Recall and celebrate Jesus’ birth, prepare for His return

By Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

I saw a sign outside a wine store in Baltimore. It said: “Drink Wine, because Yoga can’t solve all your problems.” I like that. I went in and bought something.

We are looking for a way to solve our problems. Health, family, career, relationships … you name it. The biggest problem is death. And there is no “solution” to that problem that I find satisfactory other than The Resurrection. Eternal life. To live forever with God in heaven.

So we are looking for a way out of our problems. And the only real way out is through a Savior, a Messiah. Someone who can save us from death and self-destruction. And that role has been filled by Jesus Christ. There are three “Comings-of-the-Lord” on the earth.

The first was at Christmas when Christ was born — or to be more precise — nine months previous when Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of His mother Mary. That was the moment of the Incarnation. God became human.

The second coming of Christ will be in the future, at the Last Day. “They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory!”

St. Luke tells us that “People will die of fright” on that day Our Third grade nun, Sister Mary William, OSU, taught us to pray that we would not still be alive at the Second Coming, because it would be so terrible and frightful.

But there is a third coming. Christ comes to us, individually and intimately, through the order of Grace.

Christ said: “Whoever loves me will keep my word and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our abode with him.” (Jn 14:23).

And Christ comes most intimately through the sacraments of the Church, especially Holy Eucharist and Confession.

We are in the season of Advent. We really cannot prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas because He already came, two thousand years ago. It already happened.

However, in this season we can recall and celebrate this most awesome event in the history of the world, while preparing for his Second Coming at the Parousia.

It is by maintaining a close personal relationship with Jesus, worshiping him at the Mass, receiving him in Holy Communion and having our sins forgiven by him in Confession, that we can drive away all fear of the thought of his Second Coming.

Whether that coming is at the End of the World, or at the hour of our death: “Love drives out fear” St. John says in his letters.

(Continued on Page 18.)

The Catholic Voice invites you to come find out more information about the Diocese of Oakland Pilgrimages

Marian Shrines Pilgrimage with Fr. Mangini — Saturday, January 12, 2019, 12:30–1:30 p.m. at St. Columba Church — Parish Hall located at 6401 San Pablo Ave., in Oakland

Shrines of France Pilgrimage with Fr. Jim Schexnayder — Sunday January 13, 2019, 12:00–1:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes — Parish Hall located at 2808 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

Honor the Great Saints of Hawaii Pilgrimage with Fr. Jayson Landeza — Sunday, January 13, 2019, 2:00–3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes — Parish Hall located at 2808 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

R.S.V.P. ctompkins@oakdiocese.org or 510-419-1081
People would be wise to think about Judgment Day and wonder what God will see when he examines their lives. Pope Francis said, “If the Lord were to call me during Mass at Domus Sanctae Marthae Nov. 27, I would ask: ‘What harvest will I show him?’ The pope lit an Advent candle as he launched the Advent campaign, ‘Candles for Peace in Syria,’ an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need.

**Be prepared**

The desire to spend vast amounts on shopping and needless extravagances can prevent Christians from being generous with others, Pope Francis said. “Consumerism is a great disease today. I am not saying that we all do this, no. But consumerism, spending more than we need, is a lack of austerity in life; this is an enemy of generosity,” the pope said Nov. 26, during Mass at Domus Sanctae Marthae.

**Enemy of generosity**

**Prayer for Syrian peace**

The Vatican Christmas tree is seen as Pope Francis leads the Angelus prayer from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Dec. 2. The pope lit an Advent candle as he launched the Christmas campaign, “Candles for Peace in Syria,” an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need.

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**BISHOP BARBER’S SCHEDULE**

Dec. 11: Office meetings, Chancery, Oakland
7 p.m. Mass, Simbang Gabi kick off, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Dec. 12: Office meetings, Chancery, Oakland, including Priest Personnel Board and diocesan Finance Board’s Christmas reception
Dec. 14: Office meetings, Chancery, Oakland, including Presbyteral Council Christmas celebration for the priests of the diocese, bishop’s residence
Dec. 15: 10 a.m., Mass, reception, Regina Mundt donors, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Dec. 18: Office meetings, Chancery, Oakland, including College of Consultants and Catholic Charities of the East Bay board meeting
Dec. 19: 12:10 p.m., Mass, Christmas lunch for Chancery employees
Dec. 21: Christmas lunch with seminarians of the diocese
5:30 p.m., Blue Christmas, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Dec. 22: Christmas Mass with inmates, Santa Rita Jail, Dublin
Dec. 24: 10 p.m., Christmas Eve Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Dec. 25: 10 a.m., Christmas Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Dec. 27-29: Mass, board meeting, Foundation for Formation Support for Vietnamese Sisters and Priests, Houston, Texas

**THE DIOCESE**

**Clergy assignments**

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, made these assignments:

- Rev. Hector Enrique Ballesteros, parochial vicar at St. Leander Parish, San Leandro, is appointed parochial administrator at St. Leander Parish, Oakland, effective Jan. 1.
- Rev. Alberto Perez, parochial vicar at All Saints Parish, Hayward, and Detention Ministry chaplain at Santa Rita Jail, Dublin, is appointed parochial administrator at St. Ambrose Parish, Berkeley, effective Jan. 6.
- “The Salesian Community has served St. Ambrose Parish and the diocese since 2000. We are most grateful,” said Bishop Barber.

**Rite of Election dates**

The Rite of Election in 2019 will take place on the second Sunday of Lent, not on the first Sunday, at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison, Oakland. The Rite of Election is the annual event in which catechumens, those seeking baptism — and candidates — those seeking confirmation and full reception into the church, join the Church.

Times and dates are 2 p.m. March 16, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 17.

**Gathering for a blessed Thanksgiving**

Congregants filled the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland on Thanksgiving Day. Nov. 22. Following a long tradition, many in the crowd brought food or wine to be blessed, which they would consume later in the day.

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

Publisher: Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

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

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“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
I write today with a grateful heart. As we come to the end of the calendar year, and of the 2018 Bishop’s Appeal, Lighting the Way, you have exceeded an ambitious goal! As of December 1, gifts and pledges for Lighting the Way totaled $3,110,947. Of this, more than $603,000 will be returned to the parishes that exceeded their goals. I am profoundly grateful for your generous support. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure help make Christ’s mission a reality in our Diocese. Thank you!

