Walk for Life
Jan. 26 in SF

Staff report

Join tens of thousands of pro-lifers of all ages, races and religions at the 15th annual Walk for Life West Coast on Jan. 26 in San Francisco.

At the 12:30 p.m. rally at Civic Center Plaza, Rev. Walter Hoye, founder and president of the Issues4Life Foundation, whose unjust imprisonment for exercising his First Amendment rights made him a worldwide hero to the pro-life movement, will be among the speakers. Hoye will be joined by Rev. Sheren Boquet, president of Human Life International, who travels the world spreading the Gospel of Life; pro-life and pro-chastity speaker Patricia Sandoval, who will share her gripping story of the journey from pain and fear to hope and life; and Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood worker who crossed the line to join the pro-life movement.

(Continued on Page 11.)

Diocese greets new parish with joining of two Oakland churches

By Albert C. Pacciorini

The New Year officially welcomed a new parish in Oakland as St. Philip Neri and St. Albert the Great combined administration in 2017. Now, the Diocese of Oakland, which regularly visits inmates, offered prayer cards and candy to them at the end of Mass. Several spoke their thanks to the choir and volunteers as they returned to their housing units.

Volunteers from the detention ministry, who work in detention ministry, came to the prison to present the new parish.

On our cover

A dozen volunteers from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton offered music and song at a Christmas Mass for prisoners at the Santa Rita jail. More on this page.

By Michele Jurich

For one hour on a Saturday morning in late December, the gymnasium at Santa Rita jail in Dublin was transformed into a holy place. At the basketball court's baseline, a folding table, covered with a white cloth, and anchored by a tabulet crucifix, became the altar.

A few feet in front of it, 10 dozen plastic chairs were arranged, a center aisle dividing them.

Ushered in by deputies, the congregation filed into the seats, filling the front rows. Volunteers from the detention ministry greeted them and handed out worship aids and song sheets.

To the right of the altar, a choir of about 12 volunteers from the Catholic Community of Pleasanton prepared to sing. As “Joy to the World” filled the gymnasium, the bishop of Oakland processed to the altar, accompanied by priests and a deacon who are involved in detention ministry.

At Divine Mercy, worship — Masses, song, was also vibrant.

Volunteers from the detention ministry, who work in detention ministry, offered their thanks to the chaplains and detention volunteers about receiving the sacraments that will allow them to do just that.

In his homily, Bishop Barber encouraged the men to keep on beyond getting out of jail to eternal life.

In order to live forever, he told them, we need to get some of the divinity Jesus had inside of us.

“You're then invincible,” he said. “Even if someone kills you, you're going to live forever.”

He encouraged the inmates to talk with the chaplains and detention volunteers about receiving the sacraments that will allow them to do just that.

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, he told them, they have “another mother.”

“Mary and Jesus are always on duty, taking care of us,” Bishop Barber said.

The shepherd, holding his crozier, did not leave the altar until the last of blue-cloth flock had filed out of the room.

You really feel the presence of Christ here'

By Michele Jurich

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**Reverend Gerard Moran returns to St. Isidore Parish in Danville**

**Staff report**

Reverend Gerard K. Moran, who was on administrative leave since Sept. 21, has been restored as pastor at St. Isidore Parish, Danville, effective Dec. 17. Father Moran was removed after Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, informed him that Patrick Foley had been celebrating Mass and other sacraments at St. Isidore. Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego issued a letter Sept. 4, saying Father Foley had been removed most prudently and discreetly.

In a Dec. 17 letter, the bishop wrote, “This is a grave concern, since this meant the children of St. Isidore Parish and School had been at risk of being with a priest [Foley] with credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

“Under the charter and our policies, this led to a complaint being filed [February 7, 2020] with the California Attorney General’s office by a victim of sexual abuse.

“The bishop wrote: “That’s one of his favorite titles for Our Lady. While the contents of the original Ark of the Covenant were lost, when Mary answered "yes" to the Angel Gabriel, she became the Ark of the New Covenant. She carried the Son of God in her body. When one receives Holy Communion, we carry Christ into the world. Bishop Barber thanked the members of the Regina Mundi Society, who are donors who give $1,000 or more each year to the Bishop’s Appeal, for helping him bring the Good News to all the people who live in the Diocese of Oakland.

**Correction**

Claire Elmore is an active docent at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland. A photo caption in the Dec. 10 issue was wrong.

The bishop said he was grateful to Father Mockel for his loyalty and said he would continue as vicar general and pastor in the Diocese of Oakland.

**Santa Maria pastor reappointed vicar general**

The bishop said he was grateful to Father Mockel for his loyalty and said he would continue as vicar general and pastor in the Diocese of Oakland.

**Staff report**

Very Rev. George Mockel, vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland, has been reappointed to the post. Father Mockel is also the full-time pastor at Santa Maria Parish in Orinda.

In making the announcement, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, said, “Upon the expiration of his five-year term as vicar general, in December this year, Father Mockel requested that his term not be renewed. He has done an excellent job as the vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland. His dedication to our diocese over these years has been invaluable in helping me in my ministry as bishop and in serving the faithful... He has done an excellent job as the vicar general of our diocese and has always served with prudence, wisdom and discretion.”

The bishop said he was grateful to Father Mockel for his loyalty and said he would continue as vicar general and pastor in the Diocese of Oakland.

The vicar general has been vicar general since July 1, 2006, and served Bishops Allan H. Vigneron and Salvatore J. Cordileone, both became archbishops, in Detroit and San Francisco, respectively. The vicar general aids the bishop in the overall administration and governance of the diocese. He exercises his bishop’s ordinary executive authority over the entire diocese with the exception of any authority the bishop or pastor may confer. He acts as a kind of chief operating officer, and must be not only a loyal pastor, but an excellent administrator.

The bishop said he was grateful to Father Mockel for his loyalty and said he would continue as vicar general and pastor in the Diocese of Oakland.

**Regina Mundi: Carrying the Good News into the world**

When the Diocese of Oakland was created in 1962, Bishop Floyd Bennis petitioned the Vatican to place it under the protection of Our Lady Queen of the World. In recounting that story in his Dec. 15 homily at a Mass attended by the Regina Mundi Society, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, told the gathering of one of his favorite titles for Our Lady. While the contents of the original Ark of the Covenant were lost, when Mary answered “yes” to the Angel Gabriel, she became the Ark of the New Covenant. She carried the Son of God in her body. When one receives Holy Communion, we carry Christ into the world. Bishop Barber thanked the members of the Regina Mundi Society, who are donors who give $1,000 or more each year to the Bishop’s Appeal, for helping him bring the Good News to all the people who live in the Diocese of Oakland.

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Is this the end of the Christmas season or the beginning?

By Joe Heschmeyer

Terry Mattingly of GoReligion has a great column about the “two Christmases.”

