By Michele Jurich  
Staff writer

The Oblate Sisters of Providence have one photo of their founder, Mother Mary Lange. It’s a tintype that’s been refurbished. They have two letters; one was dictated by her.

But the work of the founder of the first order for women of color in the United States continues to this day. The school she founded in Baltimore in 1828 to serve girls of color — primarily children with African Caribbean roots — today is known as St. Frances Academy, with a student body of young women and young men. The Sisters who succeeded her have extended her legacy, educating children who might not have had that opportunity in the Caribbean and Latin America.

A Cuban filmmaker, whose mother was educated by the Oblate Sisters of Providence, is researching a film focusing on the Sisters’ time in Cuba. The Sisters arrived in 1900, and left in 1961, after Fidel Castro came to power. The Sisters of Hope, Gloria Rolando’s film project, Rolando spent a month at the convent in Baltimore researching alongside Kathy Knecht, the Sisters’ archivist.

It was Rolando’s second visit to Baltimore. She is interviewing the Sisters — some in their 90s — who left Cuba in 1961. Knecht came to the Sisters as an intern in 2001, as she was earning her master’s degree. In 2007, she became their archivist. In her time with the Sisters, she has come to see a clear picture of Mother Lange.

“I think she was a very brave woman who came to this country with four strikes against her,” Knecht said. “She was an immigrant in a nativist country; she was a black woman in a slave state; she was a woman in male-dominated society; and she was Catholic in a Protestant country.”

When Father James Joubert, SS, asked the then-Elizabeth Lange to open a school, Knecht said, “she didn’t hesitate.”

Her response was, “We’ve been waiting 10 years to consecrate our lives to God. Now he’s shown us the way.”

“She knew this was God’s will,” Knecht said.

After Father Joubert’s death in 1843, the Sisters faced even greater challenges to keep their school open. But they persisted in their vocation.

“We don’t know a lot about her personally,” Knecht said. They depend on a memoir written in the 1890s. Teresa Willigmann came to the Oblates as a “half-sister of the heart.”

(Continued on Page 10.)

Support home for trafficked girls nears opening

By Al Donner  
Special to The Catholic Voice

A tortuous path to establish a safe haven for young women who have been forced into the sex trade may be nearly completed.

Chuck Fernandez, CEO of Catholic Charities of the East Bay, speaking to the February Catholics at Work breakfast, said that he hopes to see Claire’s House in operation as soon as May.

But Fernandez cautioned he makes no guarantees. The project has been under development for several years and has overcome an intimidating number of the obstacles, related to the extremely tough problem it seeks to address.

Claire’s House is designed to provide a stable, secure living place for girls between 12 and 18 who have survived commercial sexual exploitation. Forced into the sex trade at such young ages makes the girls more vulnerable, less able to cope with it and less able to recover if they do escape.

(Continued on Page 10.)
Chinese New Year

The Chinese Community of the Diocese of Oakland will celebrate its New year with religious education, seminarian education and social services.

- Learn how to navigate end-of-life issues through your Catholic faith, including health advice and knowing when to request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. To register or find more information, visit www.oakdiocese.org/catholics-care or 510-267-5200.

- To live.

- Many of the children attended the event in traditional Polish clothing. The Polish community presented a copy of the image of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, which the bishop blessed and was placed in one of the side chapels of the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Legend has it that St. Luke painted the image of the Black Madonna on a board from Jesus’ home in Nazareth. Centuries later, it made its way to the Jasna Góra Monastery in Czestochowa, Poland.

Bishop’s Appeal kickoff

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, visited St. Joseph Parish in Fremont for the kickoff of the 2018 Bishop’s Appeal Feb. 4. The Bishop’s Appeal, the annual fundraising effort to assist Catholic services in the Oakland diocese, has a goal of $8 million this year.

February was a month of education about the appeal and seeking financial commitments from parishioners. Pastors will be following up the weekend of March 3 and 4. Money raised in the appeal will supplement the almost $8 million the diocese spends on services like religious education, seminarian education and social services.

Some of the other social issues that come between life and death unless we support the life of an unborn child, he said.

“The Church in the United States has been showing its commitment to life on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion.”

He added: “Thank God you are here.”

“Like Martin Luther King Jr., Bishop Barber said, he has a dream too: “That all children in the womb have a right to live.”

Many of the children attending the event in traditional Polish clothing. The Polish community presented a copy of the image of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, which the bishop blessed and was placed in one of the side chapels of the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Legend has it that St. Luke painted the image of the Black Madonna on a board from Jesus’ home in Nazareth. Centuries later, it made its way to the Jasna Góra Monastery in Czestochowa, Poland.

At a reception in the event center after Mass, the Polish community presented the bishop flowers and a song.

Bishop: Children in the womb are real people

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

— Michele Jurich

The Catholic Voice (ISSN 0279-0645) is published for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland twice monthly except in July, August and December (when one issue is published) for $25 a year (outside the diocese, $30). Copyright 2018.

Publisher: Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

Interim Director of Communication & Community Relations

Associate Publisher, The Catholic Voice:

Helen Osman
homan@oakdiocese.com

Editor: Albert C. Paciorni
apaciorni@oakdiocese.org; 510-419-1073

Advertising Manager: Camille Tompkins
tompkins@oakdiocese.org; 510-419-1081

Office/Circulation Manager: Sean Geary
sean@oakdiocese.org; 510-893-5339

Graphics/Webmaster: Dexter Valencia
dvalencia@oakdiocese.org; 510-419-1076

Associate Editor/Staff writer: Michele Jurich
mjurich@oakdiocese.org; 510-419-1075

Staff writer: Carrie McCluskey
cmcluskey@oakdiocese.org; 510-419-1074

Email addresses

Letters to the editor: Forum@oakvoice.org
Address change: Circulation@oakvoice.org
Subscription: Circulation@oakvoice.org
Datelines calendar of events: Datelines@oakvoice.org

Around the Diocese: ATD@oakvoice.org

Photos:

Submit photos must be suitable for print publication. Please refer to our photo guidelines: www.catholicvoiceoakland.org/photos.htm

Schedule:

See our publication schedule and deadlines at www.catholicvoiceoakland.org/pubdates.htm

The Catholic Voice (ISSN 0279-0645) is published for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland ten monthly except in July, August and December (when one issue is published) for $25 a year (outside the diocese, $30). Copyright 2016

Copyright © 2016

Adopted to be a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of Alameda County. Court order No. 360384, dated Jan. 20, 1967. Periodical postage paid (USPS 894-040) at Oakland, California, and additional mailing offices.

Pastor/Parish address change to The Catholic Voice, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612.
PLEASE SUPPORT THE 2018 BISHOP’S APPEAL
DONATE TODAY | WWW.OAKDIOCESE.ORG/GIVING
Scouts, adult leaders celebrate faith

By Bill Ford

Special to The Catholic Voice

Scouts, scout leaders and their families were recently reminded by Father Jayson Landeza, Oakland diocese Scout chaplain, that following the Boy Scout Oath or the Girl Scout Promise, by emphasizing “duty and service to God and “helping other people at all times,” will help them to live and grow as Catholic Christians.

