Wilcox named chancellor for Diocese of Oakland

Staff report

Stephen Wilcox, president of the nonprofit Wilcox Family Foundation, has been named chancellor of the Diocese of Oakland.

"Steve will bring a passion for the faith and a commitment to organizational effectiveness to our diocesan services," Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, said in a statement announcing Wilcox’s appointment, which was effective Nov. 16. "I am grateful for his willingness to serve in this capacity for our local Church." As chancellor, Wilcox will oversee the offices of Catholic Youth Organization, Communications, Faith Formation and Evangelization and Mission Advancement, as well as the Diocesan Review Board and Archives.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to assist Bishop Barber, the clergy and lay leaders achieve their mission for the Church here in the Oakland diocese," Wilcox said.

Wilcox will also serve as Bishop Barber’s liaison to Catholic schools and Catholic Charities of the East Bay, serve on the Bishop’s Administrative Council and lead special projects as directed by Bishop Barber.

The latest special project Wilcox directed for the bishop was to serve as chair of the Founders Circle of Cristo Rey East Bay High School, which has become Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School-St. Elizabeth campus. The high school is set to open for the 2018-19 school year.

When the plan for the school was approved, Wilcox let the bishop know, "I wrote to him and said, we got approval. You’re going to have to give me my praise." The latest special project Wilcox directed for the bishop was to serve as chair of the Founders Circle of Cristo Rey East Bay High School, which has become Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School-St. Elizabeth campus. The high school is set to open for the 2018-19 school year.

In Berkeley, Catholic, Muslim leaders seek common ground

By Michele Jurich

A nine-point declaration emerged from an international gathering of Catholic and Muslim leaders in Berkeley Nov. 6-8. Finding common ground between the faith traditions, emphasizing human dignity, rights and protection of others, the fourth Catholic-Muslim Forum ended on an optimistic note.

"We assert the equal dignity and value of all persons irrespective of their race, gender, religion or social status, and we categorically condemn any attempts to stereotype any people or attribute collective guilt to them for the actions of individuals among them," was one of the nine points the participants made.

The Catholic-Muslim Forum was established in 2008 by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Signatories of the "Open Letter" (A Common Word) to Pope Benedict XVI and other Christian leaders. This gathering was hosted by Zaytuna College, the Muslim liberal arts college founded in 2009 in Berkeley.

This year’s topic was "Integral Human Development: Growing in Dignity, Catholic and Muslim Perspectives." Participants included 12 delegates each from Catholic and Muslim organizations.
BISHOP BARBER’S SCHEDULE
Nov. 20: College of Consultants, Chancery, Oakland
Nov. 22: 10 a.m. Mass, Thanksgiving Day, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Nov. 30: Auction dinner to support the new Oakland Cristo Rey High School, Oakland

U.S. BISHOPS

Archbishop elected
Former Oakland Bishop Allen H. Vigneron, now archbishop of Detroit, will be the next secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, taking office next November. Bishops voted 96-8 to elect Archbishop Vigneron Nov. 14 during their fall general assembly. Archbishop Vigneron will succeed New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, who is starting his third and final year of his three-year term. The Detroit prelate will serve one year as secretary-elect and then start a three-year term in office at the conclusion of the 2018 fall general assembly.
Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, was elected chairman of the Committee on Religious Liberty.

Young people want to be leaders, bishops hear
BALTIMORE — Young people in the church want to be heard and be invited to be a part of church leadership, according to a report by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in preparation for next year’s Synod of Bishops on youth. They are often at transition points in their lives, yet they don’t know how to go for mentorship, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, said Nov. 13. He presented a summary of the responses gathered from dioceses and Catholic members present.

2018 in a 125-4 vote, with three abstentions and exchange of information between the parties in preparation for mediation.

THE CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Center construction update
Dear Parishes and Friends of the Diocese of Oakland:

I write today to update you regarding our investigation of the design and construction issues at the Cathedral Center. As we have previously reported, the Catholic Cathedral Corp. of the East Bay Board of Directors approved a plan recommended by our expert consultants for comprehensive physical testing on Cathedral Center buildings. This is part of our ongoing legal action to ensure the responsible parties pay for the necessary corrective work.