As he notes, for the Church, the Christmas season runs from Christmas Day (Dec. 25) to Epiphany (Jan. 6). These are the famous Twelve Days of Christmas. But in secular society, the Christmas season runs from around Thanksgiving until Dec. 25. So Dec. 25 marks either the end of the Christmas season (for secular culture), or the First Day of Christmas (for the Church).

It’s an important difference, and one in which he notes many Christians tend to side with the world, rather than the Church: “Unfortunately, most Americans — especially evangelical Protestants — have so distanced themselves from any awareness of the Christian calendar that their decisions about that kind of question have been handed over to the culture,” said the Rev. Russell D. Moore, dean of the theology school at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Many evangelicals fear the “cold formalism” that comes with churches that follow the liturgical calendar, and the result, he said, is “no sense of what happens when in the Christian year, at all.” Thus, instead of celebrating ancient feasts such as Epiphany, Pentecost and the Transfiguration, far too many American church calendars are limited to Christmas and Easter, along with cultural festivities such as Mother’s Day, the Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and the Super Bowl.

The difference

For the world, what we’ve just gone through was the Christmas season, and it’s tied to (at best) being nice, and it’s tied to (at worst) non-stop marketing, shopping, and fighting off loneliness and despair with a credit card.

Dec. 25 marks the end of the world’s Christmas season, because this is the climax of their efforts. This is the day when we come together and share all of those presents, and where we take some time off of work to be with our families. Once the presents are opened, and our families have started to annoy us again, it’s back to our ordinary routines. Santa Claus, the central figure of this Christmas, is already gone by Christmas morning.

But for the Church, Dec. 25 should mark a beginning, not an end. It marks Christ’s advent into the world where, for the first time, we could behold the Savior of the World in the Flesh, as the rich and the poor, the Magi and the shepherds, fail to their knees. The period we just went through wasn’t the Christmas season, because Christ hadn’t come yet. It was the Advent season, in which we’ve prepared for Christ’s coming.

The Catechism explains that in Advent, the Church “prepares present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor’s birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: ‘He must increase, but I must decrease.’ Just as you tidy up for a party, and tidy up a lot for an important party, the birth of Christ himself, his visit to each and every one of us, should motivate us to clean out our old sins, and making space for Christ to come in.

With this view, Christ is our guest, and we want him to stay with us forever. So Dec. 25 celebrates his arrival, and we savor this arrival in a special way for days, culminating on either Jan. 6 (the traditional date of the Feast of the Epiphany), Epiphany Sunday (the nearest Sunday to Jan. 6), or even Candlemas (Feb. 2, for those cultures that really like Christmas time).

In a nutshell, here’s what I’d say are the two most important differences between the liturgical calendar and the secular one: 1. One makes Christmas something we do for Christ, while the other makes it something he does for us. The world’s version focuses on our efforts (our shopping, caroling and the like), while the Church’s version focuses on Christ’s entry. 2. The world’s view of the Christmas season is largely without Christ. That is, all but the last day are a celebration of something we’re calling ‘Christmas’ without the Nativity. What exactly are we celebrating Dec. 25 that’s different than what we were celebrating, say, Dec. 20? By de-emphasizing the utter centrality of the Nativity to Christmas, the focus starts to come off of Christ. Whether it’s shifted toward family or shopping, that shift’s still a disaster.

As Mattingly notes, this has hit Evangelicals the hardest. With a cultural suspicion of Advent and the whole notion of “liturgical seasons,” Evangelicals end up turning to the world for their seasons and holidays. The most shocking example (at least to me) was my discovery that when Christmas falls on a Sunday, many Evangelical churches simply cancel church services. In 2011, when Christmas was on a Sunday, David Gibson reported for the Wall Street Journal: “Nearly 10 percent of Protestant churches will be closed on Christmas Sunday this year, according to LifeWay Research, and most pastors who are opening up say they expect far fewer people than on other Sundays. Other reports suggest that churches across the board are scaling down their services in anticipation of fewer worshipers.”

We have to face the reality of families who don’t want to struggle to get kids dressed and come to church, said Brad Jernberg of Dallas’s Cliff Temple Baptist Church told the Associated Baptist Press. Similarly, Beth Car Baptist Church in Halifax, Virginia, is planning a short service featuring bluegrass riffs on Christmas music, “a brief sermon, and then we’re going home,” said Pastor Mike Parmelee.

I suppose that this avoids the risk that worshiping God would get in the way of the purpose of secular-Christmas — to be with your family.

The real war

The secular “Christmas” season is a time of strife, with the infamous “war on Christmas” specials that Fox runs annually. But the real “war on Christmas” that we should be worried about is the one I just described, the internal destruction of Christmas by Christians.

Let me give two examples of what I mean here. The first one involves a disaster... (Continued on Page 11.)

The Three Kings are seen in a Nativity scene made of sand in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Dec. 10.

Diocese of Oakland Vocations Office
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Sister Wendy dies

WASHINGTON — Sister Wendy Beckett, who gained fame in the 1990s for television shows and books explaining art, died Dec. 26 in Norfolk, England, at the age of 88. She has been widely described as both an unlikely art critic and television star, but that may have been what made her all the more likeable. She joined the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur when she was 16 and died where she had long lived, on the property of a Carmelite monastery.

Clergy fall in poll

Americans’ view of the honesty and ethics of clergy has fallen to an all-time low in a ranking of different professions released by Gallup. The Gallup poll, conducted between Dec. 3-12 of 1,025 U.S. adults, found that only 37 percent of respondents had a “very high” or “high” opinion of the honesty and ethical standards of clergy. Forty-three percent of people gave them an average rating, while 15 percent said they had a “low” or “very low” opinion, according to media account, “Don’t worry, you will get used to it.”

Stickers help evangelize

BATON ROUGE, La. — An Election Day mistake opened the door wide for some real evangelization. It began as some voting locations Nov. 6 ran out of “I Voted” stickers, which are traditionally provided by the Louisiana Secretary of State’s office to people at the polls. The governmental faux pas created a deluge of complaints on social media, with voters asking why they were unable to get a sticker. At one point, Father Michael Aiello, pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, posted on his social media account, “Don’t worry, you will get an ‘I Prayed Today’ sticker today when you come to Mass.”

Migrant caravan

Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands from Central America trying to reach the United States, walk next to the border wall as they try to cross into the U.S. from Tijuana, Mexico. Catholic groups such as the Hope Border Institute in El Paso, Texas, denounced the deaths of two immigrant children in December, saying the deaths could have been prevented if U.S. authorities were not blocking migrants from entry points where they can legally ask for asylum. Instead, they said, migrants are driven to enter through more dangerous locations, where they experience dehydration and other dangers, or are sent to crowded locations not fit to house children.

