St. Charles parish raises $140,246 for Kenya orphanage

By Michele Jurich

Pentecost was celebrated vibrantly at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore.

Parishioners wore red. They sang in Swahili. They may have even danced as they brought to the center aisle envelopes, some slim with checks and some stuffed with cash, and plastic zippered bags stuffed with coins and bills, and placed them lovingly into a large woven basket wrapped with Kente cloth.

When it appeared that all had been presented, their pastor, Rev. Mark Wiesner, lifted the basket over his head and began to pray.

A little boy, clutching a sandwich bag with cash inside, emerged from the pews, and stood in front of the basket, which was beyond his reach.

When he realized there was one more donor, Father Wiesner returned the basket to the ground, the boy dropped his gift in the basket, and checked to make sure it was there.

His gift, Father Wiesner said, could be the one to put them over the top. The boy smiled.

The parishioners' offerings represented the fruits of the Easter season commission Father Wiesner gave them on Easter Sunday. He invited the parishioners “to be agents of the resurrection” by using their time and talents to renovate the Suba Children's Orphanage in Kenya, including providing the 50 orphans with a reliable source of clean water. The cost of the project was estimated at $61,000.

The parish provided the seed-money treasure. At the end of his Easter Sunday homily, he passed around the collection baskets, which were filled with pastel envelopes. Each person, child and adult, parishioner and visitor, was invited to take one. Inside was $10 to $40. Between

California dioceses ask lawmakers to reject confession bill

By Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES — Using social media, preaching, newspaper columns and letters read at Mass, California's Catholic dioceses have asked Catholics to urge their representatives in the state Assembly to reject a confession bill.

S.B. 360 — which passed in the California Senate May 23 in a 30-2 vote — would force priests to disclose information about child sexual abuse that they learn when they are hearing another priest's confession or when hearing the confession of a co-worker.

The bill is expected to have a vote in the lower house, the California State Assembly, in September.

“Our lawmakers have good intentions. They want to prevent child abuse,” Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said in a letter he issued June 10 that was to be read at all June 15 and 16 Masses in the archdiocese. “But there is no evidence that this legislation will do that. Instead, it threatens a practice that is essential to our faith and religious identity.”

“We need your help to protect this sacrament of the church and to keep confession sacred,” he said. “And we need to continue our commitment to building a society where every child is loved, protected and safe.”

Bishops respond to church abuse crisis

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE — During the June 11-13 spring assembly of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore, it was clear the bishops had to respond to the sexual abuse crisis in the church — and on the last day of their gathering they approved a series of procedures to begin this process.

On June 13, they voted to implement the document “Vos Estis Lux Mundi” (“You are the light of the world”), issued by Pope Francis in May to help the Catholic Church safeguard its members from abuse and hold its leaders accountable.

The bishops also approved the document “Acknowledging Our Episcopal Commitments” and promised to hold themselves accountable to the commitments of the charter, including a zero-tolerance policy for abuse. The document says any codes of conduct in their respective dioceses regarding clergy apply to bishop as well.

They voted in favor of the item “protocol regarding available nonsexual restrictions on bishops,” which outlines what canonical options are available to bishops when a retired bishop resigns or is removed “due to sexual misconduct with adults or grave negligence of office, or where subsequent to his resignation he was found to have so acted or failed to act.”

Their first action was a vote June 12 to authorize the implementation of a third-party system that would allow people to make confidential reports of abuse complaints against bishops through a toll-free telephone number and online. The system, which would be operated by an outside vendor contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, should be in place no later than May

On our cover

A young parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore brings up his gift to add to the proceeds of the reverse collection to aid an orphanage in Kenya. The parish raised $140,246, and counting. See story on this page.

(Continued on Page 11.)
THE VATICAN

’T ime is running out!’

Faced with a climate emergency, the world must act immediately to mitigate global warming and avoid committing a ‘brutal act of injustice’ on the poor and future generations, Pope Francis told a group of energy and oil executives and global investors.

“Time is running out!” Deliberations must go beyond mere exploration of what can be done and concentrate on what needs to be done from today onward,” he said.

“We do not have the luxury of waiting for others to step forward or of prioritizing short-term economic benefits. The climate crisis requires our decisive action, here and now,” he said June 14 at the Vatican. The pope spoke to leaders taking part in a conference June 13-14 on “Energy Transition and Care for Our Common Home,” sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business in the United States.

‘It takes meekness’

Pope Francis told Jesuits in Romania that tensions and struggles within the church have left it wounded and that the only path forward is through humble dialogue, not futile arguments. “I think of the church as a field hospital. The church is so wounded, and today it also is so wounded by tensions within it,” the pope told the Jesuits during a meeting May 31 in Bucharest. “Meekness, it takes meekness! And it takes a lot of courage to be meek! But you have to go forward with meekness,” the pope said. “This is not the time to convince, to have discussions. If someone has a sincere doubt, yes, one can dialogue, clarify. But don’t respond to the critics.”