The initial physical testing, which focused on the Chancery, rectory and parking garage, was completed in December 2016. As part of our continued investigation, we reviewed the design of the Cathedral and its foundation, in light of the defects discovered in those areas adjacent to and surrounding the Cathedral itself. Unfortunately, this review has uncovered conditions similar to those found in other parts of the Cathedral Center. We are deeply disappointed to discover the Cathedral is also affected.

A full list of defects has recently been reported to the court-appointed special master for our case and to the parties named in our claim. The court-appointed special master is overseeing the development and exchange of information between the parties in preparation for mediation. Since this is a complex case, it is not possible to predict the timeline or outcome of the mediation. The special master is making sure the case moves along as quickly as possible without sacrificing our rights or the rights of the defendants.

Our goal is to ensure the safety of all who use these facilities, and to be good stewards of the generosity which built our Cathedral and the Cathedral Center. The Cathedral of Christ the Light should stand as a reminder of the beautiful radiance of Christ’s light in our community. The project architect and structural engineer have advised us the Cathedral Center buildings are safe for our employees, visitors and parishioners to occupy, while we continue to seek resolution of the design and construction issues.

To limit further deflection of the floor slab and future repair costs of the B1 level of the parking garage, it will remain closed for the foreseeable future. We have also asked our expert consultants to identify recommended repairs to limit further deterioration and future repair costs throughout the Cathedral Center and the Cathedral itself.

Thank you for your patience and support as we work to address these issues. We will continue to update you as the project progresses.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Very Rev. George Mokcle, S.J.
President of the Catholic Cathedral Corp. of the East Bay
A museum for which to be thankful

By George Weigel

On Sept. 29, 1952, the publication of the complete Revised Standard Version of the Bible was celebrated at the National Guard Armory in Washington, D.C., and the principal speaker was the U.S. Secretary of State, Dean Acheson. The son of the Episcopal bishop of Connecticut, Acheson movingly described the ways in which the King James Bible, which the new RSV was to supplant, had once shaped American culture and our national life.

“In the earliest days in the Northeast, the Book was All. The settlers came here to live their own reading of it. It was the spiritual guide, the moral and legal code, the political system, the substance of life, whether that meant endurance of hardship, the endless struggle against nature, battle with enemies or the inevitable processes of life and death. And it meant to those who could the mold of this country something very specific and very clear. It meant that the purpose of man’s journey through this life was to learn and identify his life and effort with the purpose and will of God...”

That biblical vision helped form the bedrock convictions of the American idea: that government stood under the judgment of divine and natural law; that government was limited in its reach into human affairs, especially the realm of conscience; that national greatness was measured by fidelity to the moral truths taught by revelation and inscribed in the world by a demanding yet merciful God; that only a virtuous people could be truly free.

“But this... did not exhaust the teachings of this Bible,” Secretary Acheson continued. “For it taught also that the fear of God was the love of God and that the love of God was the love of man and the service of man.”

At this perilous moment in our national history, when contempt and hatred seemed far more characteristic of our civic life than charity and solidarity, it’s worth pondering how far we have come, and why. To claim that “the Book of All” today would be risible. On the contrary: As Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, remarked at a pre-opening celebration of the splendid new Museum of the Bible in the nation’s capital, the Bible has been systematically “bleached out” of our national life over the past several decades. And that bleaching has not produced a more tolerant people, but a far more intolerant civic life, of which the recent awfulness in Charlottesville, Virginia, may stand as a vile example.

At Thanksgiving 2017, too many voices in America seem to suggest that some of us must hate others of us if America is to flourish, even survive. But the great Dean Acheson had an answer for that essentially totalitarian claim, too: “In order to love our country we do not have to hate anyone. There is enough to inspire love here... Out of many, [Americans] are one. [Ours] is a unity [manifested] at great and vibrant diversity based on respect for man, the individual... And this, indeed, is the source of our strength, and of the lasting power of our society. For the solidarity which is built, not upon servility, but upon the common loyalty of free men, is resilient and enduring.”