Illinois abuse report

CHICAGO — Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan’s report claiming that the clergy sexual abuse of minors in the state is “significantly more extensive” than what the state’s dioceses had previously reported is unfair and “just false,” according to the top lawyer for the Archdiocese of Chicago. William R. Kunkel, general counsel of the archdiocese, made the comments in an interview with The Washington Post Dec. 20. “We don’t see lawyers, doctors, schools publishing lists” of allegations not found to be “reasonably credible,” he told the daily newspaper.

Charges against nuns

WASHINGTON — The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has changed its mind about not seeking charges against two women religious who were found to have “misappropriated” a “substantial amount” of money, perhaps up to half a million dollars, from one of its Catholic schools. Various news stories say that after archdiocesan officials disclosed in a Dec. 3 meeting with parents from St. James Catholic School in Torrance that Sister Mary Margaret Kreuper and Sister Lana Chang had perhaps embezzled as much as $500,000, the school community expressed outrage.

Resist Christmas attack

WASHINGTON — Members of Our Lady of Lavang Parish in Portland did not let an attack steal their Christmas observances. Volunteers at the Vietnamese Catholic community gathered Christmas Eve, tools in hand, to repair their church, which had been seriously damaged when a man intentionally drove his SUV into the walls and doors were heavily damaged. About 100 parishioners responded to the call for help of Father Ansgar Pham, pastor.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE VIETNAMESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GATHERED CHRISTMAS EVE, TOOLS IN HAND, TO REPAIR THEIR CHURCH, WHICH HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED WHEN A MAN INTENTIONALLY DRIVED HIS SUV INTO THE WALLS AND DOORS WERE HEAVILY DAMAGED. ABOUT 100 PARISHIONERS RESPONDED TO THE CALL FOR HELP OF FATHER ANSGAR PHAM, PASTOR.

Cardinal Pell

WASHINGTON — A Michigan priest criticized for emphasizing suicide in his homily during a recent funeral for an 18-year-old who took his own life has since apologized. “As with any funeral, it was my intent to serve this family in their time of grief, but I fell well short of providing them the comfort they so desperately needed. Instead, I added to their pain. I deeply regret that, and I am sorry,” said Father Don LaCuesta, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Temperance, Michigan.

Baton Rouge, La. — An Election Day mistake opened the door wide for some real evangelization. It began as some voting locations Nov. 6 ran out of “I Voted” stickers, which are traditionally provided by the Louisiana Secretary of State’s office to people at the polls. The governmental faux pas created a deluge of complaints on social media, with voters asking why they were unable to get a sticker. At one point, Father Michael Aiello, pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Baton Rouge, posted on his social media account, “Don’t worry, you will get an ‘I Prayed Today’ sticker today when you come to Mass.”

Cardinal George Pell reportedly has been found guilty on five charges related to sexual abuse of minors in the 1990s. The trial, the specific charges, the testimony and almost everything about it was under secrecy. The impetus, according to media account, “Don’t worry, you will get an ‘I Prayed Today’ sticker today when you come to Mass.”

A Michigan priest who criticized emphasizing suicide in his homily during a recent funeral for an 18-year-old who took his own life has since apologized. “As with any funeral, it was my intent to serve this family in their time of grief, but I fell well short of providing them the comfort they so desperately needed. Instead, I added to their pain. I deeply regret that, and I am sorry,” said Father Don LaCuesta, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Temperance, Michigan.

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WASHINGTON — The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has changed its mind about not seeking charges against two women religious who were found to have “misappropriated” a “substantial amount” of money, perhaps up to half a million dollars, from one of its Catholic schools. Various news stories say that after archdiocesan officials disclosed in a Dec. 3 meeting with parents from St. James Catholic School in Torrance that Sister Mary Margaret Kreuper and Sister Lana Chang had perhaps embezzled as much as $500,000, the school community expressed outrage.

WASHINGTON — Members of Our Lady of Lavang Parish in Portland did not let an attack steal their Christmas observances. Volunteers at the Vietnamese Catholic community gathered Christmas Eve, tools in hand, to repair their church, which had been seriously damaged when a man intentionally drove his SUV into the walls and doors were heavily damaged. About 100 parishioners responded to the call for help of Father Ansgar Pham, pastor.
School seeks to meet challenge grant

Staff report

Silicon Valley real estate developer and philanthropist John A. Sobrato will be matching dollar-for-dollar donations up to $25,000 made through June 30 to Cristo Rey De la Salle East Bay High School in Oakland. The gift from Sobrato, who has been a major supporter of Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School and ICA Cristo Rey Academy in San Francisco, will benefit the day-to-day operations of the Oakland high school. The school’s inaugural class, which numbers 64 students in its first year, entered the St. Elizabeth campus in the Fruitvale district in 2018.

Greg Young, the high school’s director of mission advancement, said Sobrato visited the campus in November. “He’s a businessman,” Young said. Sobrato asked questions. “He wants to understand where we are,” Young said. “He understands the model, the process and the importance.”

Shortly after the visit, Young said, Sobrato made the challenge grant. “The Sobrato family has been such a huge supporter of our school, but also Cristo Rey San Jose and ICA,” Young said. “This is his way of continuing his commitment to Catholic high school education.”

The challenge grant is Sobrato’s first gift to the Oakland school, Young said. Such a grant allows the Oakland school to engage donors in the mission to provide high quality Catholic education to students from families of limited financial means.

Every student earns up to half of his or her annual tuition through Cristo Rey’s corporate work study program. Although families contribute a fraction of the actual cost of tuition, there is a gap of about $8,000 per year per student. “My wife and I are delighted to support Cristo Rey De la Salle East Bay High School in their founding year” Sobrato said. “This extends our commitment to support Catholic education and the Cristo Rey model in the Bay Area, a proven and effective model that enables low-income youth to break the cycle of poverty through education and work.”

In 1998, Sobrato, who heads one of the most successful private real estate development organizations in California, created the Sobrato Family Foundation to provide philanthropic support to local non-profit organizations.

“Mr. Sobrato’s generous pledge furthers our mission of educating young people to be men and women of faith, purpose and service,” Young said.

To help the school meet its goal in the challenge grant, see www.cristoreydeaslalle.org/Donate.

Families, friends gather for cemeteries’ Vigil of Light

Special to The Catholic Voice

Thousands of family members recently gathered at five Catholic cemeteries across the Diocese of Oakland for a powerful All Souls Day experience.

On Nov. 2, Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services extended the hours of cemetery operation for its annual Vigil of Light, providing families the opportunity to gather in prayer at the gravesites of their loved ones. Beginning at dusk with the blessing of candles, families process by gravesites and mausoleums in silent prayer of the departed.

“My life as a Catholic is woven with the memories of my family and friends who have gone before me,” Young said. “I was profoundly moved by the beauty and grace of the Vigil of Light, providing families the opportunity to gather in prayer at the gravesites of their loved ones. Beginning at dusk with the blessing of candles, families process by gravesites and mausoleums in silent prayer of the departed.”