With your gifts, we are able to provide the resources for efforts such as:
• Training children in developmentally appropriate, safe environment awareness sessions. Last year alone, we trained over 31,000 children
• Making it possible for 16,677 participants and 2,409 coaches to enjoy CYO Athletics
• Providing case management, care advocacy, and resources for 50+ retired priests
• Live Scan screening of 4,300 employees, clergy, and volunteers
• 431 couples from 61 parishes participated in Diocesan Marriage Prep Weekend Programs
• Held Diocesan Catechetical Congress in August with 700+ attendees
• And many more programs and outreach

Your support also helps provide for those individuals whose ministry is to work for the Diocese. I am working hard to assure the organization is run efficiently, recognizing our stewardship of the resources entrusted to me. My goal is to ensure each decision made allows our Church to maximize its mission:
To know Christ better and make Him better known.

As you answer Christ’s call to be His disciple through your stewardship, the Diocese of Oakland can continue our focus on our three important priorities of our Catholic mission: The Sunday Experience, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and Forming Missionary Disciples.

Thank you again for unselfish sharing. We can do all things through Him who strengthens us. Be assured you remain in my daily prayers, and I beg you to please pray for me and our whole Diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.
Bishop of Oakland

Financial Results for Lighting the Way 2018, through December 1, 2018:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Parishes over goal</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Of these donors, 488 made gifts over $1,000 and they became member of the Regina Mundi Society!
WASHINGTON — When he was running for re-election in 1992, President George H.W. Bush said a strong religious faith could provide "an extra shot of strength when you need it." “I don’t believe you can be president without having faith. I really strongly feel that.” That religious faith which sustained him and his family and was clearly evident during his years in the White House — and more recently as he mourned the 17 death of his beloved wife of 73 years, Barbara — is being noted by many in paying tribute to his life and legacy after his death late Nov. 30 at age 94 at his home in Houston.

Are you or a loved one experiencing homosexual/lesbian attractions and looking for answers within the Catholic Church?

The Voice publishes only one issue in July, August and December.

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Garcia of Austin, Texas, as the new bishop of Monterey. The 58-year-old Texas bishop succeeds the late Bishop Richard J. Garcia, who died July 11 of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. He was 71 and had headed the diocese since 2007.

New bishop for Monterey

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Garcia of Austin, Texas, as the new bishop of Monterey. The 58-year-old Texas bishop succeeds the late Bishop Richard J. Garcia, who died July 11 of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. He was 71 and had headed the diocese since 2007. Bishop Daniel Garcia, who is a native of Texas, has been an auxiliary bishop for Austin since 2015. He was ordained a priest for the diocese May 28, 1988. He is bilingual in Spanish and English. He will be installed as the fifth bishop of Monterey Jan. 30, 2019. In 2015, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Garcia as the first auxiliary bishop of Austin, serving with Austin Bishop Joe S. Vazquez. The Diocese of Monterey covers about 22,000 square miles in central California. It has a total population of close to 1.05 million; 30 at age 94 at his home in Houston.

Schools and families of St. James School in Redondo Catholic schools. In a Nov. 28 letter sent to Los Angeles said it will not pursue charges against nuns.

No charges against nuns

WASHINGTON — The Archdiocese of Los Angeles said it will not pursue charges against two religious sisters who were found to have “misappropriated” a “substantial amount” of money from one of its Catholic schools. In a Nov. 28 letter sent to families of St. James School in Redondo Beach, the pastor of the parish associated with the school said the archdiocese would address the matter internally. The religious order Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, of which Sister Mary Margaret Kreuper and Sister Lana Chang are members, has agreed to a “full restitution” of money used for personal matters by the two women, the letter said.

Gene-editing

WASHINGTON — The revelation in late November that a Chinese researcher had edited genes in human embryos and then implanted them in a woman was “a train wreck of a thing to do,” said an ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. “Normally clinical research proceeds in phases. First, you verify it works in animals, etc. Second, you verify that it’s safe. In small things you verify it’s effective,” said John Breheny, the center’s director of institutional relations.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Archdiocese John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, said the archdiocese planned to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection by the end of the year because the archdiocese faces up to $120 million in liabilities. The archbishop explained that he had considered filing for bankruptcy protection in recent years and decided to take the action because the archdiocese faces up to 40 active claims from alleged victims of clergy sex abuse.

Search warrant

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Agents from the office of New Mexico’s attorney general executed a search warrant to obtain records from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe regarding at least two former priests accused of child sexual abuse. The agents were at the archdiocese’s administrative offices in Albuquerque Nov. 28. Attorney General Hector Balderas was seeking information on Marvin Archuleta and Sabino Griego, according to the archdiocese.

Catholic News Service
Bay Area Crisis Nursery has a crisis of its own

By Michele Jurich

“The nursery’s board of directors has a crisis of its own,” Lynne Vuskovic said.

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery, which Sister Ann founded and has served as executive director, is the only emergency, 24-hour nursery in the Bay Area. Parents facing a crisis, needing a respite, place their children temporarily at the Concord home, knowing they will be well cared for and loved — free of charge. That’s been the mission of the Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet for four decades.

Her work has been recognized by local and state government — from which, by the way, she doesn’t accept funds — as well as recently by the Jefferson Awards, Contra Costa County Commission for Women and the Threads of Hope Visionary Award.

On Sept. 21, Sister Ann’s life changed. Two members of the nursery’s board of directors came to see her and tell her that on Sept. 24, an interim executive director would take her place.

“I was fired,” Sister Ann said, describing the news, which took her by surprise. “We never said ‘fired,’” said Lynne Vuskovic, president of the nursery’s board of directors.

“We gave her the option to resign,” she said, in the meeting that lasted 40 minutes. “It’s never just one thing,” Vuskovic said. Sister Ann’s reaction — to go gently surprised the board. “We did not anticipate her reaction,” Vuskovic said. But the board held steadfast in its decision. “We as a board are charged with keeping the doors open and making sure children are cared for properly,” Vuskovic said.

The board, Vuskovic said, had been working on a succession plan for Sister Ann. “Our vision is for her to remain as an ambassador,” she said.

The offer would allow Sister Ann to keep in contact with the nursery, and, importantly, its donors. Individuals provide 75 percent of the nursery’s $11 million budget. Foundations provide the remainder. Sister Ann has two milestones coming up in 2019: her 80th birthday and her 60th year as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The nursery board has offered to celebrate those milestones publicly.

“What should I do with people who took away 40 years of my life?” she asked. The board did not initially take into account that its contract was not with her personally. Sister Ann said, but with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

The board placed Sister Ann on paid administrative leave. That contract expires at the end of June 2019. The board is awaiting a meeting date with the Sisters. Vuskovic said a meeting scheduled for Nov. 28 had been postponed by the Sisters.

Sister Weltz is serving as interim executive director of the nursery. The board has hired a search firm to find a new executive director.