Father Landeza was speaking at the diocesan Celebration of Scouting, the annual gathering honoring Scouts in the diocese at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Father Landeza led the Scouts at the Celebration in prayer and presented Scout Religious Awards to them.

Each February, Scouts from around the diocese gather for the annual Celebration of Scouting at the Cathedral of Christ the Light to celebrate their Catholic faith and their participation in Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs. Forty Scouts from around the Oakland diocese received religious awards during the celebration in early February that included a procession into the cathedral by the Scouts, a prayer service, the presentation of Scout Religious Awards and concluded with a blessing of Scouting and Scout leaders.

The theme for this year’s celebration was “Finding Favor with God,” using the theme that was chosen by Pope Francis for this year’s World Youth Day. Scout Religious Awards are presented at the Celebration or are presented in local parishes. Both boys and girls of all ages in scouting can earn a variety of religious awards, completing programs while supervised by trained adult counselors. These projects help Scouts to relate what they experience in their scout activities to their Catholic faith.

This year, a new award was offered, the “God is Love Award,” for Girl Scouts in kindergarten or first grade. Maya Lovelace Hackett from St. Michael Parish, Livermore, is the first person to earn this award and she was presented the award by Father Landeza.

The scholarship, named for him, and noted that the $1,000 award will be a significant amount toward the students’ education.

He looks forward to reading the essays. Excerpts may find their way into presentations to future CYO coaches.
‘We are saying to the world: I am a Christian’

By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

When we come up and receive ashes on our foreheads today, we are making a public statement.

We are saying to the world: I am a Christian. And I am beginning a 40-day period of penance and self-denial.

The ashes are not a “spiritual cosmetic” — like a tattoo — but a stark religious symbol. Some of the penance we do in Lent we do together: we fast today and on Good Friday. We abstain from eating meat today, and on the Fridays of Lent. That’s a “minimum Lent.” Then we each have our own particular penance … usually expressed as “What are you giving up for Lent?”

My priest-secretary, Father Alex, hides all chocolate and potato chips from me during Lent.

In many cases, as a result of Lent, people lose weight, by giving up some favorite food, alcohol or something like that. We “fast” from something we like.

But the difference between dieting and fasting is that in dieting, the center of attention is ME. I want to lose weight so I will not look so fat, and that I will feel healthier. The emphasis is on ME. And that’s perfectly OK. We should take care of ourselves.

But in fasting, or abstaining from something we like — the emphasis is on love of God and love of neighbor. In Lent, our prayer is something like:

“Lord, I’m sorry for my sins. As an expression of that sorrow, I’ll give up drinking in Lent.”

“Lord, you have given me so many blessings in life. I have everything I need: a roof over my head, food on my table. Out of love for those who are hungry today, or out of work or suffering, I will give up a meal so that I can feel what you feel: hungry with the hungry.”

And then put the cost of that meal or that bottle in your cardboard Rice Bowl, which will help the poor. Even small children can participate in this act of love for God and neighbor.

Cardinal Newman says: “The essence of faith is to look out of ourselves.” This Lent, let’s refocus our lives on Christ, and feel what He feels, for the hungry and needy.

This was Bishop Barber’s Ash Wednesday homily.

‘Your faith has saved you’

There are lots of sick people in the Bible, said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, during the Mass for the Day of the Sick Feb. 14.

Some were deaf, others blind or paralyzed and the most despised during biblical times were lepers, the bishop said. Sickness was not good; “only pain, suffering and sadness.”

But the one good thing about being sick at that time, he said, is that illness made people go to Jesus to be healed.

“It brought them and their families to Jesus,” he said. “There were no ambulances, no wheelchairs. Sick people were carried miles and miles just to get Jesus’ attention. The bishop recalled the Bible stories of how a hole was cut in the roof of a house to lower a sick man to Jesus, and how once, so many people were trying to get to Jesus for healing, he was forced to flee to the Sea of Galilee on a boat.

“Any doctor can heal,” Bishop Barber said, “but only God can forgive sins.”

Before he saved the people, the bishop said, Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Jesus’ healing power continues.

Something better than physical health is knowing Jesus, he said, having faith in Jesus.

The crowd equaled that of last year’s record, organizers said, about 900 people.

Since 2009, the Dames and Knights of the Order of Malta have organized the Mass for the Sick, for the ill, their families, friends and caregivers, health workers and others. After the services, small bottles of water from Lourdes, France, said to have curative properties, and roses, are distributed.

World Day of the Sick was initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1992 and is held annually worldwide on the date nearest the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11. The Order of Malta serves the sick, and assists with many charities, including free medical and legal clinics for the poor in the Cathedral Center. More photos at facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.

— Staff report
Pilgrimages

CALL FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Contact: Unitours, Inc. – Marianna Pisano
1-800-777-7432
(9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST)
Email: mpisano@unitours.com
or book online at http://bit.ly/Greece2018

To receive a mailed brochure contact:
Camille Tompkins
at The Catholic Voice at ctompkins@oakdiocese.org

The Catholic Voice invites you to enjoy an incredible journey!

Journey of St. Paul Pilgrimage
Greece and Turkey
Includes 4 Days/3 Nights Cruise
October 14-23, 2018
10 Days — $4,999 from SFO
(Including airfare, hotel, taxes, exterior cabin, most meals, transportation, full-time tour manager)

View Pilgrimage video at https://youtu.be/wg5SjQoDuD8

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
Thessaloniki/Philippi/Veria/Verina/Kalabaka – We walk in the Footsteps of St. Paul, in the very places where he preached the Gospel to the Thessalonians. We celebrate Mass where Lydia, the first Christian convert, was baptized.

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) Email: mpisano@unitours.com
or book online at http://bit.ly/Greece2018

To receive a mailed brochure contact: Camille Tompkins
at The Catholic Voice at ctompkins@oakdiocese.org

Diocese of Oakland
Spiritual Guide:

Fr. Neal Clemens
Queen of All Saints Parish, Concord

$50 Discount if booked by February 28, 2018

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land at Christmas Season
Come and Join this Extraordinary unforgettable Trip to the Home Land of Jesus
With Fr. Joseph Tran
- Round Trip from USA
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- Mass Daily

December 3-13, 2018
$3,200/person

For more information visit: www.polandmej.com
Contact: Victoria Tannady (510) 847-7773 email: beatitudes8@rocketmail.com
or Luvi Lumibao (510) 918-5825 email: luvilumibao@aol.com

Reunion for Catholic Voice pilgrimages
Many of the participants in two Catholic Voice pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to European Marian shrines, gathered for a potluck reunion with Rev. Mark Wiensner at St. Michael Parish in Livermore on Jan. 21.

COURTESY PHOTO by BELINDA LEWIS-HELD, UNITOURS INC.
Holy Land pilgrimages gain popularity worldwide

DENVER — The number of Christian pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land has increased. Last month 770 registered pilgrims were released by Israel’s Christian Information Center.