The Vigil of Light Program was started a number of years ago by Robert Seelig, CEO for Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, who envisioned opening diocesan cemeteries at night allowing families the unique opportunity to place candles on graves. “A cemetery full of light creates a respectful opportunity for families to gather together for the true prayerful purpose of All Souls Day,” Seelig recently reflected. “It felt this program would set us apart from all other cemeteries and speak volumes about our faith to the larger community.”

The Vigil of Light program is conducted annually at CCSF Cemetery & Funeral Centers in Antioch (Holy Cross), Hayward (Holy Sepulchre), Lafayette (Queen of Heaven),
Father Kappler takes Canada post

Rev. Stephan Kappler, who has served as pastor of St. Jarlath Parish for the past five years, bid farewell to the Oakland parish at the end of the 2018.

On Feb. 1, Father Kappler will become CEO/president of the Southdown Institute in Toronto, Canada. Father Kappler, who is a psychologist, did his post-doctoral residency at the institute in 2013.

The Southdown Institute, founded in 1966, provides preventive and restorative care to clergy and vowed religious using the integration of psychological, physical and inter-personal practice with the wisdom of the Catholic Spiritual Tradition, according to its mission statement.

The institute recruited Father Kappler for the position, which must be filled by a priest or religious who also is a psychologist.

For the past five years Father Kappler has divided his time between the parish and his psychology practice, KAIROS Psychology Group, where he serves clergy and Religious with their psychological/emotional needs.

In a bulletin letter to his parishioners, Father Kappler said he had mixed emotions about the move.

“I am very excited and elated to be given such a prestigious and important leadership position at an organization that helps priests, religious, seminarians and other faith leaders from around the world. It is a great honor to be given such trust, and I am so grateful to Bishop Barber for giving me his permission. Father Kappler said that new role for a period of five years.

However, I am also deeply sad to leave St. Jarlath. For the past five years my heart has been here with you, and I have felt so very much at home with all of you. I have done my best to be a good pastoral leader, and I am glad to say that I think I am leaving St. Jarlath a stronger, more financially solid and more united parish.”

Rev. Hector Enrique Ballesteros, parochial vicar at St. Leander Parish, San Leandro, was appointed parochial administrator of the parish, effective Jan. 1.

Father Kappler’s Oakland-based KAIROS Psychology Group will continue, transitioning to a different format. He will continue to provide assessments for the Diocese of Oakland.

Moreau Catholic students create special children’s books for the holidays

For 38 children in San Francisco, their Christmas was a little brighter thanks to special books written in English and Spanish by Moreau Catholic High School students.

The school’s Spanish 3 Honors students wrote the children’s stories, illustrated them and donated the books to children from the Up on Top program in San Francisco.

Many of the books focus on either pets or children and include a moral like “don’t give up,” “being different,” “human kindness” and “self-acceptance.”

“I am very proud of my students’ work, not only to see the final product but also to see how enthusiastic they became when they found out where we were going to deliver the books,” said Moreau Spanish teacher Ana Patterson. “The books are just wonderful!”

“Some of my students have previously met the children in the program so have a special friend to which they have written the book,” Patterson added. “Writing the book and giving it to the child in person has a great impact for both of them.”

Pilgrimages

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Portugal – Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima – join the international Rosary & candlelight procession.


France – Lourdes – The Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary & candlelight procession. Visit the final product and giving it to the child in person has a great impact for both of them.”

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mpisano@unitours.com
1-800-777-7432

Contact: Camille Tompkins
at The Catholic Voice
cptomkins@oakdiocese.org

 Spiritual Guide
Fr. Richard Mangini

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Spanish 3 Honors students wrote and illustrated the children’s books.

The students began working on their books a month ago with Patterson helping them with editing their Spanish.

“The project teaches our students many things, including what it means to be Holy Cross and open up their hearts to those in need,” Patterson said. “The students are very proud of their work and many of them want to keep in touch with the kids.”

Patterson completed a similar project in years past, when her AP Spanish students sent the children’s books they created to a school library in Honduras.

Join The Catholic Voice & Unitours, Inc. for a
Informational Q & A meeting

about the Marian Shrines Pilgrimage. Have your travel questions answered or find a roommate.

Saturday, January 12, 2019 • 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
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6401 San Pablo Ave., Oakland (between 64th Street and Ocean)
RSVP: ctdownspins@oakdiocese.org or 510-419-1081

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Spiritual Guide
Father Jim Schexnayder

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2808 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland
R.S.V.P. ctompkins@oakdiocese.org Or 510-419-1081
Sisters who feed felines are separated, earmarked for orders of cans with labels in various states of boxes of pumpkin spice Twinkies. Some Thanksgiving stuffing. It rides near the躺在床上 of chicken broth that didn’t make it to organic whipping cream. There’s a box cartons of organic milk, and a case of Some crushed doughnuts will not make of his three stops this day, and he knows what to expect. He packs the truck carefully. He slows down.

Dice, who is 84, and shows no sign of the Muffin People for at least a dozen

staff writer

On a chilly Tuesday morning — the temperature is 36 degrees at 7:18 a.m. — Jack Dice backs his Dodge Dakota truck into the receiving dock at the Safeway in Moraga. Dice carefully returns each cart he was waving goodbye to Safeway and headed to Lafayette, where some of his was waving goodbye to Safeway and headed to St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room, about 10 blocks from his home. The narrow side street is blocked by a pair of box trucks delivering

The Muffin People delivered their first run, consisting of bread and bakery goods, on May 20, 1988, to St. Mary’s Church Food Program in Oakland — which became St. Mary’s Center. John DiPalermo and Joe Stuart volunteered to start collecting goods from Moraga stores three days a week, at the request of Sister Baptista at the center to parishioners at St. Monica Church in Moraga for redonations.

While delivering food — in the early days, a sizeable number of muffins were donated — to St. Mary’s, a woman yelled, “Here comes the Muffin Man.” The ministry, renamed the Muffin People, became a staple at St. Monica Parish, where 36 people choose their day and make a run — or two — of it. It takes 24 vehicles a week to keep to the schedule.

A unanimous vote — 2-0 — of its previous leaders put Jack Dice at the head of this pack of do-gooders. He’s been one of the Muffin People for at least a dozen years. “I’ll do this as long as I can,” said Dice, who is 84, and shows no sign of slowing down.

He’s on a first-name basis with the receiving clerks. Seven full Safeway carts await him. He packs the truck carefully. He has a sense of what awaits him at each of his three stops this day, and he knows what he’ll need room. He pulls the food. Some crushed doughnuts will not make the trip through the tunnel.

But the cartons of eggs will. As do the cartons of organic milk, and a case of organic whipped cream. There’s a box of chicken broth that didn’t make it to Thanksgiving stuffing. It rides near the boxes of pumpkin spice Twinkies. Some cans with labels in various states of coming unglued go into a crate. Cat food cans are separated, earmarked for orders of Sisters who feed felines.

A half-sheet cake decorated with balloons slides carefully onto the rear seat of the truck.