We may, and should, hope that Secretary Acheson’s confidence in the resilience of America has not been falsified by the secular ‘bleaching’ of which Cardinal Wuerl spoke. That hope has been strengthened by the opening of the Museum of the Bible on Nov. 17. Three blocks from the U.S. Capitol, we now have a striking witness, in architecture, art and artifact, to the enduring power of the Word of God.

The museum is thoroughly ecumenical and interreligious: all of the people of the Book, be they Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant or Jewish, will find much to learn there, in a series of both classic and interactive displays that nourish the mind and soul. Anyone who cares about the Bible owes the donors who made this striking facility possible, and the men and women who designed it with evident care, an enormous vote of thanks.

For if this one canard in its mission, the Museum of the Bible will help reverse the bleaching out from our culture of what is arguably its deepest, noblest and most important wellspring: the Word of God, molding the lives of the readers of the Book.

(Grant Weigel is distinguished senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC.)
I've already met and some I've never met," Pope Francis said Nov. 11 in Rome.

Students’ survey
WASHINGTON — A survey of more than 4,000 Catholic campus ministers and students at U.S. colleges, commissioned by the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Catholic Education, showed that both the ministers and the students generally like what’s happening in their campus ministry setting. At the same time, campus ministers allude to areas that can be improved, while students acknowledge areas in both and life where they struggle. The survey, conducted by Vinea Research, was done to help identify how to strengthen campus ministry education and formation programs as well as “renew a national vision of campus ministry as a community of faith, evangelization and discipleship,” according to Vinea’s Hans Plate. “For most faith-related activities, campus ministers feel they are receiving effective formation,” the survey results said.

Refugees need jobs
WASHINGTON — Rep. Chris Smith, the New Jersey Republican who co-chairs the Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, made a passage another push Nov. 8 for the Passage Protection Act. The measure amends the Public Health Service Act to allow lawsuits from health care providers who believe they have been discriminated against, or lost their jobs, because they refused to participate in any abortion. The House version is H.R. 644 and included in the appropriations package that won House passage in September. The Senate bill, S. 301, is identical to the House version.

Advocate for justice
More than 1,400 young people fill Columbus Circle in Washington to listen to speakers before moving on to Capitol Hill to advocate for justice Nov. 6. They were part of the nearly 2,000 participants in the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice held Nov. 6-8 in Arlington, Va.

Nuclear weapons
Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, speaks to the media during a conference on building a world free of nuclear weapons, at the Vatican Nov. 10. The campaign won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The conference brought together 11 Nobel laureates, top officials from the United Nations and NATO, diplomats from around the world, experts in nuclear weapons and the disarmament process, scholars, activists and representatives of bishops conferences.

Marriage conciliation
Twenty-one couples celebrate their conciliation ceremony at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va., June 24. The Catholic Church must strengthen its programs “to respond to the desire for family that emerges in the soul of the young generations,” and to help couples once they are married.

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Cathedral of Christ the Light

Upcoming events

Through Dec. 31, Global Fair Trade Nativity Festival, a curated collection of Nativity scenes from around the globe at the Cathedral Shop, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, Plaza Level. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day.

Dec. 1, Welcome Christmas Home, a winter art show featuring works, including posters and 3-D Nativity scenes, from schools in the Diocese of Oakland. At the Cathedral Shop, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, Plaza Level. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day.

Dec. 2 Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Join Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, as the diocese honors Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Continental Americas. The celebration begins with a pilgrimage from St. Louis Bertrand Parish, 1410 100th Ave., Oakland, and makes its way down International Boulevard to the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. Mass will be celebrated in the cathedral.

Dec. 8, 10 a.m., A Chanticleer Christmas. A musical tradition returns to the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. Tickets available through City Box Office.

Dec. 14, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Winetasting at the Cathedral Shop, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, Plaza Level. Sample five wines from the Bishop’s Vineyard.

Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m., Blue Christmas. On the longest night of the year, a service of readings and reflection at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland.

Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m., Epiphany Festival of Lessons & Carols. A festival of readings, hymns for the congregation and music sung by the Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys.

Events around the diocese

See Datelines, Page 17 for additional events.