“We all believe in the mission of the nursery,” Vuskovic said. “There are no plans to change the community-based funding.”

Going forward, Vuskovic said, the board will focus on outreach, increasing awareness of the nursery, as well as developing policies that will provide a steadier and more reliable income stream.

Board members have visited 100 non-profits, she said, informing them of the nursery’s services. Ads have been put on buses in East Contra Costa County.

“We should have a line out the door,” Vuskovic said. “We should be full.” Capacity for the nursery is 20, with some space always left for crisis situations. Dahlstrom House, which takes care of children ages 6 to 11, is open only on weekends. Vuskovic would like to increase the number of days.

Vuskovic has been involved with the nursery for three years. She started on the finance committee, transitioning to the board. In March, Sister Ann and the former president asked Vuskovic to take on the presidency.

Most of the board members are business people, as well as former Catholic school children.

“Really this is a business,” Vuskovic said. “We understand what needs to be done to keep the doors open. We hope she finds peace, comes back and enjoys the fruits of her labor.”

Before she finds peace, Sister Ann is also looking for justice.

In a Eucharistic Adoration chapel, a friend of Sister Ann passed a note to Tom Greerty, the legal director of Martinez, to tell the friend to send Sister Ann to the clinic.

“It seems that Sister Ann, a native of Martinez, told the friend to send Sister Ann to the clinic. "In our experience as lawyers we’re used to seeing a history of evaluations," said Greerty, who spoke with Sister Ann’s permission. "There doesn’t appear to be any." There appears to be no notice made to her of areas of her work that needed correction, he said, as well as when a person’s put on notice the person’s work needs to be corrected. There appear to be conflicting statements on how this matter was handled. "If she was to retire, she should have retired in glory for all the great work she has done over the years," Greerty said.

In the crisis nursery’s third quarter newsletter, the board of directors announced her departure.

For those who know Sister Ann, that could have meant only one thing: that she had a health issue. She did not. She had received her personal phone calls at the nursery for years; a friend gave her a cellphone.

When friends, and donors, reached her and heard the story, she said, some wanted to withdraw their support of the nursery.

Some wanted to cancel planned toy and food drives.

“Don’t do that,” she admonished them. She seemed nothing that would harm the children and families.

Sister Ann was referred to attorney Jim Keenley of Bolt Keenley Kim in Berkeley.

“Our goal is to get Sister Ann reinstated to her position so she can serve out her existing term and secure her housing,” he said. Such a goal would assist her in transitioning to the volunteer role she envisioned for herself in the near future.

“Hopefully we will see her back and finish out the way she envisioned,” he said.

In the meantime, Sister Ann’s faith has sustained her for the fight she never expected in a faith-based organization. Nobody can take away the good we’ve done for families and children over the last 37 years,” she said.

---

When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.

Matthew 25

The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael express our solidarity with men, women and children from throughout the border who are fleeing from extreme conditions of poverty and violence. They yearn for protection, opportunities for right livelihood, and peace in which to live and take care of their families.

Read our full statement at sanrafaelop.org

Preachers of Truth • Love • Justice
Pilgrimages

Learn about the rich Catholic history of Hawaii

By Rev. Jayson Landeza
Special to The Catholic Voice

"Saints? In Hawaii?"

For those of us who remember Bay Area radio ads over 40 years ago, the phrase "Farms? In Berkeley?" was a way for us to remember Berkeley Farms' products, as it was somehow improbable for us to believe there were farms in my beloved hometown.

Yet in the land of my parents' birth, there were indeed saints in Hawaii.

If you've never been to Hawaii and would like to explore beyond the traditional tourist sites and perhaps learn more about the rich Catholic history of the islands, then The Catholic Voice's Hawaii pilgrimage is for you. It's scheduled to leave Sept. 8-14, 2019 and is limited to 42 pilgrims.

My parents were born and raised in Hawaii — my late father (Daniel Landeza) was from the North Shore of Oahu and my mother (Frances O'Sullivan Landeza) hails from Molokai, both of the islands covered on this pilgrimage.

When I was growing up in Berkeley, my mother shared childhood stories about her hikes from topside Molokai, walking down narrow paths on steep cliffs into the Kalaupapa Settlement (the leper/Hansen's Disease colony) to visit her grand uncle, my great-grand uncle James Kahakauwila, who was a patient and a resident of this settlement.

My mother would also share stories about Father Damien de Veuster and the work he did at Kalaupapa among those who suffered from leprosy, now called Hansen's Disease.

As I grew older, and particularly since becoming a priest, I became keenly interested in the life of Father Damien, reading numerous biographies dedicated to this selfless and faith-filled Belgian who dedicated his life to the people of Hawaii, particularly those afflicted by this terrible disease.

When Father Damien went to work at Kalaupapa, Molokai, in 1873, the residents, banished from the rest of Hawaii because of their disease and physically separated from loved ones, were left to fend for themselves.

(Continued on Page 7.)

St. Marianne Cope's remains were reinterred at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu in 2014. At left, Father Jayson Landeza at the Kalaupapa Airport.

The Catholic Voice invites you on a Hawaiian Pilgrimage!

Honor the Great Saints of Hawai'i!

Saint Damien of Molokai & Saint Marianne Cope

September 8-14, 2019 (7 days)

$2,899* from SFO NONSTOP

Includes: round-trip airfare from SFO to Honolulu, Molokai excursion, taxes, surcharges, hotel, breakfast, meals per itinerary, tours, Royal Hawaiian Luau, air-conditioned motor coach, & full-time tour manager. (*per person based on double occupancy)

Highlights include:

Celebrate Mass at St. Philomena Church with Bishop Larry Silva on Kalaupapa with a private tour of Molokai, discover St. Damien's teaching of the Catholic faith to Hawaii, St. Patrick's Church with the collection of artifacts of St. Damien, Mass at St. Augustine by the Sea, Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, a tour of Pearl Harbor and Mass at the Pearl Harbor Catholic Chapel, tour of Honolulu and the Dole Planation & Royal Hawaiian Luau on Waikiki Beach.


Belinda@APilgrimsJourney.com or 724-679-7450

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST

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About the Great Saints of Hawai'i. Have your travel questions answered or find a roommate.

Sunday, January 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

At Our Lady of Lourdes–Parish Hall

2808 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

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Learn about . . .

(Continued from Page 6.)

with very little recourse or support from the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Father Damien set in motion due attention and much-
needed resources to alleviate the suffering of the resi-
dents, and he was greatly rewarded and recognized for his
efforts, with the ultimate accolade being his canonization
as a saint by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 11, 2009.

