor Constantine in 325 in Nicea to debate the nature of the Trinity, a theologian named Arius was advocating that Jesus the Son was lesser than God the Father. One of the 300 bishops in attendance, Nicholas, became so upset he slapped Arius, for which Nicholas was imprisoned.

The bishops affirmed Jesus is the Son of God, and therefore, truly divine. Indeed, the Nicean Creed, developed from the council, states what Catholics believe: “God from God ... true God from true God ...”

And, 100 years later, at the Council of Ephesus, the bishops determined: “If Jesus Christ is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. If Jesus is the King of heaven and earth, Mary is its Queen.”

Thus we celebrate the Queenship of Mary on Aug. 22, eight days after the Assumption.

And that bishop, Nicholas, known as the first great defender of Christ and Mary, Bishop Barber said, was freed and we know him more popularly today as St. Nicholas.
Ron Olwin, the astrophysicist and longtime professor of science at Saint Mary’s College of California in Moraga died Aug. 5 following a yearlong illness, is being remembered for a career in which he inspired and helped many better understand the universe.

“He was an exemplar of a dedicated teacher in the Lasallian tradition, which focuses on the relationship between the teacher and the student,” said James A. Donohue, St. Mary’s president, in announcing the death of the beloved faculty member.

Olwin, who began teaching at the college in 1987, was affectionately referred to as “Dr. Cool” by his students for his Introduction to Astronomy course, which he created upon arriving at Saint Mary’s and continued to teach for 30 years.

Sister Mary Paschal Elvin, PBVM
Sister Mary Paschal Elvin, a Sister of the Presentation, died July 25 at the Presentation Motherhouse in San Francisco. She was 104.

Born in Vallejo, Sister Elvin (baptismal name Gertrude Eleanor) graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Latin from the San Francisco College for Women and a master’s degree in education from the University of San Francisco. In 1932 Sister Elvin began a teaching career that spanned 56 years. She taught grades five to eight in elementary schools in San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles and Glyn in the Diocese of Oakland. She was the eighth grade teacher at St. John the Baptist School in San Lorenzo from 1958 to 1963. For many years her former students would call from St. John included her in their reunions.

In 1963 Sister Elvin moved to San Jose where she worked at St. Benedict High School. From 1969 to 1977 she taught English at West Valley Community College. After retiring from formal education, Sister Elvin continued to minister into her 80s and 90s at St. Christopher parish in San Lorenzo from 1988 to 2000. In 1992 to 2010. After leaving The Catholic Voice, she wrote an environmental spirituality monthly column and blog called “Eco Catholic” for The Catholic National Reporter from 2010 until shortly before her death. She also wrote for Catholic San Francisco and the EarthLink magazine between 1999 and 2005. She served as religious editor and feature writer for the Columbus Citizen-Journal from 1969 to 1985, when it closed.

Abercrombie, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, is survived by her son, William A. Donohue, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, is survived by her son, William Abercrombie.-sharon abercrombie, a longtime former staff writer at The Catholic Voice, died Aug. 5 while recuperating from hip replacement surgery in Ohio. She was 78.

She worked at The Catholic Voice from 1992 to 2010. After leaving The Catholic Voice, she wrote an environmental spirituality monthly column and blog called “Eco Catholic” for The Catholic National Reporter from 2010 until shortly before her death. She also wrote for Catholic San Francisco and the EarthLink magazine between 1999 and 2005. She served as religious editor and feature writer for the Columbus Citizen-Journal from 1969 to 1985, when it closed.

Abercrombie, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, is survived by her son, William Alan Abercrombie. A memorial service was held Aug. 12 at First Unitarian Church in Columbus, Ohio.
**NEW EVENTS**

**Tuesday, Sept. 5**
- Sing into the Music of Hildegard of Bingen as contemplative practice, through the Ear to the Heart. 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Santa Sabina Center, 25 Magnolia Ave., San Rafael. It is led by Dave Mathews and requires no previous experience with the music of Hildegard or with medieval music. No reservations required. Suggested offerings, $5. 415-457-7727 or info@santasabinacenter.org.

**Wednesday, Sept. 6**
- 9:30 a.m.-1:25 p.m., Contemplative Day of Prayer: Courage to be Bold, led by Fr. Joe Nazzal, CPPS. Presentation, personal reflection, sharing, concluding with Eucharist. No reservations required. Suggested offering, $21. Santa Sabina Center, 25 Magnolia Ave., San Rafael, 415-457-7727 or info@santasabinacenter.org.

**Saturday, Sept. 9**
- Seven Weeks Community Health and Wellness Fair. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sylvester Greenwood Academy, 831 Chancellor Ave., Richmond. Join Catholic Charities of the East Bay at this free event that includes health screenings, resources fair, wellness workshops and activities for kids. Contact Ivan Velazquez, info@ccbeb.org.

**Sunday, Sept. 10**

**Thursday, Sept. 14**
- 65th Class Reunion, St. Elizabeth High School Class of 1953. 7 p.m. at Luxottica at 2500 Blvd. Hal Bru, 1400 E. 14th St., San Leandro. Information: James Baker, 206-260-6035.