Falsifying the Gospel

Christians must not underestimate the importance of entrusting and assisting the poor, oppressed and outcast, Pope Francis said. Not only did Jesus entrust his disciples with the task of continuing his ministry on earth by giving hope to the poor, but “the credibility of our proclamation and the witness of Christians depends on it,” the pope said in a message for the World Day of the Poor. “Faced with countless monstrous forms of the poor, Jesus was not afraid to identify with each of them” and tell his disciples whatever you did to one of the least of my brethren, you did to me,” the pope said. “If we refuse to make this identification, we falsify the Gospel and water down God’s revelation,” he said. “If the disciples of the Lord Jesus wish to be genuine evangelizers, they must sow tangible seeds of hope,” he said.

‘Let the Catholic voice . . . be spread in every diocese, in every parish, in every association, in every family.’

— Pope Paul VI

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JUNE 24, 2019

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The USCCB meeting, Jordan Peterson and the ‘nones’

By Most Rev. Robert Barron

Last week I gave a presentation at the USCCB Spring Meeting in Baltimore. My topic was what I identified as the second greatest crisis facing the Church today — namely, the massive attrition of our own people, especially the young.

I said that the first — around which most of our discussions that week revolved — is obviously to everyone. Judging from the extremely positive reaction of my brother bishops and the lively conversation that followed my presentation, the talk was well received. I was also delighted it apparently prompted a spirited conversation on social media.

After laying out the rather dismal statistics regarding the ‘nones’ or the religiously unaffiliated — 50 percent of millennials Catholics now claim no religious identity, for every one person who joins our Church, six are leaving, etc. — I commenced to offer some reasons why so many are exiting.

I told my brother bishops that these were not the fruit of idle speculation but rather of the many statistical and sociological studies that have been conducted regarding the phenomenon. The No. 1 reason — reiterated in every study — is that young people are quitting the Church because they don’t believe in the teachings of classic Christianity.

Moreover, the studies consistently maintain that this lack of belief is often because religion is seen as conflicting with science. Other factors, I continued, include the general secularism and moral relativism of the culture, the difficulty many young people have with the Church’s sexual teachings, and the supposed correlation between religion and violence.

Having presented these findings, I then shared what I take to be signs of hope. The first is that, among the unaffiliated, there are relatively few fierce atheists or determined opponents of religion. Most are indifferent to faith and have drifted rather than stormed away from the Church. A second indicator of hope is the massive presence of young people on social media platforms that trade in secular topics. I mentioned my own participation in a Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything), which yielded almost 12,000 comments and questions, making it the third most discussed exchange of its kind last year.

Even though many, if not most, of those who joined in that conversation proposed challenging questions, or made skeptical observations, the undoubted interest in matters religious is something to build on.

Finally, I reiterated what I called the “Jordan Peterson phenomenon.” I was drawing my brother bishops’ attention to the extraordinary fact that hope is the dominant presence of young people on social media platforms that trade in secular topics. I mentioned my own participation in a Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything), which yielded almost 12,000 comments and questions, making it the third most discussed exchange of its kind last year.

I told my fellow bishops that most recently Peterson has been lecturing on the Bible, causing armies of people, especially young men, to take a fresh look at the Scriptures. As I have made clear in my own articles and videos, Peterson reads the Bible through a Jungian, psychodynamic lens, and hence, by definition, does not read it adequately. It is not even evident that the Canadian believes in God in the accepted sense of the term. “Basing my apologetics on Jordan Peterson,” I said, “gives me a break.

What is particularly sad to me is that the commentator, especially in regard to religion, has become so polarized and ideologically driven that most elementary distinctions aren’t made and the most broad-brush analyses are commonplace. What makes it sadder still is that these distortions and projections stand in the way of addressing the vitally important issue under consideration.

As left and right defend their respective ideological bailiwicks, the Church continues to hemorrhage young people. If we want to get serious about a problem that ought to concern everyone, we ought to consider some of the many statistical and surveys indicating the Church’s teachings on sexuality.

No. 1 reason is young people simply no longer believe the church’s teachings, primarily its doctrine of disaffiliation.

This is a bitter fruit of the dumbing-down of our faith” as it has been presented in catechesis and apologetics. Other reasons he said young people are leaving have to do with relativism, science and the church’s teachings on sexuality.

Beating Back the Gates of Hell

How a Weak Church Strengthens Saints and Sinners Alike, with Aux Bishop Robert Christian, OP

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Full Weekend rates, still available on val Lombrosa.org/calendar or call 650-325-5614
Register Soon as event will Sell-out

Why the decline?

Some nuggets from Bishop Robert Barron’s talk to the bishops on June 11:

“How many are leaving? The short answer is: a lot.” 50 percent of Catholics 30-years-old and younger have left the Church.