Over the years, I’ve had the opportunity to visit St.
Damien’s hometown and place of birth in Tremelo, Belgium,
along with his shrine and place of burial in Leuven, Belgium.
I’ve been to Kalaupapa numerous times, with the most
memorable back in 1994, when I had the chance to be the
resident priest for the settlement, assigned to work at St.
Francis Church, Kalaupapa, for about two weeks, covering
for their regular priest, who went on vacation.

When Rev. Larry Silva was a priest for the Diocese of
Oakland, he also made regular trips to Kalaupapa, and
had a chance to meet and know many of the residents, as
I had. We used to share our experiences and talk about
common friends we had at the settlement.

Now that Father Larry is Bishop Larry Silva, the bishop
of Honolulu (the Catholic Church in the state of Hawaii),
he will lead us in that portion of the pilgrimage as part
of our journey to Kalaupapa. I am excited that we will
also get to know more about Sister Marianne Cope, the
German-American Franciscan sister who also worked at
Kalaupapa and was also canonized by Pope Benedict

Although I was not able to attend the canonization of
St. Damien in October 2009, I was on sabbatical that fall
and provided clergy coverage for St. Augustine By-the-Sea
Catholic Church while its pastor, Rev. Lane Akiona, from the
same Sacred Hearts order as St. Damien, and a Molokai
native, attended the canonization. The ceremony received
unlimited attention by Hawaii’s media, and helped to increase
awareness and solidify the unique ministry, heroic sacrifice
and special bond that St. Damien has to the people of Hawaii.

This connection to Hawaii is evident at the entrance
to the State Capitol Building — you are greeted by a
solitary statue of St. Damien. Surprisingly, it’s neither
King Kamehameha the Great (who united the islands)
nor Queen Liliuokalani (the last monarch), but St. Damien
who graces the Hawaii State Capitol.

As you can see, Hawaii is more than just palm trees
swaying gorgeous beaches and Mai Tai’s with umbrellas
— these magic islands hold a special place for Catholics
and people of good faith who want to experience two
people who lived out their Christian faith and sacrificed
their lives in Christ-like service to the people of Hawaii.
Please consider joining us on this once-in-a-life opportu-
nity to see Hawaii from the eyes of our faith.
The Catholic Voice invites you on an inspirational spiritual adventure in France!

**The Shrines of France Pilgrimage**

Paris, Lisieux, Chartres, Nevers, Ars, Lourdes

**April 13- 21, 2020** (9 days)

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Roundtrip airfare on Air France, hotel, breakfast & dinner per itinerary, air-conditioned motor coach, full-time tour manager, departure tax and current fuel charge, *double occupancy

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Includes round-trip airfare from SFO, hotels, daily breakfast, most dinners as indicated on itinerary, air conditioned motor coach and full-time tour manager *Double occupancy

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How to respond to the cry of the poor in our own time

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

As they celebrated their first Christmas in America 150 years ago, our Little Sisters in Baltimore noted that the donations received included “twelve turkeys, four ducks, sixteen chickens and so many other good things that we didn’t know what to do with it all!” They concluded, “In this country Christmas is like the feast of the poor.”

I decided to take a look at Christmas giving in 19th Century America to see if this was true. In 1843 Charles Dickens published “A Christmas Carol,” telling the story of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and his Christmas Eve conversion. As the story opens, Scrooge is approached by two men asking for a cash donation to help the poor. He refuses, answering that there are prisons and workhouses for the destitute and he pays taxes to support them.

Scrooge’s attitude was quite prevalent in America as well as England. Our young nation was being built up through hard work and self-reliance. Commerce and industry were taking off, and with them a new spirit of competition, along with the uncompromising pursuit of profit. There was also a growing social divide between the rich and the poor.

Like Scrooge, many Americans believed that the “unworthy” poor — those who were judged to have caused their own misery — belonged in prison or the workhouse, while the “worthy” poor — those who were believed to encourage beggary. There was also a growing social divide between the rich and the poor.

As they celebrated their first Christmas in America 150 years ago, our Little Sisters were a fledgling community in a foreign land, so the people who supported you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me.”

“The poor you will always have with you;” and “Whatsoever you do for the poor at New York’s Madison Square Garden served to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Our archives are full of stories of such thoughtful charity. The one group of destitute individuals that elicited universal sympathy was impoverished children.

People concerned about poverty were encouraged to donate to churches or charitable institutions rather than directly to the poor. A January 1844 article in the New York Tribune advised that all the money wasted on unnecessary Christmas trifles was “rightly appropriated … Pauperism and its attendant miseries could be eliminated.” An 1853 editorial in the same newspaper ran with the headline, “DO NOT GIVE TO STREET Beggars.” Giving directly to the poor was believed to encourage begging.

The New York Times expressed similar sentiments. An 1854 editorial asserted that money contributed to worthy organizations “will find where the misery is.” The paper encouraged its readers to give to “those excellent institutions, in whose hands, if you place a dollar, you do what, individually, you could not make five dollars do.”

Charitable giving was on its way to becoming a well-pleased yet impersonal machine. Large Christmas dinners for the poor at New York’s Madison Square Garden served up to 20,000 people at a time as the wealthy looked on as spectators. Is this how charity should be administered?

Worthy institutions of all types will always play an important role in relieving the distress of the poor, but contrary to what the New York Tribune asserted, poverty will never be completely eliminated. Christ himself foretold, “The poor you will always have with you and ‘Whatsoever you do for the least of my brethren, you do to me.’”

Let’s try to be generous in giving this look of love this Christmas.

(Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.)
Christmas Liturgies

(Continued from Page 9.)

◆ RETREATS

Dec. 27 to Jan. 1


Dec. 30 to Jan. 1

New Year’s Retreat with Father Rusty Shaughnessy, At San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: $245 (private room) or $214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

At San Damiano Retreat, Shaughnessy.

Dec. 30 to Jan. 1


At Mercy Center, Greg Mayers, CSSR.

New Year’s Silent Retreat with Father Greg Mayers, CSSR.

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Fair and Ethical Trade products carry labels that identify them. The Ethical Trade Holiday shopping site (https://ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide/holiday-gift-guide/) or the Fair Trade Certified holiday shopping site (https://fairtradecertified.org/shopping-guide/fair-trade-holiday-gift-guide-2018) as we celebrate Advent and the season of Jesus coming, the Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade group reminds us that “we are connected to people around the world as one body in Christ” and we pray that we will keep this reality in the forefront of our minds as we live each day “especially during this season of Advent.”