Dec. 2, 7 p.m., Catholic Underground, St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley. Admission and prayer at 7 p.m. Confession will be available. Social and concert by All Saints Uplifted at 8 p.m. in the parish hall. For young adults. Contact: www.kaalicide.org/CLayArea.


Dec. 3, 3 p.m., Rejoice! Rejoice! is a family-friendly musical program of sacred masterworks of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, will feature Voci Women’s Vocal Ensemble and Jubilate Baroque Orchestra at St. Joseph Basilica, 1105 Chestnut St., Alameda. This is the final 2017 concert of Listen for Love’s Notes for Nourishment series. The one-hour concert is free; donations will be accepted at the door to benefit the Alameda Food Bank. Contact: www.NotesForNourishment.blogspot.com or 510-540-8136.

Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Sing Along Messiah, St. David of Wales Church, 5641 Edmond Ave, Richmond. Singers will be accompanied by period instruments.

Dec. 10, 6 p.m., “Sing Along Messiah,” St. David of Wales Church, 5641 Edmond Ave, Richmond. Singers will be accompanied by period instruments.

Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Christmas Concert at St. Louis Bertrand Church, 100th Ave. at International Blvd., Oakland. Music by the Castro Valley Community Band under the direction of Kathy Maier. Free admission.

Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., Christmas Concert: Gloria! Songs of Praise, St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Music of the season and faith with the whole family, presented by the Catholic Community of Pleasanton’s music ministry, featuring the adult choir, teen choir, children’s choir, cantors and instrumentalists. A free-will offering will help defray concert expenses. Information: www.catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Advent begins on December 3

Staff report

Advent (“ad-venio” in Latin or “to come in”), is the beginning of the Church year; this year, beginning Dec. 3. The Advent season is a time of preparation that draws our hearts and minds to Christ’s second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord’s birth on Christmas.

Advent devotions remind us of the meaning of the season. Special Advent devotions include the lighting of the Advent wreath; the Advent calendar which helps remind us of the season with daily thoughts and activities. Advent prayers that prepare us spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Advent wreath, with a candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the liturgical period. Four lit candles are set in a wreath. One candle is lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas.

St. Columba’s 4th Annual Many Sounds of Christmas Concert

Friday, December 15, 2017
7:00pm - 9:00pm
St. Columba Catholic Church
6401 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94608

Tickets: $25.00 in advance
$30.00 at door

Available after Mass, Parish Office Mon-Thurs
http://ManySounds2017.eventbrite.com

Proceeds to benefit the St. Columba African American Celebration & 120th Anniversary

Information contact: 510-550-4040

Celebrate the Season with VINTAGE

St. Bonaventure Church
5562 Clayton Road, Concord, CA

Admission: Free

Like us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/VintageAtticменсTrio
See our videos at https://www.youtube.com/user/VintageHarmonicTrio

VINTAGE: Maryann Tarantino, Joyce Martinez, & Santiago Martinez, with John Jordan & Donnie Fisi

Saturday, December 9, at 7:30 PM

Concert: Gloria!


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Saturday, December 9, at 7:30 PM

Concert: Gloria!


Remembrance Tree Celebration

Start a new family tradition and join us for our Annual Remembrance Tree and Candlelight Vigil Prayer Ceremony. Honor the memory of your loved one by placing photos and notes within a personal memorial ornament.

(800) 498-4989 | cfsoakland.org

Holy Cross Cemetery | Friday, December 1st | 6:30pm
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery | Thursday, December 7th | 6:30–8:30pm
Queen of Heaven Cemetery | Saturday, December 2nd | Following 11:00am Mass
St. Joseph Cemetery | Saturday, December 2nd | Following 11:00am Mass
Sorensen’s Chapel | Saturday, December 2nd | 4:00pm

CFCS Living Our Mission

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION & CEMETERY SERVICES
A MINISTRY OF THE Diocese of Oakland
Spreading an idea: The tendernelessness revolution

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

TED, the media organization that posts online talks under the slogan “ideas worth spreading,” earlier this year Pope Francis surprised the world by digitally giving his own TED Talk at the organization’s annual conference in Vancouver. In his nearly 20 minute talk, our Holy Father challenged his listeners to ignite a much-needed revolution of tendernelessness in our world.