“Half the kids that we baptized and confirmed in the last 30 years are now ex-Catholics or unaffiliated, one out of six millennials in the U.S. is now a former Catholic.”

“For every one person joining our church today, 6.45 are leaving” and most are leaving at young ages, primarily before age 23.

“The median age of those who leave is 13.”

“Where are they going? They’re “becoming nones” although some, in much smaller percent

gages, join other mainstream religions or evangeli
cal churches.

Plenty of studies and surveys indicate the No. 1 reason is young people simply no longer believe the church’s teachings, primarily its doc
tories.

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**Hockey fans recall St. John Paul II**

CHICAGO — Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law an abortion bill that Illinois Catholic bishops said eliminates "even minimal limitations on abortions under prior law," and stated by the legislature marked a "sad moment in our history as a state." In Vermont, Republican Gov. Phil Scott signed a similarly expansive abortion measure into law on June 10.

**Bishops set priorities**

BALTIMORE — The U.S. bishops June 12 gave a provisional OK to development of a new set of strategic priorities to guide the work of their conferences from 2021 through 2024. The 213-8 vote, with four abstentions, paves the way for the committees, councils and departments of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to continue work on how to carry out the priorities. A working group of bishops under the aegis of the USCCB Committee on Priorities and Plans — known as the "Plains Committee" — identified four priorities: "Evangelization: Form a joyful band of missionary disciples; "Life, dignity and protection of the human person: Build the common good as the leaven in a free society;" "Protect and heal God's children: Restorative justice, foster virtue;" "Vocations: Equip all Christ's disciples for mission." 

**Extreme’ abortion bills**

The bill banned fetal protection after a fetal heartbeat was detected, which the bishops said would impose "eerie, nearly identical language" to the "heartbeat" abortion ban and could "pose grave consequences for our entire society but particularly for persons living with illness, disability or sexual or socioeconomic disadvantages," said Archbishop Joseph N. Pool of Kansas City, Kansas, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. The AMA was clear the legislation was "a grave tragedy and a collective moral failing." 

**Bishops watch Sudan protests**

NAIROBI, Kenya — A prominent African cardinal has called for restraint in Sudan, where, he said, there is evidence of a "celebration of death." Cardinal John Onaiyekan, who was succeeded as archbishop of Abuja in 2013, said the new government is "testing the people," and that they are expressing themselves "more strongly than usual." He called for restraint in response to the killing and wounding of protesters, and urged a return to the "path of peace." 

**Cardinal calls for restraint**

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee praised a June 10 decision by the American Medical Association to reaffirm its long-standing position against physician-assisted suicide. "The AMA's reaffirmed opposition to physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer," he said.

**Border bishops face crisis**

BISHOP FLORES: "I express our own grave concern that the deaths, and the numbers, are not random, that they are not criminals, that they are vulnerable families and we need to invite all the governments involved, not just the U.S., to defend the migrant as a human being, to not cast the person as a threat, and the trajectory as a threat and a problem." Bishop Flores said.

**Honor Catholic**

An officer with the U.S. Army military honor guard presents the U.S. flag to the family of Army Maj. Gen. George S. Patton IV, a World War II veteran, on June 6 at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. As an Army journalist, Patton IV, 47, was killed in a vehicle accident in Normandy, France, on D-Day June 6, 1944. He was awarded three Purple Hearts and seven Bronze Stars for his service in the 5th Infantry Division of Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd Army. He was involved in all major battles of the European Theater. Mann, a lifelong Catholic from Evansville, Indiana, died March 30 at age 96. He requested his burial take place on the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

**Hockey fans recall St. John Paul II**

"I feel that as a (bishops') conference, we must express ourselves more strongly when it comes to migrants and the situation along the border is one affecting the most vulnerable in society, including many children," he said.

**Bishops watch Sudan protests**

He called for restraint in response to the killing and wounding of protesters, and urged a return to the "path of peace."

**Cardinal calls for restraint**

"It must be clear that this is something that will not be tolerated," he said.

**Border bishops face crisis**

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The 164 members of Saint Mary’s College High School’s Class of 2019 gathered for one final group photo on campus following the annual “Presentation of the Senior Class to the Student Body” on June 3. The entire school community came together that morning to hear the valedictory address, learn some of the school honors being awarded to the seniors, and to say goodbye to those members of the faculty moving on to new teaching assignments or retirement. Graduation took place on June 6 at Zellerbach Hall at the University of California, Berkeley.

Below, joining the Class of 2019 for their Baccalaureate Mass on June 1 in the school auditorium were “Golden Graduates” from Saint Mary’s Class of 1969. The men enjoyed a reunion dinner and barbecue that weekend, and received special anniversary diplomas from the school. The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated by Rev. Jayson Landeza, who will celebrate his 40-year reunion this fall with his Saint Mary’s High classmates. It was at Father Landeza’s 1979 high school graduation that Saint Mary’s first honored the 50-year class, and the tradition has continued.