Dice carefully returns each cart he was waving goodbye to Safeway and headed to Lafayette, where some of his fellow Muffin People were already at work going through the day’s donations from the stores on the other side.

Fifty-five minutes after he began, he was waving goodbye to Safeway and headed to Lafayette, where some of his fellow Muffin People were already at work going through the day’s donations from the Safeway in Moraga. Allow me to introduce you to the muffin man. There is no Drury Lane in his town. The name conferred on a recipient — “Here comes the Muffin Man” — stuck. But they are the Muffin People, some, but not all, in various stages of retirement. Working people do the Saturday runs.

Six days a week, they bring pickups, SUVs and even small sedans to loading docks of grocers and bakers in Central Contra Costa County — Pleasant Hill, Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda — and accept and deliver the baked goods by date, or in some cases just a day old, and deliver it to the less fortunate on the other side of the Caldecott Tunnel.

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Dice carefully returns each cart he was waving goodbye to Safeway and headed to Lafayette, where some of his fellow Muffin People were already at work going through the day’s donations from the stores on the other side.
Leadership change at St. Mary’s Center

By Carrie McClish
Staff writer

As the new executive director of St. Mary’s Center, Sharon Cornu said she plans to build on the solid foundation set into place by her predecessor Carol Johnson, Cornu said Dec. 6, following the Annual Memorial for Homeless People, hosted by St. Mary’s Center, a nonprofit organization that provides vital services to improve the quality of life for at-risk seniors and preschoolers in West Oakland. “We need to grow to continue to meet the growing need,” said Cornu, who recently retired after two decades of service, overseeing an expansion of programs and facilities at St. Mary’s Center that included the addition of A Friendly Manor, a day center for homeless women, 24 units of SRO-type housing (for people with low or minimal incomes) and the acquisition of the Closer to Home and Presentation House transitional housing units, all in West Oakland.

Cornu cited the work of the Center’s Senior Advocates for Hope and Justice, a program that educates and trains seniors at the center to become advocates by focusing on the policies that affect them directly, as a significant component of the work of the Center. “It is so critically important on the advocacy side in helping make sure that the policymakers who are making important decisions know what St. Mary’s knows about homelessness,” she said.

One of the concerns the Senior Advocates have worked on recently has been on restoring cuts to Supplemental Security Income amounts, which many of those at the center live on. “St. Mary’s Center is also actively involved in efforts to stop discrimination against homeless people and in educating others about the need for affordable housing in the community.”

Prior to her arrival at St. Mary’s, Cornu had been part of an Oakland-based consulting practice that focused on public policy and leadership development in housing, transit and workforce. An instructor at Oakland’s Mills College, she previously served as Oakland deputy mayor and director of advocacy at the Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California. Her first job after college was at a settlement house in Providence, Rhode Island, much like St. Mary’s Center. “I am excited to be at a place that is all about solutions and is really ready to ramp up and serve people and work to prevent homelessness,” Cornu said. “We have such important communities in Oakland that have contributed to the robustness and the beauty of the land that we love. Our tenants need more protections and we need more housing affordability. We know what we need to do and we’re going to go do it.”

Longtime volunteer honored

St. Mary Magdalen Parish celebrated Robert Kelleher’s decades of service as chair of the Berkeley parish’s finance council, from which he retired in 2018, shortly after he turned 90. A short ceremony took place after Communion at the 5:30 p.m. Mass Nov. 3. A potluck reception followed in the parish hall, with special guests including long-time parishioners who have moved away, and a pair of Dominican priests. Kelleher continues to serve as a lector at the 8 a.m. Mass and remains the chief of “Monday Morning Money Counters.” Among family and friends surrounding him at the special event were Lorraine Kelleher Sommers and Mike Sommers, standing; seated from left, Helen Sommers, Beverly Kelleher Croshul and Steve Croshul, Rec. Hilary Martin, OP, and Robert (Bob) and Louise (Lolly) Kelleher. Rec. Nicholas Glisson, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen, thanked Kelleher for his decades of service. The parish, by the way, has begun a quarterly senior luncheon. For details, go to www.marymagdalen.org.

Pupils visit seniors

From left, Felicita Castillo, Kalya Kirkwood, Aiden Lee and Kevin Hoang visit with three residents at Villa of Castro Valley on Dec. 3 as part holiday visit to the senior residence. After visiting and sharing cards with their new friends, the whole fifth grade class from Our Lady of Grace School, Castro Valley, ended its hour-long visit with a performance of Christmas cards for the residents.

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

◆ SPIRITUALITY
Feb. 2, March 2 Senior Anointing Mass, 11 a.m. at Divine Mercy, 37/20 St. Oakland. All seniors, their caregivers or anyone seriously ill or anticipating surgery are invited to be anointed with the oil and sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. 510-530-0761.

Anointing Service at Holy Spirit Church, starts at 11 a.m. at 37/38 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. For seniors. Those who are seriously ill or those anticipating surgery. A complimentary luncheon will be served following Mass. 510-977-1660.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Candidacy Awareness Workshop — What's Next? Presented by Jim Briggs. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Mercy Center, 2200 Adeline Drive, Berkeley. $75 nonrefundable registration. Information: 650-340-3471 or visit www.mercy-center.org.

◆ SOCIALS/LUNCHEONS
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15
Senior Social at St. John Vianney Parish. Come hang out,ascalbe and meet new people from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Mullin Commons, 1050 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Singles, widows, divorced, separated single — all are welcome. Cost: $5 includes lunch. To sign up call the parish office at 925-255-7671.


Thursday, Jan. 31

Senior Potluck Luncheon at St. Mary Magdalen Parish. Participates who meet in the parish hall from noon to 3 p.m., are asked to bring a dish to serve 12 to 15 people: summer A — desserts; summer B — main dish. Please call Patsy Livesay at 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

March 26, July 2, Dec. 10
Senior Potluck Luncheon, Noon in the Holy Family Parish Hall, 2245 82nd St., Berkeley. Bring a dish to share. It's free, but we need attendees to RSVP so we can set enough tables. Please RSVP to 510-530-0761, ext. 104, and let us know what you're bringing. Third Thursday.

Third Mondays
St. Anthony Parish Senior Ministry, 11:30 a.m. in the St. Anthony, 971 Oriana Ave., Berkeley. The luncheons are sponsored by various parish organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Guadalupe Ministry, PBS and Community as well as private individuals. In addition to lunch, the gatherings may include speakers, games like Bingo and live entertainment.

Tuesdays
St. Teresa's Soup Kitchen Senior Lunch and Speaker. Meets Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Carroll Center, 2200 Adeline St., home of the Local Union 32BJ, 3035 San Pablo Ave. Ext. Information: 510-280-4530. www.32bj.org.

Second Tuesdays
Senior Adult Ministry at St. John of Arc Parish. The Senior Adults at St. John of Arc in San Ramon meet for lunch and conversation 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2031 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. We bring our own bag lunch plus snacks to share. This is a "free" group gaining wisdom and friendship in the St. John of Arc Ministry. For more information send an email to phyllismsanramon@comcast.net.