(Patrick Shandonay is the coordinator of the CRS Ethical Trade Ministry of the Diocese of Oakland.)
More parishes list Simbang Gabi events

Staff report
The Filipino clergy of the Diocese of Oakland will kick off the 2018 Simbang Gabi (Misa de Gallo) season with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass presided by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. Last year, about 800 people from almost 50 participating parishes within the diocese, wearing their barongs (embroidered formal shirts) and Filipiniana (traditional women’s dresses) and with colorful Christmas parols, or lanterns, in tow, attended the Mass and later took part in the fiesta celebration, where they were treated with native food and drinks in addition to folk dances and Christmas music by the combined choir under the direction of Ariel Mayormita, SJ, and Camerata led by Music Director Rudy Budnik, 510-396-5419 or corbud@hotmail.com.

A fiesta will follow this year’s celebration at the cathedral. Parking is available at the Kaiser Center Garage, entrance on 21st Street across from the Chancery offices. Some parishes announced their schedules earlier: See this at www.catholicvoiceoakland.org/2018/11-26/parishes11.htm.

New Simbang Gabi parish events include:

• All Saints, 22624 Second St., Hayward: Masses at 6 a.m. Dec. 16-24. Breakfast follows immediately after each Mass in the Senior/Hospitality Center. Information, Thelma Desideri-Valera, 510-914-4076, bluetinge@sbcglobal.net.
• St. Joachim Parish, 21250 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward: Masses at 5:30 a.m. Dec. 16-24, with a simple breakfast in the gym afterwards.
• St. John the Baptist, 11150 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito: Masses: 5 p.m. Dec. 15 and 22, 6 p.m. Dec. 16 (Brazilian), 7 p.m. Dec. 17-21 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 23. Information: 510-232-5659; www.stjohnbcelcerrito.org.

The advent of our Redeemer

A joyous procession, worship and song marked the beginning of Advent at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland Dec. 2, the season in which the Church prepares for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. “In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God, lying in the manger,” said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, at the outset. “Let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.” Five readings from Scripture, joined with carols and song by the Cathedral Camerata led by Music Director Rudy de Vos, combined to tell the story of our redemption.

Christmas Liturgies

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!
1662 Manor Blvd., San Leandro 94579
510-351-5244

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO PARISH
Parish Office: 4100 El Camino Real
San Mateo 94403
Office: (650) 348-1700
Parish: (650) 348-9346
E-mail: ssp@sstv.org
Website: www.ssp.org

Christmas Eve Liturgy
Hayward: 8:30 p.m. Mass
San Leandro: 7:30 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day Liturgy
San Mateo: 8:00 a.m. Mass
South San Francisco: 7:00 a.m. Mass
San Ramon: 9:00 a.m. Mass

Parish Office: 6900 San Ramon Valley Blvd
San Ramon 94583 • 925-830-0500
In their 10 years of service at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, the seam-jacketed docents who give tours, direct traffic, and serve as hospital aids in hand, greet arrivals to Mass have had some big moments at the cathedral. Rose Carroll recalls being beside then-Bishop Alan H. Vigneron as he opened the doors on dedication day. The reverent ceremony recalls another big moment in the cathedral’s first year: the day docents helped carry the massive pipes for the organ through those doors.

And there are the small moments too: A man once asked Peggy Lubbeck for some help carrying glasses. She referred him to the Malta Clinic. The man remained on her doorstep the next day, he returned to pay her back the climb.

Denise Kogler, who serves in cathedral ministries, has worked with the docents since their beginning. The cathedral opened in 2008 with more than 70 docents; today about 35 docents serve. As a 10th anniversary treat, she arranged for a bus trip to Sacramento for the docents. They visited Blessed Sacramento Cathedral in the state capital, Old Town Sacramento and the Crocker Museum of Art. They learned that just seven docents serve at the Sacramento cathedral.

Kogler’s praise for the docents and their work ethic is strong. “Not only have they been docents, they helped carry the pipes in,” she said. “They’re there for every event. We couldn’t do without them.”

The docents, she said, have provided thousands of hours of volunteer assistance. Most of them are retired, and range in age from 60 to mid-80s. “They teach me and show me how to age gracefully,” she said, noting that many view their role not only at the cathedral but in other community groups as well, including parishes, hospitals and St. Vincent de Paul.

Today, the majority of these original docents are still around serving either as tour guides or as VIS, visitor information service, or as volunteers during special events. Keltner, one of the original docents, recalls starting out in summer 2008, when the first tours were being put on the cathedral. “We had a great group and great leadership,” she said. “It was a wonderful experience.”

The early lessons about art and architecture introduced the docents to their work in describing it to others. “By the time most people leave, they understand the design, the reasoning,” she said. “It’s a joy.”

Keltner makes her tours a joy, too, for her tour guests. Even those who can’t move around the cathedral well get a great view of the interior. She recently seated a guest in the middle of the cathedral, and gave them a tour from the pews. Keltner was among the docents who carried in the organ pipes. “It was such a joy,” she recalled. “It took eight of us to carry a 36-foot pipe.”

For Keltner, her service at the cathedral of Christ the Light has been the continuation of cathedral service in the diocese. For 17 years, she had been an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, as well as Communion bread baker, at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral.

“When I heard we would have a new cathedral, I wanted to be part of it,” Keltner said. Daisy Lopez, too, wanted to be part of it. “We are the Bearers of Light; the bearers of the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the role of the volunteers as docents,” Lopez said. “We are the Point of Light, we lead people to places of interest in the Cathedral.”

But each bearer of light, and point of light, approaches the work in a unique way. “I said yes we do and he told me his story of how he needed glasses and he had money to buy some glasses,” she said. “He went to our clinic and they bought him glasses. He was back to thank them for their generosity and to pay them back.”

And for Lubbeck, that exchange remains memorable. “The Cathedral of Christ the Light helps all people,” she said. “When someone comes back to say thank you, I feel this is the real purpose of our mission.”

Docents recall moments in their 10 years at the cathedral

By Michele Jurich  
Staff writer

At the Christus Mass in 2017, on left; Claire Elmore, who left the docents last month, and docent Patricia Cruise.

Interested in being a docent?

Contact Denise Kogler, Cathedral Ministries, dkgor@cdctracts.org

Docents have been bringing about a personal touch, a personal style of presenting the various work of art in the cathedral design and art displays, said Kogler. “It’s why she is still a docent after 10 years.”

“I love the experience and I love meeting people and sharing my faith,” Lopez said.

Carroll too looks forward to greeting visitors. “I enjoyed and loved it when introducing the cathedral to our guests, especially those from other countries,” she said.

“I used to admire other cathedrals that I visited,” she said. “Now, I feel the same when performing my docent responsibilities.”