Tenderness, the Father suggested, “is the love that comes close and becomes real. It is a movement that starts from out of our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands. Tendernelessness means to use our eyes to see the other, our ears to hear the other, to listen to the children, the poor, those who are afraid of the future. To listen also to the silent cry of our common home, of our sick and polluted earth. Tendernelessness means to use our hands and our heart to comfort the other, to take care of those in need.”

What better time could there be to launch a revolution of tendernelessness than during the Advent and Christmas season? After all, the heart of Christmas is the story of God’s coming among us as a helpless baby — this is the epitome of tenderness. Of God’s coming among us as a helpless baby — this is the epitome of tenderness.

So, as you help ignite the revolution of tendernelessness this Christmas, don’t forget to say a little prayer for the man who inspired it!

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

Filipino tradition of Simbang Gabi kicks off Dec. 14

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

Staff report

The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, will host the sixth annual kick off to the Simbang Gabi Christmas celebration on Dec. 14 with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, presiding.

There will be a gathering at 6 p.m., Mass at 6:30 p.m. followed by a reception in the Parish Center. For more information: www.cfcathedral.org or 510-489-5867.

Using the tradition with them as a part of the celebration of the season in favor of tenderness! If we didn’t have to be on the lookout for the next sale or the latest decorating ideas, we could better use our eyes to see the lonely and the earth. If we could be on the inside of our Holy Father’s TED Talk. “Quite a few years of life have strengthened my conviction that each and everyone’s existence is deeply tied to that of others,” Francis told his audience. And then, incredibly, he asked for a little tenderness for himself: “We all need each other. And so, please, think of me as well with tenderness, so that I can fulfill the task I have been given for the good of the other, of each and every one, of all of you, of all of us.”

So, as you help ignite the revolution of tendernelessness this Christmas, don’t forget to say a little prayer for the man who inspired it!

(Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor)
‘Blue Christmas’ offers reflective light in a season that can be dark

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

On Dec. 21, the longest night of the year, the Cathedral of Christ the Light will open its doors to the people for whom Christmas is more of “Silent Night” than “Joy to the World.” For many — those who grieve the loss of a loved, for example, or loss of a job — Christmas “is not all ‘Jingle Bells,’” said John Renke, pastoral associate for Divine Worship and Operations for the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

Renke, who came to the cathedral this year from the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii in Honolulu where he was the organist and director of music for 10 years, created a Blue Christmas service there. About 10 years ago, he was introduced to the Blue Christmas movement, and created a one-hour prayer service, with Scripture, song and silence. “It’s very reflective,” Renke said. The Scripture is familiar — Ecclesiastes’ “To everything there is a season.” There’s a lot of silence, he said, as well as meditative music. “We talk about all the losses that accumulate throughout our lives,” he said, “the loss of a relationship, or a job or the loss of health.” The service acknowledges, he said, “the things that weigh on people.” There’s singing by the congregation. “Silent Night” and “Away in the Manger” are in; “Joy to the World” is not. “There’s no one formula,” Renke said. “This is something that I’ve put together and hardly changed over the years because it’s so effective.”

Blue Christmas will be a one-hour service, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. While it is a Christian service, Renke invites people of all faiths to attend. The longest night of the year at the cathedral, Blue Christmas, he said, “acknowledges loss, grief and pain.” It also acknowledges, he said, “light at the other end.”

The Catholic Voice is on Facebook

The Gift Shop at San Damiano Retreat

“CHRIST IS IN CHRISTMAS HERE!”

By Kate Neal
Special to The Catholic Voice

The holidays can be a very difficult time when we are grieving a loved one. It’s important for those who are grieving to give themselves time and space to heal during this hectic season. Perhaps you may decide to cut down on the Christmas cards or gifts and take a break from some traditions that may be overwhelming for you in the face of your loss, and that’s OK. Many families find it helpful during holiday celebrations to consider new traditions or to find ways to incorporate remembering and honoring their loved one who has died.