Slobod Makhou, deacon of the Maronite Patriarchate of Jerusalem, told Asia News that the rise in pilgrims began at the end of 2017. "Between November and mid-December there were many pilgrims, so many that for the first time we had to house some of them in the city like Hebron, almost 30 km south of Bethlehem," he said. There has also been a notable increase in pilgrims from China, Russia and Eastern Europe, among them are many pilgrims from Eastern Orthodox churches, Makhou told Asia News.

Makhou also said that a peaceful reaction in Palestine to the US Embassy’s move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has reassured pilgrims that Israel is a safe place to travel. He said that most people in the region want peace, and that most recognize the economic importance of pilgrimage trips.

Father Richard Cardo, pastor of Holy Name Church in Englewood, Colorado, who recently took a group of young adults on an 8-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land said there is a general respect in the region for the sacredness of pilgrimages to the Holy Land, which he called the “father land” to many religions.

People from the Holy Land, whether they are Christians or not, and actually a vast majority as we know aren’t Christians, recognize … the sacredness of the practice of pilgrimage," he said.

It is moving to me to see how many people, whether they are fully into the spiritual experience or not, are attracted to sacred sites in the Holy Land, he said. "The experience of going to Holy Sepulchre in particular … it’s just entering into a mystery, pointing to the place that reflects the mystery of God’s victory, but such a stark contrast, with the craziness of our humanity — the many languages [and] the noise of the place."

Father Cardo encouraged more groups of Catholics to travel to the Holy Land. He said the experience allows pilgrims to envision the reality of Scripture’s settings, and that pilgrimages help Christians in the Holy Land, who only make up a small fraction of the population. To visit Christian places and support local Christian businesses is a very important thing we have to do in order to maintain the life of the Church in those holy places," he said.

The Holy Land

February 4 – 13, 2019

$3,899* for 10 days!

Includes round-trip airfare from SFO, hotel, daily breakfast famous Israeli buffet and table d’hôtel dinner daily except as noted in itinerary, air-conditioned motor coach and full-time tour manager. *Double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

• The Church of the Annunciation, where the Word became Flesh!
• The village of Cana, where married couples may renew their wedding vows.
• Take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. • Renew your Baptismal promises in the River Jordan.
• Visit Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity. • Walk the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem and so much more!

CALL FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Marianna at Unitours, Inc.
1-800-777-7432 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST)

Contact: Camille Tompkins at The Catholic Voice to receive a mailed brochure ctompkins@oakdiocese.org

The gold-covered Dome of the Rock at the Temple Mount complex is seen in this overview of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives.
Retreat: Like listening to God sing

By Carrie McClish Staff writer

As I stood on the beach outside the Villa Maria del Mar Retreat Center in Santa Cruz this past November I watched with a delight approaching giddiness as a flock of baby birds ran to the edge of the water only to turn back in a rush as the waves flowed back onto the shore.

While pointing out the scene to my friend, Sister Carol Selak, SNJM, I pulled out my iPhone to record a few seconds of this seaside dance. “That guy is so cute,” I said as one of the tiny birds veered off on its own path on the beach.

This was the second year that Sister Selak and I drove down — along with Associate Mary Scott — from Oakland to Santa Cruz to attend the annual retreat for Associates and Sisters of the Holy Names at the community’s Santa Cruz retreat center.

I first visited Villa Maria del Mar with Sister Selak in 2016 after she had invited me to discern the possibility of becoming an associate of the SNJM community. Associates are lay women and men who are called to grow spiritually with the Sisters, focus on the needs of the poor and marginalized, and share in the spirit or charism of SNJM founder Blessed Marie Rose Durocher. In November I returned to Villa Maria del Mar as a new associate following several months of discernment and after having taken part in a SNJM commitment ceremony at my home parish of Sacred Heart in Oakland on Oct. 22.

The journey to Villa Maria del Mar, coming so soon after my associate commitment ceremony, provided me with an additional opportunity to reflect, pray and give thanks for my ongoing spiritual journey. In addition to the stunning views from the beachfront property the center provided comfortable and clean rooms, healthy and deliciously hearty meals by the Epicurean Group, gardens for walking and sitting, and for those who don’t wish to cut ties with the outside world completely, there is free Wi-Fi.

Villa Maria del Mar traces its roots back to the late 1890s. The Catholic Ladies Aid Society of San Francisco was looking to build a summer hotel where women “of limited means” could find a restful haven at little or no cost, according to information found on the retreat center’s web page. Proceeds generated from the hotel were to fund a home for single working women in San Francisco.

In 1906 the hotel was replaced with a more modern structure in 1949 and the Society added a building with 16 bedrooms on the site. The outdoor porch was enclosed in 1952. By

Local farmers donated the land for the three-story hotel, which opened in 1892. A chapel was built next to the hotel in 1906. The Catholic Ladies Aid Society of San Francisco was looking to build a summer hotel where women “of limited means” could find a restful haven at little or no cost, according to information found on the retreat center’s web page. Proceeds generated from the hotel were to fund a home for single working women in San Francisco.

In 1906 the hotel was replaced with a more modern structure in 1949 and the Society added a building with 16 bedrooms on the site. The outdoor porch was enclosed in 1952. By

Local farmers donated the land for the three-story hotel, which opened in 1892. A chapel was built next to the hotel

Local farmers donated the land for the three-story hotel, which opened in 1892. A chapel was built next to the hotel

Local farmers donated the land for the three-story hotel, which opened in 1892. A chapel was built next to the hotel

Local farmers donated the land for the three-story hotel, which opened in 1892. A chapel was built next to the hotel

Local farmers donated the land for the three-story hotel, which opened in 1892. A chapel was built next to the hotel
Upcoming retreats

Feb. 23 to 25

March 2 to 4

Holy Week Retreat at Holy Rosary Church Parish Center, 21 E. 15th St., Antioch. Bring an open heart, an open mind and a pillow for extra comfort. Think about who is Jesus in my life. Information: 925-779-9718. March 13, April 10

March 24 to 25
The Shining Radiance of Prayer — two-day silent retreat for women and men. At Valvotttosa Retreat Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Information: tinyurl.com/Prayer2018. Contact: the Daughters of Carmel nuns, 650-329-8518 or daughtersofcarmel@gmail.com.