Saint Mary’s College High School

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Congratulations Saint Mary’s College High School’s Class of 2019!

We are proud of every one of you. You have touched our hearts and the hearts of those around you. You are now alumni of Saint Mary’s and will always have a home at Peralta Park. Live Jesus in our hearts! Forever!

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The Berkeley school bestowed these honors at the June 6 graduation ceremony at Zellerbach Hall on the University of California at Berkeley campus:

Lumen Gentium Award for Community: Jazmine Newsome
Dei Verbum Award for Faith: Nayeli Sanchez
Gaudium et Spes Award for Service: Nea Geathers-Williams
General Academic Excellence Award (based on GPA): Flynn Robin Cooper, Max Franklin

De La Salle Award for Religious Studies: Corinne Yuan Manahi
John Henry Cardinal Newman Award for English: Samantha Lourdes Ulloa
Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Social Studies: Lydya Riffle Storella
Galileo Galilei Award for Laboratory Science: Max Franklin
Brother Alfred Brousseau, FSC, Award for Mathematics: Max Franklin

Dante Alighieri Awards for World Languages: Max Franklin

Emmerich (French), Paolila Tejeda Gonzalez (Spanish)

Pablo Picasso Award for Visual Arts: Sophia Rose White Cruz

Paul Robeson Award for Performing Arts: Yaira Severa Falcon, Kevin Diego Perez Leon

Athletes of the Year: Sophia Grace Alexander, Antoine Morales

Salutatorian Award: Josiah Andre

Charles Jacoby

Valedictorian Award: Yennie Lee

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Daniel Schleisser
Ethan Schnetz
Eva Shannon
Alexander Shearer
Eamon Shurns-Watt
Camille Simmons
Nail Smith-Woods
Makeda Solomon
Enzo Spremich
Sierra Stallworth
Vincent Stockton

Lady Storella
Jeremy Tang
Paola Tejeda-Gonzalez
Kendall Timmons
Julian Tran
Gabrielle Trevino
Adeline Trotter
Elena Tucker
Samantha Ulloa
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Spiritual Guide
Fr. Richard Mangini

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• The village of Cana, where married couples may renew their wedding vows.
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• Renew your Baptismal promises at the River Jordan.
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October 10 – October 24, 2019

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*Includes roundtrip airfare from SFO, hotel two meals daily and transportation for site-seeing and Mass daily.

Spiritual Guide: Fr. Thuong H. Nguyen

St. John the Baptist Church, El Cerrito

Oberammergau Passion Play May 28 to June 6, 2020

For details check the website www.polandmej.com

Poland Medjugorje Pilgrimage, LLC.
Just for Seniors

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

**SPIRITUALITY**
July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6
First Friday Healing Mass, 8 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 4025 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. Anointing and prayers for all in need of healing: 510-655-2009.

July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7
Senior Anointing Mass, 11 a.m. at Divine Mercy Church, 3759 High St., Oakland. All seniors, their caregivers or anyone seriously ill or anticipating surgery are invited to attend the Mass and sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: 510-530-0761.

Anointing of the Sick Mass at Holy Spirit Church, 11 a.m. at 3758 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. For those, who are seriously ill or those anticipating surgery. A complimentary luncheon follows the Mass: 510-797-1660.

**SOCIALS/LUNCHEONS**
Thursday, Aug. 8
Senior Luncheon and Social at St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Noon at 2005 Berryman St., in Berk. People bring the food and enjoy one another’s company — once in a while we will have a program,” said Mary Hurd, who organizes the quarterly gatherings. For additional information and dates, contact the parish office at 510-526-4811.

Third Mondays
St. Anthony Parish Senior Ministry, 11:30 a.m. in the parish’s Legion of Mary ministry, begins at 5 p.m. parish hall, St. Anthony Church, 971 O’Hara Ave., Oakley. The luncheons are sponsored by various parish organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Guadalupe Society, Am-Fl Community as well as private individuals. In addition to lunch, the gatherings may include speakers, a Bingo game, like Bridge and live entertainment. Information: 925-620-2348.

Tuesday
St. John the Baptist Parish Senior Luncheon Speaker, Meets Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at El Centro Royale, 6500 Gladsby St., corner of Lexington, El Centro. Information: 910-532-5669; www.ostjohnelcerrito.org.

Second Tuesdays
Senior Adult Ministry at St. Joan of Arc Parish. The Senior Adults of St. Joan in San Ramon meet for lunch and conversations 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. The ministry meets mainly social — once in a while we will have a program,” said Mary Hurd, who organizes the quarterly gatherings. For additional information and dates, contact the parish office at 510-526-4811.