Several of our Catholic Cemeteries host “Remembrance Tree Celebrations” during the month of December to give families an opportunity to do just that. Each cemetery has a slightly different way of hosting this celebration but each of them makes it a prayerful and joyful way to remember those we love who have died. Consider making the Remembrance Tree a new tradition in your family this year. Below is a list of the cemeteries and what to expect at the service if you attend.

By Kate Neal
Special to The Catholic Voice

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St. Joseph Cemetery, 2540 Church St., San Pablo, after the First Saturday Mass at 11 a.m. Dec. 2. Families are invited to create ornaments in memory of their loved ones. Ornaments can be taken home for your own tree or used to decorate ours. Enjoy Christmas carols, holiday treats and hot chocolate.

St. Joseph Cemetery, 2540 Church Lane, San Pablo, after the First Saturday Mass at 11 a.m. Dec. 2. One of the local priests comes out and blesses the tree, the Children’s Choir from St. Paul School will sing while the tree lights are turned on. All children who are in attendance will then have the opportunity to write a prayer, verse or message on a strip of colored paper to be placed in a clear Christmas ball and then hang it on the tree. Families will then move to our reception room for refreshments. The principal from St Paul School will have a craft area set up where she will help children make Christmas decorations.

Sorensen’s Chapel, 1140 B St., Hayward, at 4 p.m. Dec. 2. Sorensen Chapel hosts a Night of Remembrance. The evening begins with a prayer service led by one of the local priests, during the service pictures of loved ones of those in attendance projected. Then we decorate the Remembrance Tree with ornaments that also have a picture of a loved one on them. Each attendee will receive one of these ornaments for their own tree. After the service, there is a home-cooked, buffet style dinner reception. RSVPs are required. Contact Tom Luzod at 510-581-1234.

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 1051 Harder Road, Hayward. The service will begin in St. Michael’s Chapel at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 7. A choir will perform as the tree is lit. Families will be invited to create ornaments in memory of their loved ones. Ornaments can be taken home for your own tree or used to decorate ours. Light refreshments and custom-made stockings stuffed with goodies and toys for the children. Ornaments left to hang on our tree may be picked up on Jan. 3.

(Kate Neal is outreach manager for Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, Oakland.)

Holiday Guide

The Gift Shop at San Damiano Retreat

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Diocese of Oakland
Spiritual Guide:

Fr. Lawrence D’Anjou
St. Raymond Parish, Dublin

But for a beautifully hopeful moment, the experience of the world was different on Oct. 13, at the Centenary celebration of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima occurred between May 13 and Oct. 17, 1917 to three shepherd children (St. Francisco, St. Jacinta and Blessed Lucia). The apparitions occurred when the experience of the world was also hard in the midst of a very bloody World War I. Mary brought the children a message of prayer and penitence, telling them to have hope, and that peace would come. The message of Fatima is still relevant for the world today.

During the course of the 3½-hour celebration (which (Continued on Page 9.)
Travel

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Athens/Piraeus 4 Days/3 Nights Greek Islands Cruise – Featuring Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete & Santorini.

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

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

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

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

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

Pilgrims — about 80,000 — were in Fatima on Oct. 13 as Pope Francis blessed candles from the Chapel of the Apparitions, which were used in a nighttime procession.

(Continued from Page 8.)

began with a procession of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and concluded with Exposition and Benediction) you couldn’t help but notice that different pilgrim groups had brought with them their national flag. Hundreds of countries were represented from around the world; notably flying were the flags of the United States of America, China and Russia.

As beautiful as the Mass was, the candlelight procession that evening was the moment most of the pilgrims talked about. That evening some 80,000 pilgrims gathered on the esplanade between the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima and the Church of the Holy Trinity.

Once again flying national flags, and now each carrying a lit candle, we processed in the darkness of the Portugal night. As we did so, we prayed the Rosary. Approximately every two “Hail Mary’s” the person leading the rosary, and the language they spoke, changed. Yet no matter what language was being spoken, after the leader prayed the first half of the prayer, 80,000 voices, each in their native tongue, completed the prayer. We may not have understood each other’s languages, but we understood what we were praying together.