Even though age is catching up on her, she said, her time as a docent makes her feel stronger. When taking visitors around the cathedral, she said, “I forget my aches and pains.”

Carroll, who is proud to have served three bishops, is a graduate of the School of Pastoral Ministry. She serves as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and lector and assists with the collection at the cathedral when needed. She also carries a trunk filled with food and helps those who are hungry at the cathedral and at her parish, St. Bonaventure in Concord.

Lubbeck had just returned from a trip to Europe, during which she visited many churches, when she saw in The Catholic Voice that the cathedral was looking for docents.

“I thought it would be a good time for me to give back,” she said.

She joined the second class of docents. “Everyone was very excited about telling the story of how we came about,” she said. “After six weeks we had to lead tours and had to shadow someone to make sure we knew the stories.”

Lubbeck was at the visitors’ desk in the back of the cathedral when a man came in and asked about the Malta Clinic, which provides free health care to uninsured adults.

“I said yes we do and he told me his story of how he needed glasses and he had money to buy some glasses,” she said. “He went to our clinic and they bought him glasses. He was back to thank them for their generosity and to pay them back.”

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Docents recall moments in their 10 years at the cathedral
Three receive Medal of Merit from Diocese of Oakland

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Three indistinguishable volunteers have been honored with the Diocesan Medal of Merit this year. The medal is given to those laity, religious or clergy known for their faithfulness to the Church and who have performed extraordinary service to the Diocese of Oakland or a parish or diocesan level, generally for a period of at least 20 years.

The 2018 recipients are Rufus Fisher of St. Benedict Parish in Oakland; Rosemary Brennan of St. Louis Bertrand Parish in Oakland; and Mary Fair of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore.

Rufus Fisher
Rufus Fisher, a longtime and very active member of St. Benedict Parish in Oakland, was nominated for the honor by his pastor, Rev. Jayson Landeza. Fisher’s time in the parish dates back to 1956, when the Very Rev. James Matthewson, the loco of the Cathedral of Christ the Light, was pastor of the East Oakland.

“Many years ago, when I retired from Allstate Insurance, I told Father Jay: ‘Here’s what I plan on doing. Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do it. Whatever you have me to do, I’ll do it.’” Fisher said.

It is an offer he has been faithful to for more than two decades.

“Being a vacant office, Fisher got right to work. ‘I bought a computer and desk, and I wired it up.’ Fisher has been the unpaid parish facilities manager since 1993, addressing the physical plant needs of the parish grounds and buildings, Father Landeza said.

“Being a man who loves those who count the collection, he takes it to the bank and drops off the deposit slip in the church office upon his return.

“Then he enters the church, where he cleans the fonts, and puts fresh holy water in them. He moves among the pews and straightens the missals.

“Rufus, in his very humble way, commands a gentle but giving and generous presence,” Father Landeza wrote in a letter to Bishop Michael C. Barber, S.J., nominating Fisher for the diocesan medal. “Rufus is always ready and willing to serve his Church, and by extension his Lord, through a faith lived through action.”

Fisher has been a member of the Knights of Peter Claver, Council 336, and has helped to keep the council alive and active here at St. Benedict, his pastor said.

He received a silver certificate from the Knights of Peter Claver, and Medal, Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice in 2009 and a silver certificate and key to the Catholic Church.

“It has been, for me, giving back,” said Fisher, who is 89. “I have a good retirement. I worked all my life. It was time for me to give back.”

On a trip to Seattle, he was taken with what he saw at a church there. “I saw a lady get up at the 9 a.m. Mass,” he said. “She greeted people, and then they recited the rosary.”

“I told Father Matthews, ‘I really liked how they recite the rosary.’”

Fisher replied: Would you like to do it?

Every May and October, before the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, Fisher joins those who count the collection. When asked for a credit card, Rufus Fisher offered his own.

Rosemary Brennan
In nominating Rosemary Brennan for the diocesan medal, Rev. Michael Solis, pastor of St. Louis Bertrand Parish in Oakland, said her 50 years as a faithful volunteer musician for Saturday Vigil Masses, Sunday morning Masses and special liturgical Masses and celebrations, as well as involvement with choir groups, has enriched the parish’s liturgical celebrations.

“I studied music at an early age,” said Brennan, who is a pianist. She played at Holy Names High School and has been playing ever since. (Her alma mater misses her in service for its De S. Mass campus on campus.)

She recalled a Mass celebrated by the new-to-Oakland then-Bishop Salvatore Cordileone, who arrived at the high school in his own car, vestments over his arm. “He gave a wonderful homily,” she said.

Brennan arrived at St. Louis Bertrand Parish in 1967. She has worked with the choir. She noted the choir is not large, in a parish with an aging English-speaking community whose children have moved elsewhere.

“Helpful to go back there,” she said. Her recent attendance at the wake and funeral for a Spanish-speaking musician in the parish, she said, “reinforced my faith.”

(Continued on Page 15.)

East Bay activists challenge US border policy

By Katherine Davies Samway
Special to The Catholic Voice

About 1,000 human rights activists from around the country attended a weekend-long, non-violent Border Encuentro (Encounter) held on both sides of the Mexico-US border in Nogales, Arizona, before Thanksgiving.

On the final day, an emotionally powerful litany and presentation were held in Nogales. The 2018 recipients are Rufus Fisher of St. Benedict Parish in Oakland; Rosemary Brennan of St. Louis Bertrand Parish in Oakland; and Mary Fair of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore.

The first SOAW vigil was held in 1990 to denounce the November 1989 murders of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter at the Catholic University in El Salvador that was led by graduates of the SDA at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

The school was renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, WHINSEC, in 2001. In 2017, the vigil moved to the border in Nogales in order to draw attention to two issues: US foreign policy, which has impacted my family, but because my presence is an responsibility, not just because (US immigration policy) is doing the right thing, I think they are doing a marvelous job,” she said.

In nominating Rosemary Brennan for the diocesan medal, Rev. Michael Solis, pastor of St. Louis Bertrand Parish in Oakland, said her 50 years as a faithful volunteer musician for Saturday Vigil Masses, Sunday morning Masses and special liturgical Masses and celebrations, as well as involvement with choir groups, has enriched the parish’s liturgical celebrations.

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(Continued on Page 15.)
Three receive . . .

(Continued from Page 14.)
ready an active community.

Brennan entered the Holy Name Community in 1952, completing the religious training for a young Sister. As I started teaching high school, there was the grape boycott,” she said. “I would take students to Delano.” The students had a front-row seat to current events, seeing and hearing Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Fred Ross. “Long ago, they told me to follow my brother and his wife asked her to find a church near San Francisco, where she was living at the time, for them to attend Mass.” On a family visit, her brother and his wife asked her to join them for Mass. “I had no idea what was going on. But this she knew: “I really liked it.”