Second Tuesdays
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Senior Luncheon. Meets every second Tuesday at 890 Oak Grove Road, Concord. Information: 925-482-5447, ext. 2. Free.

Third Tuesdays
St. Joseph Church. We have a monthly Card & Games Party in the parish hall at 1100 Keavyon Court, Walnut Creek. Beginning of name on the third Tuesday month. Parishes and friends meet to play bridge, mah-jongg, dominoes, and other games. Plus we have our own lunches; beverages and snacks are provided. Questions? Contact Walter Lang, 925-239-2430.

Third Tuesdays
St. Isidore Church's Young at Hearts Group. This gathering, an extension of the parish's Legion of Mary ministry, begins at 11:30 a.m. at 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. $3 donation. 925-837-2122.

Thursdays
St. Jerome Church Coffee Group. Meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays at 1080 Carmel Ave., El Cerro, after morning Mass 510-525-0765.


Third Fridays
St. Osipera Church's "Classic Club" Meets at 5:45 p.m. Third Fridays (except in July and August.) Please contact St. Isidore Room at St. Isidore Church for details. $4 at the door and for a potluck dinner and social. 925-363-2122.

◆ FITNESS
Mon., Wednesdays, Thursdays
Wellness Classes, 9 to 7 p.m. in hall, St. Benedict Parish, 2245 82nd St., Oakland. Come out and join us and stay healthy and fit. Led by Donna Chris, 510-952-1847.

Fridays
Line Dancing. 1 to 3 p.m. in the hall, St. Benedict Parish, 2245 82nd St., Oakland. $15. Please call Kathy 510-632-1847 for details.

◆ SUPPORT GROUPS
Tuesday, Feb. 19
Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomita Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Turning Loss into Strength," presented by Molly Fisher. Information: 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

Tuesday, March 5
Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomita Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Bone Health and Osteoporosis," presented by Marianne Lang. Information: Molly Fisher, 925-449-8849, fisher  @comcast.net.

Tuesday, March 19
Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomita Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Blood Pressure: High, Low or Normal?" presented by spatula. Information: 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

Tuesday, April 2
Life Transitions for Aging Adults. 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomita Ave., Livermore. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for social time. "Wellness Class." presented by Julie Schmitf. All are welcome to attend. Information Molly Fisher 925-449-8849, fisher.molly@comcast.net.

Fourth Wednesdays
Family Caregiver Support Ministry at St. Isidore Parish. 7 p.m. in Rooms 214 and 215 in the Mission Center. 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Family caregivers are invited to attend our monthly meetings which include prayers, handouts on caregiving and discussion related to coping when caring for loved ones. Dave Clark, 925-314-5784.

Third Thursdays
Catholic Divorced, Widowed and Separated/Singles Ministry. 7 to 9 p.m in Borromeo Hall, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1315 Lomita Ave., Livermore. Meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except in November and December. For information call Joan S. 925-309-1007.

Kevin Wilson, a chef in training from the Kitchen of Champions program, awaits a delivery at the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room in Oakland.

Muffin People . . .
(Continued from Page 5)
The donated foods amount to $1.5 million in retail value a year. The food is donated by Safeways in Moraga, Orinda and ECAP, The Muffin People also deliver to A Friendly Manor in Oakland. John deck says he is on the lookout for new drivers for the ministry. He invites people who are interested in joining the Muffin People to do as he did. “Jim Mcщеone invited me to take a ride and see about doing this kind of work.”

He liked it. “You feel like you’re accomplishing something,” he said. He said other signs of the ministry’s success are plentiful. “After they finish for the day, they feel so good about what they accomplished.”

There’s a statistic that motivates his work as well. “When you hear one out of four children in the Bay Area go to bed hungry,” he said, “it just staggering.”

The Catholic Voice
JANUARY 7, 2019
10 — THE CATHOLIC VOICE
Senior Living & Resources

The descriptions of seniors in this section were provided by the service agencies, which are responsible for the accuracy of the content.
Diocese greets . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

diversity of ethnicity, social levels and cultures, said Rev. Brian Macadaeg, Divine Mercy's parochial administrator. “This is a great opportunity for people to come together for a picnic. Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ, bishop of Oakland, wrote, “My joy is overblown, and I might go for, the first time, at the Parish of Divine Mercy.”

Divine Mercy is at the very core of what it means to be Catholic. And for many Oaklanders, it is a special part of their faith. The fifth anniversary of the Parish of Divine Mercy is being celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 27, with a Mass and a reception beginning at 10 a.m. on April 28, Divine Mercy Sunday. Bishop Barber is scheduled to say the Mass.

For more information or assistance with your advertisement, call 510-419-1081 or email etompkins@oakdiocese.org

Walk for Life . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

A walk down Market Street will follow the rally.

Hoye’s Stand4Life Rally and Walk will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Oakland City Hall. Speakers will include Karen I. Shablin, former health policy executive for Stages for Life; Health Care Excellence, LLC; Pat Castile, president, CEO and founder of LIFE Runners; and Rev. Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life.

Issues4Life will benefit from a 6 p.m. Jan. 15 webcast at www.issues4life.org/webcast.html or by phone at 833-202-0916. The Day of Celebration, Commemorating the 90th Birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 20, is going to be a major event. Judge Hing sentenced Hoye to a misdemeanor that hadn’t existed until then — a violation of the “stay-away” order — to stay away from the abortion clinic with a sign that read, “God loves you and your baby. Let us help you.”

This should be a wake-up call for drivers. The love and care that people have for their families is not (hopefully) . But “holiday” has come to mean simply “vacation,” because that is all it has been since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Once the stay-away order was added to the package,”______

This is about Christmas.” Yikes.

This is a faith community. Wherever you hear the cry of the poor, you will find the cry of your own poor heart. You will who are helpless, need a home, need legal or are fighting an addiction; Bishop Barber wrote. “This is to be a test of faith for those who have been deprived of Christ, witnesses of mercy and a beacon of hope.”

Once the new parish was announced, there’s a “sense of excitement, hope,” Father Macadaeg said. “Sincere people are coming together to renew a parish.”

To celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy, there will be a special service at St. Paschal Baylon the evening of April 27, followed by one Mass and a reception beginning at 10 a.m. on April 28, Divine Mercy Sunday. Bishop Barber is scheduled to say the Mass. Please send couple’s names, photo and your personal message with your daytime telephone number and email address. Include with your check to:

The Catholic Voice
2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612

Celebrating your 2019 Wedding Anniversary?
Let The Catholic Voice readers and your loved ones share in celebrating your lifelong commitment of marriage with other married couples in the Diocese of Oakland.

The Catholic Voice Anniversaries Edition
February 4, 2019

Personal Congratulatory Messages for couples celebrating the sacrament of marriage will be published in the February 4 edition of The Catholic Voice.