Between Decades of the Rosary, a verse and refrain of the “Ave Maria” was sung, and 80,000 candles were lifted high as 80,000 sang strong. It reminded me of what St. John records in the Book of Revelation when he writes “I had a vision of a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, race and tongue.” Despite flags of various nations at odds being waved, Catholicism and faith overrode all differences and held us as one. For just a moment there was the briefest glimpse of what the Kingdom of God will be like. For just a moment the experience of the world was not hard. It was beautiful. It was inspiring. The experience of the world was hopeful.

(Father Mark Wiesner is pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Livermore.)
‘Radical answer’ to assisting victims of commercial sexual exploitation

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Renovations are underway to create a 13-bedroom home for young women, ages 12 to 17, who have been the victims of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The residence is part of the Diocese of Oakland and Catholic Charities of the East Bay’s “radical answer” to the challenge put to them by Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley more than two years ago:

Claire’s House — named for O’Malley’s mother — may open its doors in the first quarter of 2018. Its location is being kept private to help ensure the safety of its residents. The journey has been a long one, Catholic Charities CEO Chuck Fernandez told a Catholic Charities USA gathering this summer.

The young women Claire’s House has set out to serve have a history of being let down by people they should have been able to trust, he said. “We were not going to be the people who let them down.”

Consulting others who tried — and some who have failed — to be able to serve young people in similar situations, Catholic Charities of the East Bay set out to build a model. The hiring of Leah Kimble-Price, a third-generation resident of Oakland and social worker with a track record of working with sexually exploited youth, was a turning point in creating that plan.

Claire’s House will be the home for the young women; each will have her own room. The house staff will help provide a home-like environment. The residents will have the opportunity to return to school. They will work with clinicians and case managers who will help them rebuild their lives.

After the first of the year, parishioners throughout the Diocese of Oakland will have the opportunity to take part in mentoring training and CSEC (commercially sexually exploited children) education through Day Star, the outreach and community engagement arm of Claire’s House.

One goal is to train two mentors — a man and a woman — in each parish. Joy Thompson, who directs the outreach and community engagement arm of Claire’s House, said. “We want to be able to replicate this model.”

The business model was enticing: Claire’s House will operate as a residential placement through the state of California’s Short Term residential Therapeutic Program. As such, a housing fee of $12,038 monthly per resident will be paid to Claire’s House. Based on staffing structure, additional revenue will be generated by clinicians and case managers.

Residential placements for commercially sexually exploited children are few. Nationwide, less than 500 beds are available for commercially sexually exploited children.

Leah Kimble-Price and Chuck Fernandez of Catholic Charities of the East Bay give a talk about the plan for Claire’s House to a Catholic Charities USA gathering at Saint Mary’s College of California in July.

The annual budget, when Claire’s House is fully up and running, will be $2.2 million to $2.4 million, Fernandez said. “We can do intervention, get kids off the streets and prevention,” Kimble-Price said. “But what do we do once they’ve been trafficked?”

“Eighty percent of the trafficking cases in California are prosecuted in Oakland,” she said.

Kimble-Price’s office is at Claire’s House. It will be staffed by 28 people; the original expectation had been a staff of five to eight.

The talk drew a large crowd at the event, with representatives of several agencies eyeing the prospect of opening their own programs.

“We want to be able to replicate this model,” Kimble-Price said. “We want to share this model.”

The model is aggressive: Claire’s House will “make something so attractive relative to anything they’re coming from,” Kimble-Price said. “We’re the international hub for child trafficking.”

Concerns about traffickers coming to the house are lessened by what Kimble-Price called the “disposable” nature of sex trafficking. “A trafficker is not going to spend the time and energy to go after that girl,” she said. “He’s going to find another girl.”

Kimble-Price’s office is at Claire’s House. It will be staffed by 28 people; the original expectation had been a staff of five to eight.

The annual budget, when Claire’s House is fully up and running, will be $2.2 million to $2.4 million, Fernandez said. “Because of the funding sources, it fully pays for itself,” Kimble-Price added.

There is hope that Claire’s House will have an impact greater than the dozen young women it serves. “We’re prepared to see what it can sweep across the state, and sweep across the country,” said Stephen Mullen, parish engagement manager for CCEB.