Third Tuesdays
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VETERANS

**Events**

**Seniors, spouses may qualify for home care**

By Craig Turner

If you are a wartime veteran, or the surviving spouse of a wartime veteran, you may be eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs Aid & Attendance pension, which can help pay for in-home care.

Military service must include at least one day during war-time, but overseas service, combat duty or a service-connected disability is not required.

The North American Senior Benefits Association partners with agencies that help you apply at no cost to the Veteran or family for the VA Aid & Attendance pension.

To qualify, a veteran or surviving spouse must meet the “3 M” criteria which includes all of the above plus “marriage.”

Marriage: Must have been married for at least one year and married to the qualifying veteran at the time of his death and in most circumstances has not remarried.

The Department of Veterans Affairs defines specific war time periods:

- World War II, Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946: Korea, June 27, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955; Vietnam, Aug. 5, 1964-May 7, 1975: veterans who served from Feb. 28, 1961-Aug. 5, 1964, must have served in Vietnam; Persian Gulf, Aug. 2, 1990-date to be prescribed by presidential proclamation or law. Must have two years of active duty for two years or the full period of which they were called for active duty.

Veterans, spouses may qualify for home care

By Craig Turner

Special to The Catholic Voice

An Acorn Stairlift is the perfect solution to use the stairs if you suffer from:

- Arthritis, or COPD
- Joint pain in your feet, knees or back
- Mobility issues when using the stairs

Call 925-459-4769 you will be connected to a Veteran at the time of his death and in most circumstances has not remarried.

The North American Senior Benefits Association partners with agencies that help you apply at no cost to the Veteran or family for the VA Aid & Attendance pension.

By Craig Turner

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Craig Turner (Craig Turner is Senior Benefits Coordinator and veterans advocate, North American Senior Benefits Association. By calling 925-459-4769 you will be connected to a licensed insurance agent, CA No. 0717612)
Peace of Mind

JUNE 24, 2019

Come to the cabaret.
Come hear the music play
the dress rehearsal. A few days later, the Cabaret Club appeared ready for action at
here,” residents have told her.
about the Cabaret Club. “I feel I belong
ownership the residents have expressed
they are here, they open up.”

a spark in its participants.
notices about Cabaret Club is how it lights
some of the seniors.

she said, almost more comfortably than
“I grew up in an inter-generational home.”
lot to do with my grandmother,” Conly said.

Cheng work creatively with the residents
the individual expression through storytell-

said. She asks the writers about the songs
from stories the residents tell.
fiction, some non-fiction, some poetry
unteer coordinator. The stories — some
Reece, Mercy’s Life Enrichment and vol-

could shake brightly colored scarfs in the air.
danced, and those who remained seated
age of Aquarius dawned during the dress
among them, and when, for example, the age of Aquarius dawned during the dress
rehearsal, those who could get up and danced, and those who remained seated could share brightly colored scarfs in the air.
The Mercy Murmur provides some of the source material for the stories that made up the “Sentimental Journey.” Stella Reece, Mercy’s Life Enrichment and vol-
unteer coordinator. The stories — some
fiction, some non-fiction, some poetry
— are written by residents, or transcribed from stories the residents tell.
“i take them and turn them into a script,
weaving in characters’ songs.” Basham said.
asks the writers about the songs that were meaningful to them.

While senior communities may have
a host of activities for residents, Cabaret
Club’s creative focus serves as more than an activity.

With Cabaret Club, it’s about finding the individual expression through storytell-
ing, song and dance,” she said.
The ease with which Basham and Cheng work creatively with the residents may be rooted in their own lives. “It has a lot to do with my grandmother,” Conly said.
“I grew up in an inter-generational home.” She is also “drawn to classic Hollywood,” she said, almost more comfortably than
some of the seniors.

“If I enjoy working with older adults,” Cheng said. As a child, she lived with her grandparents. One of the things she
notices about Cabaret Club is how it lights a spark in its participants.

“They are so shy,” she said, “but when they are here, they open up.”
That may be because of the sense of ownership residents feel about the Cabaret Club. “I feel I belong here,” residents have told her.

With props including bowler hats, feath-
er boas, gauzy scarves and kazoos, the Cabaret Club appeared ready for action at the dress rehearsal. A few days later, the
curtain would go up on the presentation for family and friends.
The Cabaret Club may have the most convivial company of actors. If one is not available, another jumps right in. (It’s a little
like “42nd Street.”)

An example of the fusion of storytelling
and song was a blockbuster of a number
that told the life-changing journey by train of the one of the residents’ “Chattanooga Choo-Choo” provided the soundtrack.
Script details, such as “Chicago was
triendlier than New York,” added to the fun.
It would be hard to top the movement
cal, emotional or financial abuse each year,
how to find an alternative that may stop the abuse while preserving family relationships. And
more often than not, the aging parents show signs of dementia, making them vulnerable to “undue influence”.