Sizes and prices are:

Single Business Card Size (3 1/8“ x 2”) . . . . . . . $35
Double Business Card Size (3 1/4“ x 4”) . . . . . $65

Deadline for Space Reservation: January 23, 2019

For more information or assistance with your advertisement, call 510-419-1081 or email etompkins@oakdiocese.org

Is this the end . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

cute over whether or not two bus drivers were allowed to decorate their bus with Christmas decorations. One of the bus drivers defended the decorations by saying, “This is totally not a religious thing.”

This is about Christmas.” Yikes.

This should be a wake-up call for those who want Christmas to be, you know, about Christmas. We should be uncomfortable with both sides of the “war on Christmas” those who want Christmas stamped out of public life, and those who want Christmas hollowed out into something harmless and non-controversial. The second example is a more general one, the ongoing debate over whether we mean simply “vacation,” because that’s how we treat our holidays. This is most obvious in the UAE, where the “vacationing” time of year is often described as “going on holiday.” But we Americans are guilty of this as well. If we weren’t, we wouldn’t be so upset about the phrase “Happy Holidays,” because it’s a religious phrase. “Happy Holidays” has been sterilized to the point that secularists have no trouble using it, that’s partly our own fault.

Conclusion

So Dec. 25 is to be an end, let it be an end to the secular celebration of “Christmasmas” and all for all. Take Christmas as an opportunity to start fresh by welcoming the Word of God into your home for the day, and for the Christmas season, and forever.

(Reproduced from Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Joe Heschmeyer blogs at Shameless Popery, and alongside co-host Chloe Langr, has a weekly podcast called The Catholic Podcast.)

Day of the Sick Feb. 9

Staff report

The annual World Day of the Sick Mass will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. Those who are sick and ill and their families, caregivers and health care providers are invited to observe this day with the religious and lay people from the Diocese of Oakland.

World Day of the Sick events in Oakland will include Mass, Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, blessings of caregivers and health care providers, distribution of holy water from Lourdes, France, and a reception.

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 event is a ministry of the Diocese of Oakland and is supported by the Order of Malta.

The Order of Malta serves the sick, and assists with many charities, including both free medical and legal clinics in the cathedral center. For health clinic information, 510-587-9300 or orderofmaltaclinic.com

The Catholic Voice
2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612

Celebrating your 2019 Anniversary Contest

All married couples celebrating their anniversary can mail in their entry form to The Catholic Voice to win a $50 gift certificate at Scott’s Seafood Restaurant in Jack London Square, 2 Broadway, Oakland location only!

ANNIVERSARY CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 8, 2019
California Catholic Church to focus on three core issues in 2019

By Al Donner Special to The Catholic Voice

The Catholic presence at the state Capitol is focused on three core issues in the 2019 legislative session — early childhood education, human life and immigration — says Andy Rivas, new executive director of the California Catholic Conference.

These are core areas where Catholic teaching has a direct role in shaping public policies, policies that may be targets for new legislative efforts in 2019. He spoke at a recent Catholics@Work presentation in Danville.

Each is a subject of long-standing Catholic teaching; each emphasizes respect for human life.

In early childhood education the Church has been a long-time leader and should be allowed to continue its important role even if the state starts its own new programs, Rivas emphasizes.

Rivas also fears that lawmakers may try to expand abortion opportunities, particularly to allow them on college campuses. A bill that passed the Legislature in 2018 but was vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown was one example.

On immigration Rivas says, the people of faith are already helping, not to destroy “the nation’s long history of and benefits from immigration.”

Rivas suggests Catholics to check its website www.cacatholic.org to stay informed and to participate in advocating for state policy.

Still, coming in from these core policy issues is the continuing attention on sex abuse history in the church.

“It is a snowball that is coming, and we have to deal with it,” Rivas cautions.

The political focus on sex abuse tends to focus on the Catholic church, he says, even though sex abuse is widespread in many occupations and schools and most of all within families.

Regarding sex abuse legislation, Rivas points out that the church in California has already committed to pay $1.4 billion in settlements of sex abuse accusations, and bishops aggressively have removed guilty priests. But Rivas is concerned that a legislature might try to reopen the statute of limitations so that they lawyers who have made sex abuse a primary business could continue filing accusations against the Church.

Rivas sees many anomalies in the political situation facing Catholics in California. With Gavin Newsom’s inauguration in January, California will have its fourth Catholic governor in a row (Newsom, Brown, Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger). Catholics also make up the largest number of legislators in the state Capitol. Yet many Catholic legislators seem “to be very unchurched.”

A high priority legislative area may be expanding ECE, which Brown did not support. Newsom does, so a renewed effort is likely in 2019. Rivas said the bishops will try to include Catholic programs and parents in ECE programs, as other groups, including the pro-life groups, try to keep Catholics out.

Other potential legislative areas include immigration issues and embryo protection. “We have to keep reminding people that we are there to help rather than to destroy,” Rivas emphasized. “The Church needs to actually be leading the discussion” wherever it can.

Rivas, an East Los Angeles native, came to Sacramento from Los Angeles where he headed Government & Community Relations for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles under Archbishop Jose H. Gomez. In more than 20 years of Church advocacy efforts, Rivas has been executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, a policy advisor in domestic social development with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and an advocate for Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Virginia, plus a stint on a Congressional committee staff working for the late Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona.

The CCC is the formal voice of the Catholic community in California’s public policy arena. It serves the state’s 12 bishop dioceses, encompassing nearly 11 million Catholics. The CCC is based near the state Capitol in Sacramento, coordinating efforts to shape public policy and serve various Catholic efforts in the state.

Red Delosie retired last summer as CCC’s executive director.

OBITUARIES

Sister Julianne Josten, OP

Sister Julianne Josten, also known by her religious name, Sister Mary Leonard, died Dec. 10 in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. She was 92 years of age and had been a member of the Sinsinawa Dominicans for 72 years.

Born Nov. 21, 1926 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sister Julianne made her first profession as a Sinsinawa Dominican in August 1946, and her perpetual profession in 1949. A longtime educator, she was a teacher for 30 years and served as principal for 12 years, 1988 to 2003.

She served as activities director for 30 years, then as assistant principal for 20 years. Her assignments included assignments in the archdioceses of Chicago, Milwaukee, Dubuque, Los Angeles, St. Paul and Minneapolis, and the Diocese of Spokane.

In the Diocese of Oakland, she taught at St. Leo School in Oakland from 1967 to 1972. She also served as activities director for three years, convent administrator for three years, assistant in the General Finance Office of the Sinsinawa Dominicans for 15 years, 1988 to 2003.