**Saturday, Sept. 16**
- Magnificent SOPII Prayer Festival, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Croceza Plaza, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord. Guest speaker Alberta B. Young who was born and raised in a Jewish Orthodox family, will discuss the story of her conversion and that of her family. Tickets: $30 before Sept. 9 and $40 after. Information: www.magnificat-ministry.net.

**School of the Madeleine 80th Anniversary Celebration, 5 p.m. Mass at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley. Followed by barbecue on-the-school-yard. Cost $20 per person, adults only. Information: www.themadeleine.com.

**SPIRITUALITY**

**Sept. 5, 12, 19**
- Men of St. Joseph meeting. 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in Oakland, by arranged appointment at Immaculate Conception Church, 2038 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Walnut Creek. Information: michaelagilbraith1025@gmail.com or outlook.com.

**Sept. 6, 13, 20**
- Perpetual Help Devotion_format. 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays in the Keesley Center. St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1315 Alhambra Ave., Walnut Creek. Call Marie La Scala, 510-447-6808 or claireclosa@yahoo.com.

**Sept. 12, 16**
- Faith and Meaning. 7:30 a.m. second and fourth Saturdays. St. Clement Parish Center, 750 Cahoon St., Concord, 925-303-2953.

**Mondays**
- Rosary in Spanish. 7:30 a.m. St. Joseph Parish Center, 2100 Pearl St., Pinole. 510-741-4900.

**Wednesdays**
- Meditations the next Sunday Gospel and Corinna in Spanish. 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Center, 2100 Pearl St., Pinole. 510-741-4900.

**First Wednesdays**
- Catholic Men Night. 7 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, 923 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Walnut Creek. Adoration, Confession and Rosary. Food and drink follow. Contact michaelagilbraith1025@gmail.com or outlook.com.

**Thursdays**
- Holy Thursday Vigil, 7 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish, 37891 Second St., Fremont. 510-790-3207.

**First Thursdays**
- Holy Hour First Thursday (or before first Thursday of each month). 4 to 6 p.m. at St. Margaret’s Church, 1219 Encinal Avenue, Oakland. Every Thursday before the First Friday, a day of special prayer and for the new vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for vocations to religious life, doctrine and seminaries. 510-482-2596.

**Saturdays**
- Ecumenical Prayer Service. 8:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. at San Damiano Retreat Center Chapel, 710 Highlands Drive, Danville. Cost: $220 shared room or $250 private room. Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**EVENTS**

**Sept. 10**

**Wine tasting and blessing of the grapes**

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 1013 Hardon Road, Hayward, will offer its annual blessing of the grapes, Mass and a wine tasting on Oct. 7. Mass will be at 11 a.m. in the Mausoleum of the Apostles; grapes blessing at noon followed by 3 p.m. Music will be by the Juanita Harris Quintet. Signs will direct visitors. Some areas at Holy Sepulchre and other cathedrals operated by Catholic Church and Funeral Services of the Oakland diocese are planted with grape vineyards, for production of the Bishop’s Vineyard label. Some of the wines are donated to parishes for sale. Contact: 415-467-4747 or www.ourladysministry.org.

**CFS EVENTS**

*Presented by the Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services Ministries of the Diocese of Oakland. Sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.*

**Sept. 7 to Oct. 26**
- CCOP Grief Support Ministry. At St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 1400 St. Dominic Drive, Pleasanton. Join us for eight Thursday nights at 7:30 a.m. A one-time donation of $15 is requested. Pre-registration is open. Information: Lorraine Greenwich, 510-945-8708.

**Sept. 10 to Oct. 1**
- St. Michael Parish Fall Festival. At St. Michael School Courtyard, Livermore. Sept. 10, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Oct. 1, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; food and game booths and other activities in the afternoon. Information: atriumvillia@livermore.av郎tis.com.

**Oct. 7 to 8**
- Oktoberfest at St John the Baptist Parish, El Cerrito. Sept. 10, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. menu; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. food and game booths and other activities. Information: www.oktoberfestelcerrito.com.

**Sept. 9 and 10**

**Sept. 16 and 17**
- Parish Outreach. St. James the Apostle Parish, 34191 Fourth St., Fremont. Call 510-792-1092 for information.

**COG CFS GRIEF MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUPS**

*Presented by the Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services Ministries, Diocese of Oakland. Sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.*

**Sept. 17**
- Grief Workshop Schedule.

**TAIZÉ**

*(An ecumenical, candlelit service of prayer in simple, liturgical music, prayer, reading and veneration of the cross.)*

**Friday, Sept. 15**
- 8 to 9 p.m. at the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Chapel, 4325 Mission Circle (entrance of Mission Tower), Fremont. Bring your speakers. Sisters Mary Susanna Vasquez, and Frances Ivan Villasenor Madriz, ivillasenormadriz@cceb.org.