Whether they suspect elder abuse or not,
family members may be concerned about a broad range of issues. They may want to know how to
in the best circumstances, but when family
relationships have been strained for a long

to their voices and feet.
At least a dozen seniors from Mercy
Retirement and Care Center have taken
participation in the decision-making process,
children, caregivers and/or trusted profes-

Conly works as a mediator with the Agency for
com, or 510-356-7830. Also visit www.
medrate.com to learn about the range of issues
experienced adult family or elder mediator.

Aging in Harmony

Katharina W. Dress is a mediator with
medrate.com to learn about the range of issues
experienced adult family or elder mediator.

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The Catholic Voice — 9

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(510) 205-0610
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At Mercy Retirement and Care Center, Hsin-Yi Cheng,
with guitar, and Coody Basham
accompany Frances Landez
on “Pearly Shells.” Below, Franciscan
Father Louis Vitalie is an active participant in the Cabaret Club.

Opening lines of “Cabaret”

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Opening lines of “Cabaret”

THE CATHOLIC VOICE — 9

THE CATHOLIC VOICE — 9
Memories can be a gift of a lifetime

By Michele Jurich

Staff writer

Bella Comelo, a member of the San Leandro Senior Commission, is no novice in the grant writing. She has obtained three in the past three years: The first brought cherry trees back to a neighborhood in what is known as Cherry City; the second brought disaster preparedness training for seniors; and the third brought memories to the page.

Comelo applied for a grant from the San Leandro Arts Commission for her project, Arts in Memoirs. Sixteen seniors compiled their memoirs after taking part in a class taught by Kathleen McCabe-Martin in space provided to them at the San Leandro Library.

“The teacher, Kathleen McCabe-Martin, did a fantastic job of designing and running the class,” said Comelo. The class, which McCabe-Martin designed for this project, met six times. “She made sure that she sent home a homework package to a few seniors who could not attend class due to bad weather or illness,” Comelo said.

The class began with 25 writers, who received expert advice from their teacher, Comelo said. “She called them to keep on writing,” Comelo said.

The additional one-on-one editing that McCabe-Martin provided greatly. She worked closely with a student, who is blind, enabling the memoir’s personality to be preserved. “It’s a perfect match for teaching this class,” Comelo said. “I was lucky to find her.”

How Comelo and McCabe-Martin met is a story in itself. McCabe-Martin, a retired Fremont teacher, drives for a senior ride service that Comelo has used around San Leandro. It was a match made in writer’s heaven. In her 30 years as a teacher, McCabe-Martin educated the writers on the difference between memoir and autobiography. To write a memoir she said, “you have to give part of yourself and reflect on how things made you feel. It’s not a life story. Memoir is much harder to write than autobiography.”

She also worked with students of various skill levels; some of her memoir writers were members of an established writing group, while others wrote on a pad of paper and had difficulty with English.

Her tips for beginning a memoir would be to not start out thinking you’re going to write about your whole life. “I’m sure it must have jolted the memory and gotten you started,” Comelo said. “I’m sure it must have jolted the memory of some of the seniors as it did mine,” she said. “Reaching back and remembering some of the things of the past and the dates she was somewhat of a challenge for me but good for my memory, especially at my age.”

“I also learned how to format, which was a blessing for me.”

The memoirs, which ranged from three pages to 52 pages, were unveiled, and writers read excerpts from them at a public event.

The class was charmed by a memoir of a man’s time in Paris after the war, Comelo said. One who did not write this time was Comelo, who had previously written her memoir, “In Quest of the American Dream.”

“I’m sure it must have jolted the memory of some of the seniors as it did mine,” she said. “Reaching back and remembering some of the things of the past and the dates she was somewhat of a challenge for me but good for my memory, especially at my age.”

“I also learned how to format, which was a blessing for me.”

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the crisis at the border and the issue of young adults ago on June 20, 2018.

allegations against him were made public nearly a year investigation of misconduct by Theodore E. McCarrick, Advisory Council pressed the bishops to encourage rites around the world not only how important it is for improving your dioceses' existing methods to protect and clergy abuse allegations.

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Considering the first day of the assembly, several speak-
erers discussed the challenge ahead and the need for the bishops to be stronger parent and reliable stew-
dership. The bishops also examined their plans to vote on procedures and policies in response to the abuse crisis, including the assembly's full agenda and process. The bishops’ agenda and process was addressed from the meeting’s onset June 11 in a message from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican’s representative to the United States.

He noted that there were “some expressions of dis-
trust” and many bishops were “concerned” about postponing votes on items related to the reemergent clergy sexual abuse crisis, but he also stressed that “undeniably present is a climate of urgency.”

Working together provides us the opportunity to speak with one voice, he said. Archbishop Pierre said, with “the guidance of the Holy Spirit to make the path forward clear.”