LENT OFFERINGS

Lenten Scripture Study with Fr. Charles Talley OFM
Fridays, 10:30-11:30 AM (2/9-3/16)

Lenten Book Series (9:30 AM-12:30 PM)

Stations of the Cross (10:00-11:30 AM)

Also During Lent

Saturdays: Stations of the Cross (10:00-11:30 AM)

Tuesdays: Lenten Book Series (9:30 AM-12:30 PM)

Wednesdays: Taize Prayer Service (7:00-8:00 PM)

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

EXPLORING Sacred Paths

A self-guided Spiritual Retreat with paintings by Sally K. Green

Walking the Way of the Cross & the Path of Holy Week
March 1 - April 3, 2018 - Mercy Center Art Gallery - 9AM to 5PM daily

Take an intimate walk beside Jesus on the Way of the Cross. A meaningful process will guide your journey. You will learn from Him and consider insights prompting you to think and question from your own perspective. You’ll also find inspiration from spiritual leaders, saints, and fellow travelers to renew yourself and enrich your faith. Walk the Path of Holy Week. Learn from Jesus’ encounters with Lazarus, the Last Supper, Judas, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the Cross. All are welcome. No fees. Learn more: http://bit.ly/ESPath2
Mercy Center Reserve an overnight guest room for Holy Week silence and sacred liturgies. Call us: 650-340-7474 • 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame

San Damiano Retreat

710 Highland Dr., Danville, CA 925 837 9141
sandamiano.org and on Facebook

Walking the Way of the Cross & the Path of Holy Week
March 1 - April 3, 2018 - Mercy Center Art Gallery - 9AM to 5PM daily

Take an intimate walk beside Jesus on the Way of the Cross. A meaningful process will guide your journey. You will learn from Him and consider insights prompting you to think and question from your own perspective. You’ll also find inspiration from spiritual leaders, saints, and fellow travelers to renew yourself and enrich your faith. Walk the Path of Holy Week. Learn from Jesus’ encounters with Lazarus, the Last Supper, Judas, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the Cross. All are welcome. No fees. Learn more: http://bit.ly/ESPath2
Mercy Center Reserve an overnight guest room for Holy Week silence and sacred liturgies. Call us: 650-340-7474 • 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame

California I had met the previous year. and Sisters from Northern and Southern California I had met the previous year. But the icing on the cake of the weekend for me was time spent near the waters of Monterey Bay. Each night I was lulled to sleep by the sound of waves crashing on the beach below the retreat center. Before breakfast I went outside to sit and watch dawn unfold in the distance and feel the sound of the waves embracing me like a hug. It is like listening to God sing.

“Living with Paule-Hermine, our First Associate.” I also had the awe-inspiring opportunity to witness the commitment ceremony of two new Associates and to spend time and catch up with Associates and Sisters from Northern and Southern California I had met the previous year. But the icing on the cake of the weekend for me was time spent near the waters of Monterey Bay. Each night I was lulled to sleep by the sound of waves crashing on the beach below the retreat center. Before breakfast I went outside to sit and watch dawn unfold in the distance and feel the sound of the waves embracing me like a hug. It is like listening to God sing.
Vietnamese community celebrates Têt

The Vietnamese community of the Oakland diocese began its celebrations of the lunar New Year Feb. 10 at three parishes, the Cathedral of Christ the Light, St. Anthony and St. Lawrence O’Toole, all in Oakland. St. Felicitas in San Leandro followed the next day.

The event at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Rev. Bich Nguyen said the Mass, joined by Vietnamese priests and deacons.

“The Vietnamese community is a rich of solid faith for our diocese and our cathedral parish,” Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, said at the end of the Mass. “Your faith is so strong. We are grateful to the Vietnamese people, to you and your families who continue their faith, their loyalty, the spirit and love faith, the spirit of their ancestors. The cathedral parish recognized many of its leaders and volunteers with gifts, followed by a traditional lion dance, before the community moved to the Event Center for dinner and entertainment.

This New Year, Tet Mau Tuoi, is the Year of the Dog. The official first day is Feb. 16. Celebrations are open to all parishioners and generally include Mass, a reception and entertainment.

Remaining celebrations include:

- Feb. 11:
  - Fremont Blvd., Fremont: Sunday, Feb. 25, Mass at 3 p.m. followed with a reception.

- Feb. 12:
  - Winterbrook Drive, Bay Point: Feb. 18, Mass at 3 p.m. followed with a reception.

For more information about the diocese-Vietnamese community, contact Sister Rose Nguyen at 510-428-2153 or mguyen@oakdiocese.org. More photos at facebook.com/THECATHOLICVOICE.

Group hopes . . .

(Continued from Page 1.) orphan” after her mother’s death, Knecht said. “She became a sister and lived with Mother Mary for 40 years,” she said.

The filmmaker Rolando has been a well-known and thankfully she’s doing a film,” Knecht said.

Knecht has been able to share “remarkable and wonderful photograph the Sisters in Cuba sent back to the motherhouse over the years. It’s a wonderful document.”

Of the seven missions in Cuba, one cannot record that “When Castro made it so the Sisters couldn’t teach anymore, they left with what they had on their backs,” Knecht said.

Like the filmmaker Margot Dashiell of Berkeley has a personal connection to the Sisters.

Eckhardt’s grandmother, who was born in 1871, was sent from Brownsville, Texas, to Baltimore to be educated by the Oblates at 6 years of age,” she said. In Brownsville, she said, “I don’t think they had many opportuni- ties for education for African Americans.”

The understanding was she stayed there for six years,” Dashiell said. “It probably her mother was concerned about her safety while she worked.”

Her grandmother’s education with Oblate Sisters, Dashiell said, “led the foundation for her literacy, her capability, her vocational skills later in life. With her husband she was quite a partner and another aspect of her life, which set my father up for success.”

Cornelius Moore, a film director and curator of films for California Newsreel, met Rolando 15 years ago. “She has a body of work looking at the history of people of African descent in Cuba and the Caribbean,” he said.

“I wanted to do what I could as a film professional to support what she’s doing,” he said. “Independent filmmakers, anywhere, it’s hard to raise money and get institutional support. In the context of Cuba, and the work Gloria’s doing, for various reasons, it’s not much money in the country. She has to do much of her work with the support of people who like her work and colleagues around the world.”

Wille Thompson, a retired sociology instructor at City College of San Francisco, is engaged in “what I call community development work,” he said.

“That’s especially among people of African descent, in this country but especially among the Afro Latinos in the Caribbean. South America and Central America,” he said.

He seeks “to assist those African peo-
Proclamation
Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder presents St. Catherine of Siena School with a proclamation announcing the week of Jan. 28-Feb. 3 as Catholic Schools Week in the city. Members of the school’s Student Leadership Team had the opportunity to have lunch with civic leaders and discuss qualities of leadership and personal stories. Among those in attendance were two City Council members, two police officers — one an alumnus of the school — and three firefighters.

Peace Parade
Pupils at St. Elizabeth Elementary School took a week through their Fruitvale neighborhood on Feb. 2. The Peace Parade marks the end of Catholic Schools Week activities for the Oakland pupils. Carrying homemade signs, they walked up 34th Avenue to 17th Street, up 35th Avenue, then to Foothill Boulevard and back to school. Two police officers and many parents joined the parade.

Blessed are the Peacemakers
Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Fremont honored its 2018 Peacemaker Award recipients: from left, front row, Jaiden Stoncill (Third Grade); Connor Aminov (First Grade); Emmanuel Cobarrubias (Second Grade) and Raphael Brillantes (Kindergarten); and back row, Valerie Rosales (Sixth Grade), Kehnia Espinosa (Fourth Grade), Kaleb Nguyen (Fifth Grade) and Giovanni Costo (Seventh Grade). Our Lady of Guadalupe School’s student body, faculty, staff and parents celebrated peace at a Mass on Jan. 25 as part of its Catholic Schools Week festivities. One pupil from each grade, kindergarten to eighth, received the 2018 Peacemaker Award and was recognized as one who sees the good in all people, is respectful, accepting, forgiving and who possesses a loving spirit. Father Karlukanne Nchosupramahl, MT, presided at the Mass. “Where there is love there is peace and where there is no love there is no peace,” he said in his homily. Teachers spoke specifically about the pupil in their class who received the award. Many characteristics common to a peacemaker were shared: someone who is kind, gentle, caring, a good listener, one who demonstrates good sportsmanship and one who treats others as Jesus would — all qualities worthy of emulation. Parents were notified ahead of time so that they could attend the Mass and award presentation.