**NEXT MEETING**

*September 8, 2017, Submissions by September 6 to Carrie McClintch, 2121 Hamilton St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612, CarrieM McClintch@comcast.net (photos); phone 510-419-1074, or by fax at 510-689-4734.*
It's time we stopped connecting God to bad things

By Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

This is a terrible truth, but it is a generally misunderstood truth. Martin Luther's protest that led to the Reformation was, in fact, a protest against the Roman Catholic Church; properly understood, it was a protest for God. God, in Luther's view, was being ignored and not to be trusted to serve human and ecclesial self-interest. His protest was a plea to respect God's transcendence.

We need a new protest today, a new plea for a strong, sure, not to connect God and church to intolerance, injustice, bigotry, terrorism, racism, sexism, sadism, elitism, anti-eroticism, homophobia, serving self-power, institutional self-protection, security for the rich, ideology of all kinds, and just plain stupidity. God is getting a lot of bad press as if God were an abstraction; as if God could be made into an illustrating here: In a recent book that documents the heartbreaking history of black protestors with clubs loudly declaring "I have a dream," a white woman who was among the many who were being bombed and killing little girls, who were shooting unbelievably at those who were being black protesters with clubs loudly declared themselves to be "true Christians." The Ku Klux Klan were proud Christians. I felt no allegiance to a religion with so many evil followers. Yes, I was also aware that the Reverend Dr Martin Luther King Jr., was devoutly a Sikh, as were many of the civil rights leaders. Coach Wooden was a devout Christian. The civil rights movement was supported by many brave Christians who marched side by side with blacks. When the KKK attacked, they often delivered even more beatings to the whites, whom they considered to be race traitors. I didn't condemn the religion, but I definitely felt removed from it.

His story is only one story and by his own admission has another side to it, but it's highly illustrative. It's easy to connect God to the wrong things. Christianity, of itself, does nothing; it's the world that turns a reminder of the crucifixion to the violence of ISIS and other such terror groups who kill, randomly and brutally. In reality, it's more than the acts of killers, we see perhaps the worst examples of tying God to evil in the violence of ISIS and other such terror groups who kill, randomly and brutally. In reality, it's more than the acts of killers, we see perhaps the worst examples of evil in the violence of ISIS and other such terror groups who kill, randomly and brutally. In reality, it's more than the acts of killers, we see perhaps the worst examples of evil in the violence of ISIS and other such terror groups who kill, randomly and brutally. 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Unalterable truths

Clifford Wisner (Forum, Aug. 14) refutes Bishop Thomas Paprocki's argument that because the bishop declared that clergy or representatives of the diocese ‘cannot present themselves for Holy Communion,’ a priest or minister may not celebrate Holy Communion. Wisner notes that the bishop's declaration was in response to people in the diocese who were sexually active themselves. Wisner argues that the decision was ‘unjust, unfair, and unwise.’

Bishop Paprocki's statement is not new and cannot be compared to the Church teaching on the same-sex issue. The Church teaching is that the Church does not recognize same-sex unions or provide church facilities or objects for events connected to gay weddings. However, the bishop's declaration was based on the belief that people in ‘public’ same-sex relationships cannot present themselves for Holy Communion, serve any ministerial role in a parish, and, if they are unrepentant, put their souls in danger.

The good bishop said that his decree was a ‘further clarification’ of the Church teaching and a ‘reminder of our pastoral duties’ for those who are ‘unrepentant sinners in illicit relationships, Communion unworthily are guilty of the unrepentant sinners in illicit relationships, Unfair criticism Unfair criticism Unfair criticism’.

The eclipse — a sign of unity

The total solar eclipse is seen from Chester, Ill., on the afternoon of Aug. 21. It was a symbol of wonder that stopped the world for a moment. Human wonder was in display as millions spent millions to see the kisseeing of these celestial bodies and the blunting of the sun. But it was real a blunting? Or was it like ancient times, when the sky tells humanity a story and mystery and truth?

The mystical questions of our existence are guided to our purpose and purpose of the signs, the symbols and substance in the universe. As we peer out of this world we gain a wisdom that enables us to live more fully in this world.

The universal faith (Christianity) was truly on display on Aug. 21. Mother and son kiss and reveal part of the story of love from the beginning of time. All humans inherently know the sun brings light and life to the world. How can we live that story that the sun is a big enough to fit in its orbit, she brings attention to it.

In the Catholic faith, we know the mother of Christ is the perfect reflection of the sun. She brings humanity to the sun as the ‘Arc of the Covenant’ and as she affirms the light of the sun as the transcendent light of life.

Perhaps in this centennial year celebration of the vision of our blessed mother, Mary, in Fatima, she affirms her message again with the sun for worldwide viewers to engage in prayer, peace and conversion through her risen son, Jesus Christ.

Objective truth is what humanity is struggling to find today. The universal message of the eclipse was truly a message of unity and a call for humanity to embrace the mystery of this life through the eyes of a mother embracing a child; a gentle display of grace as she joins her child to demonstrate the loving embrace of faith, hope, love, kindness, generosity and peace.

Divinely she calls humanity home. Hopefully the wonder and mystery displayed through the eclipse will lead more people to explore the universal faith (Catholicism) with the symbols and traditions that point to the same universal message in the sky.
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