Moving forward was certainly a theme of the assembly, echoed by National Review Board chairman Francesco Cesareo, the official second-ranking member of the abuse inquiry. Cesareo also said National Review Board members are responsible for keeping the “independent voice of the church” in the investigation of allegations of abuse or reaction to reports of abuse.

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It’s so important that our works match our words and what we say and what we do, Father Murray said. “It’s love.”

In his reply: “Deacon Steve does a shout out to his flock.”

At the parish picnic on June 9, which followed the 11:30 a.m. Mass — and which celebrated the parish’s 50th birthday, which was the next day, but which was quib-
bling — the total was announced.

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bling — the total was announced.

I am crying here Mark. God bless you, God bless parish bulletin.

The Catholic Church in California set up a new website, KeepTheSeal.com, which is a hub to provide resources and materials to parishes. S.B. 360 as well as a way to send emails to their legislators.

S.B. 360 made its way through the Legislature, the California bishops urged lawmakers to strengthen and clarify mandated reporting requirements while maintaining the traditional protections for “penitential communications.”

The measure went over to the Senate floor, lawmakers “accepted several of the church’s rec-
ommendations to strengthen and clarify mandated reporting requirements for clergy” as Archbishop Gomez noted in a May 20 statement. The California bishops urged lawmakers “to accept several of the church’s recommendations to strengthen and clarify mandated reporting requirements for clergy.”

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(Continued from Page 1.)

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By June 19, the total had grown to $140,246.
Principal focused on mission, service

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Music fueled the Field Day going outside the window of the principal's office at St. Joseph School in Fremont, where Kelly Mendoza was asked to reflect on her years at the school. Her relationship with the school began when her sons — now ages 32 and 28 — were pupils. “Catholic education did wonders for me and my family,” she said. “I felt in love with it as a parent.” In her experiences as a parent at the school, the dedication of those who worked with the children impressed her. After a career in business, she decided her second career would be in education. “I always thought I’d go to public school,” she said. But St. Joseph School had an unexpected vacancy. “The beloved fifth-grade teacher couldn’t start the school year,” she said, and Mendoza filled in. She learned “I liked doing things that affected the whole school,” she said. She later became the advanced math teacher and educational technology coordinator. She was vice principal before, six years ago, being named principal of St. Joseph School. “We can share our faith,” she said, “and extend the learning beyond academics.” “We can help them be good people,” Mendoza said. “There’s no better model than Jesus.” Service learning is a major focus of a St. Joseph’s education. “Service expands their worldview,” she said. They come to understand, Mendoza said, “it’s not all about you. There’s a bigger world.”

She said the days before her retirement have been both bittersweet and busy. The school is replacing the playground, and the end of the arduous process is in sight. “I want to see it through,” she said. In retirement, Mendoza said she hopes to ultimately find a way to serve in another way. When asked if she has advice for those who serve in leadership in Catholic schools, she replied that decision-making is difficult, with no one decision pleasing everyone. “Stay focused on the mission of the school and the students” worked for her.

Schools department honors departing educators

The Department of Catholic Schools sent certificates to these educators acknowledging their years of service in the Diocese of Oakland. Names were provided by schools. The following, who are leaving or retiring, were honored for years of service ranging from 11 to 45 years:

45 years
Arline Marseille, St. Joseph School, Pinole

41 years
Pat Grossen, St. Isidore School, Danville

39 years
Sharon Calhoun, St. Michael School, Livermore

38 years
Carol Alonso, Christ the King School, Pleasant Hill

30 years
Lori Eastridge, St. Michael School, Livermore

Ann Giusti, St. Mary School, Walnut Creek

Laurie Koster, St. Joseph School, Fremont

29 years
Doris Salmi, St. Patrick School, Rodeo

26 years
Jeanine Gillengerten, St. Raymond School, Dublin

23 years
Shirley Ernest, St. Raymond School, Danville

Robert Rowell, St. Perpetua School, Lafayette

Pauline Daniel, St. Joseph School, Pinole

Susan Esposti, St. Isidore School, Danville

Donna Hartman, St. John School, El Cerrito

21 years
Pat Christ, School of the Madeleine, Berkeley

Bonnie Kilsener, St. Isidore School, Danville

20 years
Judy Delucchi, St. Francis of Assisi School, Concord

18 years
Liz Jackson, St. Joseph School, Pinole

Joseph Petersen, Assumption School, San Leandro

16 years
Joanne Doyle, St. Isidore School, Danville

Kelly Mendoza, St. Joseph School, Fremont

15 years
Sister Anna Marie Gillet, St. Francis of Assisi School, Concord

14 years
Cynthia Del Rosario, St. Patrick School, Rodeo

Robin Doyle, Christ the King School, Pleasant Hill

Kimberly Hughes, Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Fremont

13 years
Natalie Krutilla, Christ the King School, Pleasant Hill

12 years
Janice Borchers, St. Patrick School, Rodeo

Mina Burke, St. Francis of Assisi School, Concord

AraNuq Catala, St. John School, San Lorenzo

Myra Keast, St. Philip Neri, Alameda

11 years
Katie Bodich, St. Isidore School, Danville

Ellen Rhatigan, St. Philip Neri School, Alameda

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**NEW EVENTS**

**Monday, June 24**

Blissy Marie: Meditation and Prayer at the St. Mary's Cemetery. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2499 Howe St., Oakley. Information: 888-225-0790. Those who are blessed of St. Mary’s new St. Joseph Vœu burial section will bless your loved ones. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation. Information: 925-237-0909.