“I felt more comfortable,” she said, so comfortable that she attended a communal penance. Then came the part about the priests around the room. She approached one to make her first confession in a lifetime. “After greeting her, asking her some questions, he told her, “Welcome home. All your sins are forgiven.” Later, she married, and moved to the Bay Area. “I know God brought me to Livermore,” she said. “I’ve met so many spiritual mentors who help me practice my faith and live the Gospel.”

At a ministry sign-up at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, social concerns was her first choice. “I realized I had had so many blessings in my life,” Fair said. “I wanted to give back to others, with a huge heart of gratitude.”

That heart of gratitude is supported by expertise gained in her first career as a corporate executive and a second as the owner of a business.

For the past 18 years, Fair has led a small faith sharing group that meets every other Friday. She serves or has served as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, lector, altar server and sacristan. Committees ranging from social, to art and environment, to liturgy, and finance have benefited from her thoughtful expertise.

Along the way, Fair met Ray Neubauer, who at the time was chairman of the board of Catholic Charities of the East Bay. She invited him to interview for a seat on the board.

“This would be wonderful to serve the broader ecumen- icist community,” Fair said she thought at the time. She had also been serving the diocese on the advisory committee of the pastoral plan announced in 2008.

She served eight years on the CCEB board, through two transitions. At the moment, Fair’s eyes are on the giving tree at St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

Those communities, such as the Ecumenical Peace Institute, have taken stands against nuclear proliferation.

“Good Friday finds them being witnessed at Lawrence Livermore Lab, as well as in August, to remember the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.”

“I go every year to the Schools of the Americas,” she said. Last month, she went to Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, to go to the border. (Related story on this page.) She found some of the young people there inspiring.

“It’s been an grace, an enlightenment, for me to see the interest of a whole new generation of people. Their parents have come across the border,” Brennan said. “I am so inspired by their intelligence, capability, enthusiasm and knowledge of the cause.”

Closer to home, she is a regular participant in the weekly Casalite walks in Oakland, being present in community walking an end to gun violence in their streets.

Mary Fair

Mary Fair was nominated by Catholic Charities of the East Bay, in conjunction with St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore, where she had seen many people who were not attending their usual Mass — as well as Catholic Charities representatives. She had worked with over the years, applauded heartily. “I was so humbled to get it,” she said. “It was the best way to tell it in my parish, among people I know, my friends and my family.”

“I feel more comfortable,” she said, so comfortable that she attended a communal penance. Then came the part about the priests around the room. She approached one to make her first confession in a lifetime. “After greeting her, asking her some questions, he told her, “Welcome home. All your sins are forgiven.” Later, she married, and moved to the Bay Area. “I know God brought me to Livermore,” she said. “I’ve met so many spiritual mentors who help me practice my faith and live the Gospel.”

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San Damiano offers shelter to fire victims

Staff report
San Damiano Retreat in Danville is inviting families impacted by the Camp Fire and other fires who would like a respite over Christmas, from Dec. 20-26, to stay at San Damiano at no cost. Personnel at San Damiano will return the contact.

For more information, contact Lisa Briones, Jan Stegner or Janet Gardner at 925-837-9141 or info.lisa@sandamiano.org.

“In particular, we would like to make sure that any local families with connections to people in the fire impacted areas receive this invitation,” Wise said. “We’d love to help those who have been impacted and want a few days of respite in this beautiful oasis.”

Recall . . .
(Continued from Page 1.)

Some years ago I visited St. Joseph’s Abbey in Covington, Louisiana. One of the monks was giving me a tour and asked if I wanted to see the cemetery.

“Someone famous is buried there,” he said.

I said, “What is his name?”

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“Abbey in Covington, Louisiana.”

“Continued from Page 1.”
**St. Columba service for homicide victims**

All are invited to join members of St. Columba Church, 6401 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, for a service of prayer and remembrance of individuals whose lives were tragically lost to homicide in the past year. The service of the church, which will begin at 3 p.m. Dec. 31, is simple: all will gather in the church for prayer and comments by grieving family members. Then, as in the photo from last year’s ceremony, loved ones will place crosses on the memorial garden in front of the church where the name and date of death of each victim is spoken aloud as a cross representing a deceased person is removed from the memorial and that cross is handed to the victim’s family. The last of all the crosses has been removed, everyone processes back into the church and the crosses are laid in front of the altar. The service ends with prayer.

**Dominicans discuss laity**

Sacramento Bishop Jaime Soto is one of the guest speakers for the 10th Annual Conference of the College of St. Joseph of the Exiles, 2301 Vine St., Berkeley. The two-day discussion Feb. 1 and 2 — You Too Go Into My Vineyard — A Look at the Role of the Laity in Today’s Church — among lay and religious of all backgrounds will explore the theology of the Catholic Church and the important role it plays in it. Other guest speakers include Gail Battle, DSPF Fellow; writer, Elizabeth Garlow, Lucy: A Catholic Impact; B. Anne Morland, Villanova University. Information: www.dspf.org/convo2019.us

**TAIZÉ**

14th annual midday prayer service of praise in simple chant. Scripture readings, silent worship and various prayers. Available through radio and internet.

**RETREATS**

Jan. 11 to 13

The Divine Embrace: Silent Directed Retreat with Father Rusty Shaughnessy and spiritual director, St. Isidore Church, 500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood. Cost: $245 (private room) or $214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

Jan. 25 to 27

“Can a Franciscan Be Angry?” Franciscan Spiritual Renewal with Deacon Phyllis Pray, At St. Damascus Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost: $245 (private room) or $214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

Dec. 13, Jan. 10, 22

Grief Support Group at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Call 925-485-8708. Information and registration are available without regard to religious affiliation.

Divorce Support Workshops. 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. every third Sunday at St. Mary Church, 2039 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. Please visit www.divorcebygrace.org to become familiar with our process. Contact Dom Petros at 925-462-4665 or gdk@comcast.net.

**Fourth Wednesdays**

Family Caregiver Support. 7:30 p.m. in rooms 214 and 215 in the Ministry Center at St. Leander Parish, 2201 Camino de La Gorda, Walnut Creek. Family caregivers are invited to our monthly meeting to discuss their concerns, share hands-on on caregiving and discussion related to coping when caring for loved one in need. Call 925-314-5784.

**Thursdays**

Military Peer Support Group. 7 p.m. in the rectory of St. Joachim Parish, 1075 Norris St., Walnut Creek. Veterans share challenges and opportunities. Contact Dom Petro at 925-485-4665 or gdk@comcast.net.