She is survived by nieces and nephews. The funeral Mass was held Dec. 14 at the Sinsinawa Motherhouse in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. Burial followed in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Visit from St. Nick


YLI Communion

The Young Ladies Institute Livemore 44 celebrated its annual district Communion Mass at St. Michael Church in Livemore. The Catholic women’s organization, founded in 1897, organizes spiritual, social and charitable activities and provides financial support for seminarians and scholarship for young women. Members of the Livemore group, affiliated with St. Michael Parish, are 122 years old.

PRAYERS

THE CATHOLIC VOICE

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**NEW EVENTS**

**Friday, Jan. 11**
All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Dinner. 7 p.m. at St. Raymond Parish, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda. $20 for adults, $10 kids 12 and under. 510-522-0181. Information: clarelascola@gmail.com.

**Saturday, Jan. 19**
7th Annual Knights of Columbus Crab Feed. 5 p.m. at St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish, 351 Corina Loma Blvd., Antioch. $30 per person. Contact: Steve Rojek at 925-643-2292. No tickets sold at the door.

**Sunday, Jan. 20**
Sunday Pasta Dinner at San Damiano. 4:30 p.m. at 510 Highland Drive, Danville. Cash: $20 for adults, $10 kids 12 and under. 925-939-7911. Reservations: contact Jeanne Ziegler, 510-525-4025, ziegler.joe@icloud.com. Cost: $245 (private room) or $214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**February 22 to 24**
Retreatology — A Lifeline for Marriages. Do you feel lost, frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Retreatology helps married couples heal and renew their marriage. For more information, call 925-704-6933 or register at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or contact Andrea at 925-927-3915.

**March 8 to 10**

**TAIZÉ**

(A Ecumenical cantorial service of prayer in simple form: meditation, prayer, and veneration of the cross)

**Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 19**
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at San Jose Cathedral, 1351 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Claire La Scola, 925-950-0085.

**Jan. 25**
7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 860 Oak Grove Ave., Concord. Simon Medrano, 510-303-2965.

**Jan. 30 to Feb. 2**
Sisters 150th Anniversary presence and service in Contra Costa. To schedule: Adoration@san franciscodiscal.org.

**February 20 to 24**
Convocation of the College Fellows. At the ICF East Bay District’s Dave Rose Memorial Mullins Commons Library, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek, Bay Point, 502-059-0679.

**First Thursdays**
Military Peer Support Group. 7 p.m. in the Rectory, St. Joseph Church, 860 Oak Grove Ave., Concord. Vet Call: 925-462-4655 or prj@comcast.net.

**Third Thursdays**
Family Caregiver Support Ministry. 7 p.m. in rooms 214 and 215 in the Ministry Center at St. Jude Parish, 305 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. Family caregivers are invited to our monthly meetings which include prayer, handouts on caregiving and discussion related to coping when caring for our loved ones.

**Fourth Thursdays**
Sisters 150th Anniversary presence and service in Contra Costa. 7 to p.m. at St. Mary Parish, 2075 Highland Dr., Danville. Those who are struggling from a loss due to separation, divorce, or death are welcome to attend and discuss the healing and support of the Sisters. Please call 510-933-1007.

**Third Thursdays**
Retreats

**Jan. 11 to 13**
Cherishing A New Course with Purpose and Meaning (women’s retreat with Tom Gurkin and Options Recovery Staff). At San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cash: $245 (private room) or $214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**Jan. 25 to 27**

**Feb. 1 to 3**
St. Benedict’s Women’s Christian Fellowship’s 25th Annual Women’s Retreat — Mercy Rectory Retreat Center, 2381 Laurel Glen Road, Soquel. Father Richard Obernesser, OFM, a nationally known retreat master, returns with his special gifts of hope and healing through grace and the goodness of Jesus. Register online at www.ebtseraventures.com and at the rectory. Contact person, Andrea at 925-927-7675.

**Feb. 8 to 10**
Marriage Renewing Friendship — Married Couples Retreat with Father Rusty Schryver and Sister Mary Monica Obernesser. At San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cash: $245 (private room) or $214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**March 21 to 23**

**April 11 to 13**

**April 25 to 27**
Renewal By the Sea Retreat. At Church of the Good Shepherd, San Leandro. 510-614-2765.

**May 9 to 11**
Help after Abortion Healing Retreats. For men and women who struggle with feelings of guilt, shame and self-hatred. Three-day program.

**May 2 to 4**
Help Our Marriage — Open Program. 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Parish, 2075 Highland Dr., Danville. Cash: $245 (private room) or $214 (shared room). Information/registration: www.sandamiano.org or 925-837-9141, ext. 315.

**May 10**
Help After Abortion Healing Retreats. For men and women who struggle with feelings of guilt, shame and self-hatred. Three-day program.

**May 24 to 26**
Retreatology — A Lifeline for Marriages. Do you feel lost, frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Retreatology helps married couples heal and renew their marriage. For more information, call 925-704-6933 or register at www.HelpOurMarriage.com. Individuals are encouraged to participate.

**June 7 to 9**
Catholics for Peace and Reconciliation — Christian着他自己的新生活。...
Comfort at ‘Blue Christmas’

In its second year, the Blue Christmas service at the Cathedral of Christ the Light offered togetherness and comfort to those who due to the loss of a loved one, or personal tragedy, might not be enjoying the festivities of the Christmas season. The service was on Dec. 21, the shortest day and longest night of the year, and featured music, prayer, Scripture and quiet. Many in the audience participated in a somber, candlelighting ceremony. More photos at facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.

Lumen Christi Academies

and faith formation,” Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, said
in announcing the appointment on May 9.
“Rodney’s deep faith and commitment to Catholic edu-
Pierre-Antoine, who has served as a Catholic educator
said. “I am excited about this oppor-
tunity to lead the launch of the Lumen

Christi Academies are: Queen of
All Saints, Concord; St. Anthony,
The seven schools in the Lumen

rows.”

From above, and they are responsible to utilize those gifts

to serve others,” he said.

“Progressive learning community.”

“This gives us a chance to leverage the expertise and
innovative, and who continue to support our efforts to
make our schools stronger.”

That growth requires an investment not only of time,
of the schools.

Efforts of the Filipino community as it
ended the first of a four-year celebration
of the 500th anniversary of Catholicism
coming to the Philippines. More photos
at facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.
Crisis Nursery

The Catholic Voice is a news story by Michele Jurich (Voice, Dec. 10) concerning Bay Area Crisis Nursery (BACN). We found that the publication of the article is a possible source of concern that could impact the ability of the BACN to determine the viability of BACN or to propose any future strategic plan. This is a sensitive matter.

Immigrants are tied together by shared values and experiences and the public should have an interest in ensuring the viability of an organization that serves vulnerable populations.

Letters to the editor are a forum for readers to engage in an open exchange of opinions and concerns in a climate of respect and civil discourse. The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and have nothing to do with the Diocese of Oakland. While a full spectrum of opinions will sometimes include those that dissent from Church teaching or contradict the natural moral law, it is hoped that this forum will help our readers to better understand others’ thinking on critical issues facing the Church.

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

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