Senior Homecare
By Angels®
We Care Every Day. In Every Way.
Experienced senior care for total peace of mind.
Bathing Assistance • Dressing Assistance • Grooming • Errands
Friendly CompanionShip • Flexible Hourly Care • Respite Care for Families
Shopping • Live-in Care • Medication Reminders • Light Housekeeping

SEXEN HOME CARE
By Angels®
Attendant CNA Respite Care
415-759-0330 | www.irishhelpathome.com
VOI License #818710001
Senior Helpers
El Cerrito, CA 94530
712 El Cerrito Plaza
510-284-0000 925-552-6500 925-443-1000

Available to help!

REVERSE MORTGAGE
If you are 62 or older and own your house, a Reverse Mortgage may benefit you!
• Turn Home Equity into Cash
• Pay off Bills & Credit Cards
• No Monthly Mortgage Payments
• FHA Program Designed for Seniors

Call for a free information package

ACCESSIBLE HOME LIFT COMPANY
(510) 521-9526 OR (800) 606-1115
Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals

Call us for:
• Free in-home consultations and stair lift demonstrations
• Fully licensed and bonded CA contractor’s lic. # 826355
• 10+ years experience
• Expert service and maintenance for the life of your lift
• Custom curved and outdoor applications
• Rentals
Sister Clara Ann Budenz, OP

Sister Clara Ann Budenz, formerly known as Dorothy Budenz, died Feb. 4 at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan. She was 85 years of age and in the 66th year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Sister Budenz was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, and was educated at Lourdes High School in Chicago, Illinois. She received a bachelor of arts degree in history from Siena Heights College (University) in Adrian, Michigan, and a master’s degree in education from the University of San Francisco.

Sister Budenz served in education at schools in Detroit, Santa Cruz and Las Vegas. In the Diocese of Oakland, she served at St. Lawrence O’Toole in Oakland (1967-1978, teacher/principal), for one year at Our Lady of Grace School in Castro Valley (principal), and for three years at St. Mary in Walnut Creek (1985-1988).

She also served as regional director for Families for Prayer in Oakland (1979-1980) and in Alameda (1980-1985).

For 27 years, she was director of religious education for six years in Las Vegas. In the Diocese of Fremont, she was director of religious education for six years in Aptos and for five years in Fresno. In the Diocese of San Francisco, she was director of ministries for four years and vicar for religious for seven years. She became a resident of the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan in 2011.

The funeral Mass was held Feb. 8 at St. Catherine Chapel in Adrian, Michigan. The Rite of Committal followed in the congregational cemetery.

Sister Helen Clare Howatt, SNJM

Sister Helen Clare Howatt, an educator who touched the lives of children and adults for 30 years, died Jan. 11. She was 90 years of age and a professed Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for 50 years.

In the Diocese of Oakland, she served at St. Augustine School in Oakland, and St. Mary School in Oakland. She also taught at schools in Pasadena, Santa Monica, Los Angeles and San Francisco. She also served as principal at schools in Santa Monica and Los Angeles.

Sister Howatt served as a director of Holy Names University in Oakland for 17 years where she enhanced the students’ educational experience by making significant contributions to the library’s collections. Later she shared her gifts with senior citizens at the Collins Center at St. Cecilia in San Francisco, before serving at St. Monica Elementary School, also in San Francisco, and at Holy Names High School in Oakland. In her final years, Sister Howatt resided at Mercy Retirement and Care Center in Oakland, where she will be remembered for her beautiful smile and her delight in welcoming visitors to her room.

She is survived by cousins, Nancy Wright, William and Charlotte Howatt, and friend, Florence Feng.

The funeral Mass was held Jan. 21 at Holy Spirit Chapel in Campbell. Burial took place the following day at Holy Sepulchre in Hayward.

Sister Mary (Marie Thomasine) Lonich, SNDdeN

Sister Mary (Marie Thomasine) Lonich, a longtime educator, died Jan. 16 at Mercy Retirement and Care Center in Oakland the day before her 94th birthday. She was a Sister of Notre Dame for 71 years.

Sister Lonich, a native San Francisco, was graduated from Notre Dame Elementary and Notre Dame High School in San Francisco before becoming a Notre Dame Sister. She later received a master’s degree in education from the University of San Francisco.

Sister Lonich had been a teacher, principal and vice principal in Notre Dame schools in California and Oregon. Two of her favorite assignments were her 10 years at St. Joseph Elementary in Alameda and 12 years at Sacred Heart Elementary in Santee.

She had a great appreciation for beauty and shared her artistic and gardening talents in every community where she lived and every school where she served, according to the obituary provided by her religious community.

Survivors include her sister-in-law, Connie Lonich; niece and nephews, Mary J. Lonich, Michael Lonich, and Keith Bauer, and their spouses and families.

The funeral Mass took place Jan. 29 at the Notre Dame Province Center in Belmont, followed by interment at Saint Clara Mission Cemetery.

To read more about Sister Lonich or to share a memory about her, visit sndden.org.

Keepers of the flame

Boy Scouts from Troops 19 and 24 and Cub Scouts from Pack 30 participated in Mass at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Berkeley on Feb. 4 as part of Scout Sunday observances. Inside the church, they served as altar servers and lectors. Outside, after Mass, the pastor, Rev. Nicholas Glisson, asked the Scouts to put the palms that had been returned to the church to become ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Oration al espíritu santo

Tú que me aclamas tanto, que iluminas todos los caminos para que te alcance mi ideal. Tú que me das el don divino de perdón y olvido, que me hace y que en todos los instantes de mi vida están conmigo. Yo quiero en este corto diálogo agradecer por todo y continuar una vez más en esta maravillosa y separarme de Tí por mayor que sea la ilusión material. Dios está contigo y todos mis seres suspendidos en gloria perpetua. Gracias por tu misericordia para conmigo y los míos.

La persona debe rezar esta oración 3 días seguidos, sin decir el pedido. dentro de 3 días se alcanza la gracia, por más difícil que sea. Publicar cuatro veces reciba la gracia. Y.O.C.

Thank you God my father, Jesus Christ, Blessed mother and St. Jude, for prayers answered in my need. R.R.

PUBLICATIONS

El Heraldo Católico, the Spanish-language newspaper of the Diocese of Oakland, is looking for freelance photographers and reporters. Ability to speak and write fluid Spanish and English, and prior experience reporting and photographing news is required.

Send a resume including prior experience to Al Paccorin at apaccorin@oakdiocese.org, or 2211 Harrison St., Oakland 94612.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The Catholic Voice next edition: March 5

Deadline: February 23

PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel Blessed Mother of God, pray for me and for more difficult that is.

Thank You St. Jude for prayers answered. M.S.