**Thursday, June 27**

Choir: St. Mary Church (7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 701 Highland Drive, Danville). 925-933-8190 or stmichael@stmarydb.org.

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**SPIRITUALITY**

**June 24, July 1, 8, 15**


**June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23**

Men of St. Joseph meeting. 7 to 8 a.m. Tuesdays in St. James Church, 25180 Via Palmina, Danville. (Meet in September and December) at 3:30 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, 37588 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. 925-757-4020.

**July 1, Aug. 19, 20**


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**EVENTS**

**June 26 to July 3**

**RETEATS**

**June 26 to July 3**


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**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**June 27, July 11, 25, Aug. 8**

**Grief Support:** 3:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. You do not have to deal with the death of a loved one alone. Information: 925-845-1028. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

**Divorce Support Workshops:** 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Parish, 2601 San Ramon Valley Road, San Ramon. Facilitated by Diocese. Questions/registration, email dvcwomensministries@ dvc.org.

**Third Wednesdays**

**Family Caregiver Support Ministry:** 7 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 200 Rossmoor Drive, Pleasant Hill. Please join us for our monthly meetings which include prayer, handcrafts on caregiving and discussion related to coping when caring for loved ones. Claire La Scola, 925-514-5784.

**Thursdays**

** Widow/widowers grief support group.** 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Therese Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. Facilitator: Rev. Padraig Greene. Information: 925-891-8900.

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**CFCs EVENTS AND GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS**

Presented by the Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Service Ministries, Diocese of Oakland. All are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.

**Events**

**July 6 and 7**

**Military Peer Support Group:** 7 to 8 p.m. in the recital at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Redwood City. Contact: Mary Cole for more information and opportunities. Contact: Mary Cole for more information and opportunities.

**July 8 and 9**

**Catholic Divorced Widow and Separated of Conscience Ministry:** 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish, 1600 Rossmoor Dr., Pleasant Hill. Facilitator: Rev. Padraig Greene. Information: 925-891-8900.

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**Next Issue:** June 8. Submissions by June 26 to Carrie McCliss, 2121 Hamton St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Datelines@oakvoice.org (text/photostyle)); phone: 925-419-1074; or by fax at 510-893-4734.
CYO Bill Ford Scholarships awarded

By Bill Ford
Special to The Catholic Voice

Two eighth-grade girls, one a distance runner and the other a basketball player, both participants in CYO sports since the first grade, have been awarded the 2019 CYO Bill Ford Scholarships. Both were grateful for being inspired by their CYO coaches.

Sophia Thompson, from St. John the Baptist, San Lorenzo, wrote, “My coaches instilled in me what it means to show true sportsmanship, both on and off the court.”

Sierra Camacho, from Assumption, San Leandro, emphasized that as a runner, “I was so lucky to have the best coaches... who were great role models for all of us runners. They were very positive and were great motivators.”

Two CYO Bill Ford Scholarships, in honor of the longtime CYO director, are awarded annually each spring with a grant of $1,000 each, intended to help with the award recipients’ education.

For complete tournament results or for more information on CYO volleyball, for both girls and boys, visit the CYO website www.oaklandcyo.org.

Bill Ford is director of CYO.
CONFESSION, SB 360 AND CHILD PROTECTION

By Rev. Lawrence D’Anjou
Special to The Catholic Voice

The California Senate has passed Bill SB 360, which would require a priest who hears a confession of child abuse from a person or a church employee to report that person to the civil authorities. In the Senate, the bill passed by a vote of 29-0, as did an earlier version that would have applied only to priests and church employees.

This bill appears to conflict with the𝘙山路REM of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In order to make recompense and avoid punishment, one must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, pay compensatory damages), as stated in CCC 368-369.

The California Catholic Conference calls on legislators to vote against this bill and to remember that the Sacrament of Reconciliation should no be used as a weapon or a form of vengeance.

VANTAGE POINTS

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This bill appears to conflict with the RJREM of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In order to make recompense and avoid punishment, one must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, pay compensatory damages), as stated in CCC 368-369.

The California Catholic Conference calls on legislators to vote against this bill and to remember that the Sacrament of Reconciliation should no be used as a weapon or a form of vengeance.

VANTAGE POINTS

CONFESSION, SB 360 AND CHILD PROTECTION

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