**Second and Fourth Thursdays**

St. John Vianney Grief Ministry. 7 p.m. in Mullin Hall, 1530 Ygnacio Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Facilitator: Rev. Padraig Greene. Information: 925-447-9800 or clairelascola@gmail.com.

**Third Thursdays**

Catholic Discerned Widow and Separated of Christian Faith Renewal. 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 3330 Tollefson Ave., Pittsburg. Contact: Mary who will connect you. Information: stmarypittsburg.com or send an email to 3330tlolcf@me.com.

**EVENTS**

December, 10

Baker’s Tip for Change Dinner benefiting San Damian Retreat. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 3600 Grayson St., San Ramon. Reservations are required. Call Gianni’s at 925-253-6020 or giannis@giannis.com.

**Tuesday, Dec. 11**

CatholicWorks Breakfast Event. 7 a.m. at Crop Canyon Country Club, 711 Sierra Lake Drive, Danville. Begins with Mass at 6 a.m. followed by presentation. Guest speaker Andy Rivis, executive director, California Conference of Bishops. Register online at www.CatholicWorksWk.com

**Saturday, Dec. 15**

Free NFP Seminar. 1 to 4 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood. Presented by Catholic Teaching on marriage, birth control, theology of the body and the science of fertility awareness. Open to all. Sponsor: Franciscan Spiritual Renewal and Family Life Office. Information: 510-271-1306.

**Next Visual Page:**

Next visual page: January 9, 2019. Submissions by December 19 to Carrie McClure, 2121 Harrison St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Dateline@CatholicVoice.oaklandca (text/photos); phone 510-419-1074, or fax at 510-869-4734.
Despite weather, thousands come to honor Our Lady

In inclement weather did not stop thousands of the faithful from participating in the annual pilgrimage honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 1.

The procession began with blessings from Oakland Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, as it began its 7.5-mile journey from St. Louis Bertrand Church on East 14th Street down International Boulevard, past Lake Merritt to the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

The archbishop of Tijuana, Mexico, Most Rev. Francisco Moreno Barrón, was a special guest, who delivered the homily at Mass and who conducted several workshops in the week prior. Also at Mass was Oakland Bishop Emeritus John S. Cummins.

As it does every year, the crowd overwhelmed the church, spilling into additional space in the event center, the parish hall and the plaza.

There were many colorful floats dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, or to the reenactment of her visitation with St. Juan Diego.

"Tijuana . . ."

(Continued from Page 1.)

our constant prayer to our Lord."

Pope St. John Paul II named Archbishop Moreno auxiliary bishop of Morelia in 2002.

He served there for 6½ years before being appointed bishop of Tlaxcala by Pope Benedict XVI. He served there for 8 years, 2 months before being named archbishop of Tijuana, Mexico, by Pope Francis two years ago.

"The human being has the right to immigrate," he said. "In Tijuana, we have had open arms and hearts for the migrants. This time it took us by surprise, the abrupt and numerous migrants from Central America. Today they are on the border in Tijuana. It’s not that Tijuana is against migrants. The news does not reflect the profound reality because Tijuana has migrants and continues to welcome our brother migrants.

"At this time, there is a government shelter, where 6,000 migrants stay in very adverse conditions. But also they are still working."

The Catholic Church has shelters and they are overwhelmed. But they still welcome 700 migrants. In these church centers they are preparing 2,500 meals a day for these migrant brothers and sisters. A group of priests and nuns are offering spiritual help to those who are in the biggest shelter.

"I called all the parishes for solidarity to send their food, clothing and medicine to the shelters and Catholic Charities."

"This situation is going to continue for a long time, maybe more than a year. We need to reorganize continually so we — the government, city and state and society in Tijuana — can offer better service. I see with great hope the change of the new government. [The new president of Mexico] wants to stay in Tijuana or another place in Mexico.

"It is important to be able to offer service options to the migrants," he said:

"Those who want to go back, in dignified and safe conditions, should be able to. Both an airplane and a bus load of people have returned at their request to their country of origin.

"We should offer the possibility to regularize the legal conditions of those who want to stay in Tijuana or another place in Mexico."

A job center has opened so migrants can be able, with special permission, to access jobs. There are many sources of jobs in Tijuana.

"We are asking for international organizations to do so as well, for their solidarity with the human rights groups to meet this extreme need. This is important because it will be really difficult for Tijuana to be able to serve them by itself."

"It is important to be able to offer service options to the migrants," he said:

"They receive, and they are called to give," he said. "That’s the principle that will happen in the future in this relationship with migrants and the city of Tijuana."

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"We should offer the possibility to regularize the legal conditions of those who want to stay in Tijuana or another place in Mexico."

A job center has opened so migrants can be able, with special permission, to access jobs. There are many sources of jobs in Tijuana.

"Also, the archbishop said, the church is asking migrants who value the attention and help that they are receiving to collaborate in an environment of peace and prosperity in Tijuana.

"We can highlight the call of Christ to live united in love, to manifest our faith in the world,” he concluded. “In celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe, it is important that this diocese gathers around its bishop and renews the encouragement with Our Lady of Guadalupe as she continues to direct us to her son Jesus Christ.”
How to avoid another Roman fiasco in February

By George Weigel

By peremptorily over-ruining the American bishops not to vote on local remedies for today’s Catholic crisis of violent clericalism and malfeasant bishops, the Vatican dramatically raised the stakes for the February meeting in Rome. In my role as a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, I have called to discuss the crisis in a global perspective.

How the Americans taking decisive action last month would have imposed Roman deliberations in February — the strange explanation offered by the Vatican for its edict — will remain an open question.

Now, the most urgent matter is to define clearly the issues that global gathering will address.

As there are disturbing signs that Those Who Just Don’t Get It are still not getting it, I’d like to flag some pitfalls the February meeting should avoid.

1. The crisis cannot be blamed primarily or even mostly on clericalism.

If “clericalism” means a wicked distillation of the powerful influence priests exercise by virtue of their office, then “clericalism” is a factor in the sexual abuse of young people, who are particularly vulnerable to that influence.

If “clericalism” means that some bishops, faced with clerical sexual abuse, reacted as institutional crisis-managers rather than shepherds protecting their flocks, then “clericalism” has certainly been a factor in the abuse crisis in Chile, Ireland, Germany, France, and the United States.

If “clericalism” means the US bishops were unresponsive to the sexual abuse of young people, then “clericalism” was and is a factor in the sexual abuse of young people, who are particularly vulnerable to that influence.

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REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL

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

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

* Saturday Mass not available

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