Photographers/Reporters

El Heraldo Católico, the Spanish-language newspaper of the Diocese of Oakland, is looking for freelance photographers and reporters. Ability to speak and write fluid Spanish and English, and prior experience reporting and photographing news is required.

Send a resume including prior experience to Al Paccorin at apaccorin@oakdiocese.org, or 2211 Harrison St., Oakland 94612.

D.B.
**NEW EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY 22 and 23**

**Event:** Holy Hour for Vocations 7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, 1640 Addison St., Berkeley.

**Event:** First Thursdays—Catholic Social Justice Every First Thursday before first Friday 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church, 1219 Exchange St., Berkeley. Every First Friday is a day of special prayer for the new vocations, the Holy Spirit and for our priests, religious, deacons and seminarians.

**CATHOLIC CARE**

**Event:** CatholicCare—Catholic Care—In anticipation of the Feast of Vatican II: The Synod of the Bishops—Is offering a workshop on end-of-life issues. The workshop is designed to help people prepare to face the possibility of their own death. Information: register at https://www.eastbaycatholic.com/data/view.php?id=60436.

**WORKSHOPS:**

**February 21, 2013** 1:30-2:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood

**February 22, 7:30 p.m. St. John Vianney Parish, 6555 Tпольonac Drive, Walnut Creek

**February 24, 2011** 2:30-4:30 p.m. St. Thomas More Parish, 2379 St. Hilary, Concord

**March 10, 10 a.m. St. Joseph Basilar Parish, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda

**ATTENTION:**

**TAIZÉ**

(A ecumenical, candle-offer prayer of service in simple church. Long, intense worship, intense worship.

**February 24, 2008, 9 a.m.** 8 p.m. in the St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1101 Chestnut St., Alameda. Every fourth Friday (they third Friday in November) 4440; www.maryknoll.us. Contact: Elizabeth La Scola, 510-843-2244; www.stjosephtheworkerchurch.org. Contact: Eleanor Flatley, 510-934-8765.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

**Event:** Catholic Divorced Widowed Separated Congratulatory dinner/Auction Fundraiser. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Walnut Creek. Information: 925-695-0079.

**Event:** First Thursdays—CatholicCare—Agape 7 to 8 p.m. at St. Agnes Parish, 3908 Chestnut Ave., Concord. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Most Holy Rosary Church, 1375 A St, Antioch. Contact: Heinisch, 925-513-3412 or sandynca@sbcglobal.net.

**Event:** Monday to Thursday 230 to 330 p.m. St. Felicita Church Chapel (office of the parish), 1920 Mio Blvd., San Leandro. Information: 510-531-5304.

**Event:** Monday to Saturday—First Day 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Every first Friday on Ash Wednesday, Good Counsel Chapel, 2500 Bernal Ave., San Leandro. Information: 510-674-2169.

**Event:** Monday—7 a.m. 8:30 a.m. at the church of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 160 Oak Grove Ave., Concord.

**Event:** Monday to Tuesday—7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at St. Bede Parish, 26850 Parklawn, Pittsburg. Information: 510-780-2171.

**Event:** Monday to Wednesday—12:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. Seledon Parish, 501 Lakeview Ave., Pleasant Hill. Information: 510-252-0181.

**Event:** Wednesday—7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration in Vietnamese, at St. Joseph Church, 1164 El Molino Ave., Concord.

**Event:** First Tuesdays—7 to 9 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration in Vietnamese, at St. Joseph Church, 1164 El Molino Ave., Concord.

**Event:** First Thursdays—7 to 9 p.m. St. Catherine of Siena Church, 440 La Verdad Way, Danville. Information: 925-337-3122.

**Event:** Fridays—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. St. Isidore Parish, 440 La Verdad Way, Danville. Information: 925-337-3122.

**Event:** First Fridays—5 to 7 p.m. St. Philip Neir Parish, 3100 Van Buren St., Alameda. Information: 510-373-8420.

**Event:** First Fridays—7 a.m. to 7 p.m. St. Mary Church, 9700 Pacific Ave., San Leandro. Information: 510-780-2171.

**Event:** Every last Saturday—8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, 9700 Pacific Ave., San Leandro. Information: 510-780-2171.

**Event:** Fourth Fridays—10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 160 Oak Grove Ave., Concord.

**Event:** First Fridays—5 to 7 p.m. at St. Philip Neir Parish, 3100 Van Buren St., Alameda. Information: 510-373-8420.

**Event:** First Fridays—8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 160 Oak Grove Ave., Concord.

**Event:** First Fridays—8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 160 Oak Grove Ave., Concord.

**Event:** First Saturdays—Immediately following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m. St. Joseph Parish, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda.

**Event:** First Saturdays—Immediately following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m. St. Joseph Parish, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda.

**Event:** First Saturdays—Immediately following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m. St. Joseph Parish, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda.

**Event:** First Saturdays—Immediately following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m. St. Joseph Parish, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda.

**Event:** First Saturdays—Immediately following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m. St. Joseph Parish, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda.
Catholic health care called to place the human person at the center

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

In the year with 500 college students at the Student Leadership Summit (SLS18) of the Catholic University Students (FOCUS), it was an inspiring event that engaged everyone.

Sisters to engage with hundreds of enthusiastic young people on fire for their faith!

As exciting as the whole event was, the most moving moment for me was completely unconnected to the产生的Adoration, Jesus Christ present in the monstrance started moving through the crowd, carrying his presence and blessing his people. An entourage of altar servers led the procession, waving candles and incense.

What caught my eye was one of the altar servers. He was walking backwards, swinging a thurible from which brilliantly scented smoke, his attention firmly fixed on Christ in the Eucharist. The only thing that kept him from stumbling into the crowd was a second altar server who kept him on track.

Our life calls us to be like this altar server, walking with the Eucharist, offering our prayers, our life, our every move and thought. The most important thing is not to stumble, not to lose our way, but to keep our gaze, full of tenderness and compassion.

Health care ministry will always be a necessary and fundamental task, to be carried on with renewed enthusiasm by all, from parish communities to the largest health care institutions.

Catholic health care cares for the sick and poor, the poor, the sick and the most vulnerable. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each person.

As we observe the World Day of the Sick and then begin our Lenten practices of prayer, penance and almsgiving, let's resolve to keep Jesus Christ and the humanity of the poor, the sick and the vulnerable at the center of our spiritual efforts and works of mercy.

And let's endeavor to give the world a striking witness of the unity of Christ's disciples. May the world be able to say of us, “The believers are of one heart and mind … sharing everything they have” (Acts 4:32). May our words and actions serve to comfort the poor, the sick and the most vulnerable among us lead others to believe in the power of God's love at work in the world.
Youth and faith
Letters to the editor and letters on youth and faith (Forum Nov 6, Dec 11, Jan. 8 and Feb 5), I believe priests and deacons should be available to meet young people on high school campuses. The important question they want to talk about are the death of fellow students or family, guidelines for relationship, their value and worth if they are struggling with decisions about school, careers, etc.
A team of interfaith members should be part of a crisis or grief response team. We need to give our young people the message that their education, test scores and sports scores are not the most important in their lives because they will lead to good jobs and financial security, and that is what is needed to get through life.

Janet Flores
Oakley

‘Abide in Christ’
How can we achieve true personal holiness, happiness and bear much good fruit? I believe the answer is the same one we need to the terrific crisis in the Church in our time — we must “abide in Christ.” What beautiful examples we have in the letters to The Catholic Voice of Our Blessed Mother.
“Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us” to suffer, to die and to establish His Church. But how many of us are discerning what it means to abide in Christ?
How many of us call ourselves Catholics, but have really not appropriated the teachings we will follow? It’s like saying of us Catholics that we believe in the Church, but I’ll disregard the Sixth and the Ninth.”
In this New Year, I pray we will be more honest with ourselves. The way to overcome the evil in ourselves and in society is the Church of Christ — the teaching of the Church.
But is this taught in our parishes, our schools, our homes?
I think we can all see that a most powerful force of good exists in the United States of us have caused great harm due to lack of teaching. One more and who has betrayed his country for sex, the husband who destroyed their marriage and the man who destroyed his priesthood? We need to fight the terrible crisis of faith in the Church in our time — we must “abide in Christ.”

Patricia Mattox
Livermore

Protect the children
Now that the Berkeley Public Library has 3,469 listings for the subject “erotic” as of Jan. 23, hopefully it is time for society to question the right of all ages’ access to all the library’s material. The erotic content increased dramatically after Megan Honig’s 2012 book, “Urban Grit: A guide to street it,” endorsed erotica for teens. The library has also been referring to erotica directly on teen shelves. Another problem is that things are starting to not be tangible in this material and can go directly through the computer protected with privacy rules.
The American Library Association sacrificed children so that adults could have First Amendment rights, claiming that filters limit young people’s homework. Filters are no longer the problem they used to be.
ALA’s right to challenge all censorship will protect children. When they put the “Access for Children and Young Adults to Non-print material” into the Bill of Rights, they were basically protecting themselves from the damage they would be doing to the young with DVDs.
I find a “Notice of removal” under the guise of the new federal law. I find this to be a joke and not a reality. The description of the sexual action in one film was that of a child. The library has ceased offering the Church to parishioners.
It’s best to receive the Berkeley City Commissioners Branch, but the police department didn’t. We have the right to understand our wonderful own library. The young remain silent when they sit through the countless hours of information that they are not ready for and assume it is the real thing. The number of children hurt on computer games and they graduate to real crimes, most children are introduced to libraries by their parents, so they assume a safe: that is no longer true. The library owes its users an explanation with the changing times and with computer controls it can be simply done. Libraries need a force that is in touch with parents’ societal norms that justifies all the library’s “children’s” programs that once encouraged children into the wonderful world of books.
Now that New York Public Library has an “Erotica Collection,” as of 2016, where you have to prove you are an adult to view. I say this is a good idea. How do Catholics realize that the priestly sex scandal which came to light around the same time that 30 percent of same-gender people have a homosexual condition is true? How do they feel about giving, not getting. The total self-giving between a man and a woman is a reflection of Christ, another person is taken.
We answer to this terrible crisis that reaches through the highest levels of the Church is personal holiness, a return to the fulness of the truth that is the beautiful Catholic faith. Will we begin to believe and teach? My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is up to us.

David Zarr
Concord

Condemn racism
I can’t believe I have to say this. The Russian Catholic Church unequivocally condemns racism. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops declares, “any theory that conceives of what we call racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable,” and racism is not merely one of the many dangers that is a radical evil dividing the human family…”
I thought that was an issue of the past. In this country, among Catholics and non-Catholics, that no race was superior to another. In the 1970s, the Justice Department twice sued him and his father because they would not provide food to Jews.
According to the Russian Catholic Church, “Theological education, controlling all three branches of the government, will start doing what is right for the unity of the United States.” Last summer, he defended marches in the United States, but in Kenya.
Additionally, the State Department is not efficacious if we offer one another the Sign of Peace. The United States of America was created in 1948 to protect material. The erotic content increased dramatically after Megan Honig’s 2012 book, “Urban Grit: A guide to street it,” endorsed erotica for teens.
The library has also been referring to erotica directly on teen shelves. Another problem is that things are starting to not be tangible in this material and can go directly through the computer protected with privacy rules.
Filters are no longer the problem they used to be. It’s best to receive the Berkeley City Commissioners Branch, but the police department didn’t. We have the right to understand our wonderful own library. The young remain silent when they sit through the countless hours of information that they are not ready for and assume it is the real thing. The number of children hurt on computer games and they graduate to real crimes.

Patricia Mattox
Livermore

Safe practices
I am writing to petition the diocese and catechists to immediately change their practice of the Chalice during Mass. It isn’t as if we are receiving anything offensive or unclean. Instead, the Lord and the Lord would not want people getting sick and dying just to receive Communion for both species. It is as if the Church is ceasing offering the Church to parishioners.
I find this to be a joke and not a reality. The description of the sexual action in one film was that of a child. The library has ceased offering the Church to parishioners.
It’s best to receive the Berkeley City Commissioners Branch, but the police department didn’t. We have the right to understand our wonderful own library. The young remain silent when they sit through the countless hours of information that they are not ready for and assume it is the real thing. The number of children hurt on computer games and they graduate to real crimes.

Patricia Mattox
Livermore

Child prostitution
Our California Gov. Jerry Brown, with the support of our state elected leaders, put into the Senate Bill 1332 effective Jan. 1, 2017, which legalizes and allows child prostitution in the state of California.
And this new law legalizing child prostitution came on the heels of the legalization of marijuana in California in November 2016.
Allowing child prostitution alone is destructive, but to add to that the legalization of marijuana; just one more step to grow to encourage the use of cocaine and other more serious drugs.

Colorado Christian University explored the idea of legalizing marijuana to stop child prostitution.

“Legalizing Marijuana will reduce mari-juana arrests,” Not true; arrests in Colorado increased 14 percent in 2016. “Legalizing Marijuana will reduce drug-related school expulsions,” Not true; drug-related school expulsions are on the rise. “Legalizing marijuana and recreational marijuana has higher youth use rates than states that does not legalize,” Not true.

Richeson Peterson
Concord

LETTERS to the editor provide a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and suggestions and a climate of free expression are expressed as those of the writers, and not necessarily of the Catholic Voice or the Diocese of Oakland. While a full spectrum of opinions will sometimes include those which dissent from the Church teachings, the editor feels that this format is hoped that this forum will help our readers to understand better others’ thinking on critical issues facing the Church.

How can we help?
Let us know.
(510) 267-8334

Every other month: (facilitated) survivor support gatherings held at: Santa Maria Parish Library (upper level) 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The first Saturday of April

Want to write?
Contributions to Reader’s Forum should be limited to 400 words maximum. Include the writer’s address and phone number for verification purposes. All letters are subject to minor alterations to fit limited space in any 4-letter month.

Mail your letter to: The Catholic Voice, 2121 Harrison St., Berkeley, CA 94704. Fax: (510) 899-4734. Our e-mail address is: Forum@ovvoice.com

Poaching our insurance and risk management talent for the benefit of the Church.

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., 1255 Battery St., Suite 450, San Francisco, California, 94111. CA License #0726293

Insurance Brokers of California, Inc.
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., 1255 Battery St., Suite 450, San Francisco, California, 94111. CA License #0726293

James F. Buckley
Kenneth Bunko
125 Battery St., Suite 450
San Francisco, CA 94111
Legal: 0726293
CA License #0726293


[Incident] After that, we must start putting respon- sible people in Congress, from both par- ties, who will start doing what is right for this country. We also need to put judges in courts of this country including the Supreme Court, who will do a better job.
I feel that there are too many kooks being given to people in high places.

"The Catholic Voice” — 15

"Let us know.
(510) 267-8334

Every other month: (facilitated) survivor support gatherings held at: Santa Maria Parish Library (upper level) 40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The first Saturday of April

Poaching our insurance and risk management talent for the benefit of the Church.

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., 1255 Battery St., Suite 450, San Francisco, California, 94111. CA License #0726293

Insurance Brokers of California, Inc.
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., 1255 Battery St., Suite 450, San Francisco, California, 94111. CA License #0726293

James F. Buckley
Kenneth Bunko
125 Battery St., Suite 450
San Francisco, CA 94111
Legal: 0726293
CA License #0726293

REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL

Remembering those who we have laid to rest in our catholic cemeteries during the month of January.

† HOLY SEPULCHRE

Samuel T. Alvarado
Adela C. Andaya
Joseph Louis Bancroft
Barbara M. Barrow
Alberto C. Bato
Eleanor P. Beagan
Laverne H. Blaha
Patricia L. Bratner
Edward L. Buchanan
David Barrett Bulmer
Roberto Cabral
Angelica Capos
Pauline Z. Cantu
Edith L. Ceremello
Robert C. Ceremello
William Arno
Gertrude D. Crane
Genevieve L. Cruz
Ramiro Delgado
Rodolfo Delgado
Henry E. Dingel
Candace V. Estacio
Barbara Esteban
Frances A. Fernandes
Connie Franks
Mary V. Fralino
Brian Fults
John Fults
Arricola I. Fusco
Earline C. Gama
Ida P. Gaspar
John A. Gaude
Eufemia Gil
Alexandra C. Gonzales
Jeanne A. Gorillo
Trinidad Granados
Bill G. Griffiths
Irma Haston
Sr. M. Helen Clare Howell
Nellie E. Joe
Eleanor L. Kubrich
Vera J. Klimek
Katherine Koepf
Salvatore Lamanna
Ann M. Lebeda
Edmieae Lewis
“Freddy” Onofre Macias
Jose L. Malonado
Patricia A. Marsh
Frances R. Meredith
Maria H. Montano
Dorothy Montgomery
Suzanne Moschetti
Fr. Michael P. Norrekk
Ruben L. O’Leary
Michael J. O’Leary
Jose B. Orrias
Alberto Ortega
Sr. Helen Margaret O’Sullivan
Isabell Perez Yanez
Doris M. Peterson
Nola Pigott
Martin Pulido Rodriguez
Jovito C. Raymond
Hilario Regalo
Angelina Robledo
Luis N. Rosas
Marie L. Roth
Maria C. Sanchez
Maria C. Sanchez
Frank V. Siddal
Nora M. Silva
Emilio Silva
Anthony P. Silveira
Mary J. Simas
Reynaldo D. Sison
Bemice M. Souza
Gary M. Squires
Brian E. Thornton
Marlynn D. Tott
Ruben Q. Vasquez
Ignatius J. Vaccom
Carolyn G. Webster
Minnie M. Windlund
Jacqueline M. Wright
Jesus Gonzalez Zepeda
Helen Robert
Jim J.R. Santagap
Kathleen Scanlan
Vincent Bryant Sin
Theodore Spryow
Denise Swanson
William Strehm
Margaret Tosclair
Edgar Vazquez-Parr
Carlos Valencia
Liu Yau

† ST JOSEPH

Emma E. Alberto
George Antone
Delia Aranda
Francesca Arneola
Cla Braccio
Florence Butler
Richard M. Calapini
Gabrielle Y. Chatot
Trinidad Cowan
Irene Crosetti
Francisco Hernandez
Betty Krier
Rene H. Leon
Maria Mayorga
James V. Mccombe Jr.
Alice McCandlan
Donna Menee
Lorraine Peres
Jesus Perez
Ruth Pimentel
Marie C. Poole
Lucia De. Reyes Constanza
John Sepulveda
Antonio Smud'hach-Frazzetti
Maria Pals
Margorye Thorpe
Lewis D. Tucker Jr.

† HOLY CROSS

Mauroo Avilare Avila
Lawrence Lesly Savilan
Francisco M. Campos
Joe Angel Cerda
Marina San Juan
Feliciano
Conseulo Palacios Ferros
Ernest Wesley Gilmore
June Agnes Gilman
Gilda Maria Gomes
Gina Marie
Guadagnini-Rubin
Margie Lee Hall
Francisco Javier
Hernandez
Lisette Doris Jones
Josefina Del Real
Landeros
Agnes Lopez
Lina M. Mazzone
Carlo A. Miranda
Karen Lee Nerberes
Anne Pauline Neves
Sandra Ondruo Herrera
Teresa Marie Rodriguez
Ellen Emily Siao
Barbara Joan Venner

† ST MARY

John Daniel Amsbur
Ernest Avellan
Gonzalo Chavez Jr.
Paul Anthony Ferragallo
Eloy Valencia Garcia
Maria G. Gassett
David Gonzalez
Cecilia Harris
Oliver Magno
Bentley Marshall
Jimmy J. Martinez
Maria Melendez
Eugene O’Connor
Rosanna Prince
Francisco C. Ramirez Jr.
Catherine E. Remondo
Eduardo Rodriguez
John Thomas Zygadlo

† ST MICHAEL

Johanna Abranches
Toni Baptista
Dorothy A. Bellencourt
Damian Castro
Donald Mark Herbert
Judith A. Hintz
James S. Kane
William Keller
Nicolais Mendez
Pauline Pinks

† CHRIST THE LIGHT

Bruce England
Serverina Bond
Richard R. Bond, Jr.
Hung Sen Moy
Woon Kan (Judy) Chua Mui

‡ HOLY SEPULCHRE

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Antioch: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Livermore: St. Michael Cemetery
San Pablo: St. Mary Cemetery
Oakland: St. Mary Cemetery

Celebrate God’s presence in the Mass at 11:00 am on the first Saturday of every month at each of our Cemeteries. Please join us in remembrance of loved ones.

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

* Saturday Mass not available

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services
Your complete resource for Funeral, Cremation, and Cemetery services.

Our staff of experienced Family Service Advisors are a rich resource guiding you to minimize stress, reduce family burden and securing today’s favorable prices. They will thoughtfully assist you in planning in advance so that your wishes are met.

Call (510) 931-5646 or visit us online at cfcsoakland.org
Serving all faiths throughout the Bay Area

Start planning today:
Funeral | Cremation | Cemetery | Family Estates

©2017 Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services