“My sister was to be a nun, and I was to be a mother,” says Notre Dame Sister Mary Ann Hanson (foreground), 79, “but God had other plans.” During 61 years of religious life, she has joyfully followed those plans. Along with the senior religious shown here—and 32,000 more across the United States—Sister Mary Ann benefits from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift helps provide nursing care, medications, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Roughly 94 percent of donations aid senior religious.

To donate:
Mr. Phillip Toups
Office for Mission Advancement
Diocese of Oakland
2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100
Oakland CA 94612

Make check payable to Diocese of Oakland/RFR.

Or give at your local parish December 9-10.

www.retiredreligious.org
Help aging Sisters, Brothers and priests in religious orders

Special to The Catholic Voice

Catholics in the Diocese of Oakland will have the opportunity to “give to those who have given a lifetime” as part of the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, to be held in parishes Dec. 9-10.

Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington, D.C., the annual appeal benefits nationally 32,000 elderly Catholic Sisters, Brothers and religious order priests whose religious congregations lack adequate retirement funding.

Last year, the Diocese of Oakland contributed $243,080.57 to the collection. In 2017, the Franciscan Friars received financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may also benefit from the annual appeal.

The 2016 collection raised almost $30.7 million. Roughly 94 cents of every dollar aids senior religious. In June, the NRRO distributed $25 million to 390 religious communities across the country.

Communities utilize these funds to bolster retirement savings and subsidize expenses, such as prescription medications and nursing care. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated to assist religious communities with the greatest needs and to promote ongoing education in retirement planning and eldercare delivery.

“We are humbled and profoundly grateful for the love and support of Catholics across the nation,” said Presentation Sister Stephanie Still, the NRRO’s executive director.

Despite this generosity, many religious communities still struggle to provide for aging members. Only 41 of the 539 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2016 were adequately funded for retirement. Traditionally, Catholic Sisters, Brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as religious — served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Today, hundreds of religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings to serve in compensated ministry. In addition to providing assistance for day-to-day needs, collection proceeds underwrite initiatives to help religious communities address the factors underlying their retirement shortfalls. These efforts have facilitated solutions such as collaborative care facilities, strategic partnerships with health-care providers and numerous cost-saving measures.

“I visit many religious communities and see the good works that members young and old provide,” said Sister Still. “Generosity to the annual collection ensures our office can furnish support to help these communities care for older members while continuing their ministries and witness.”

The Impact of the Retirement Fund for Religious (RF) Fund

There are 62,721* Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests in the United States. More than 44,000 of these belong to religious communities that receive financial assistance and/or support and services made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Members of religious communities that benefit from the RF: 44,871*

Receive financial assistance, support, and services: 27,461

Receive support and services: 17,410

Members of religious communities that do not participate in RF programs:

17,850


Helping Aging Sisters, Brothers and priests in religious orders

Special parish collection

What: Retirement Fund for Religious

When: Dec. 9-10

For more information: http://retiredreligious.org

Members of religious communities that benefit from the RF: 44,871*

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Abode Services
Abode, which began delivering services to individuals and families without a home in 1982, has expanded its programming to the Tri-Valley area, including Livermore and Pleasanton. Since 2010, Abode Services has served more than 30,000 adults and children from homelessness into homes.

Need: Gifts (card, Target, Wal, Mart, Safeway, Payless ShoeSource); holiday dinner basket (canned veget-
ables, a frozen turkey or ham, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, dinner rolls and a dessert); (New) winter clothing-
socks, warm hats; donations online.

Where: 588 Brown Road, Fremont, 94539 (Hours 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday-Sunday)

Contact: Jean Morgan, Community Outreach director, 510-252-9019, ext. 11; Jean.morgan@abodeservices.org; www.abodeservices.org.

Alameda County Community Food Bank
Alameda County Community Food Bank serves 6,000 Alameda County residents by distributing 30 million meals annually through more than 200 commu-
nity partners as well as mobile market and school programs. In 2016, ACCFB was named Feeding America Food Bank of the Year. For 11 consecutive years, Alameda County Community Food Bank has received Charity Navigator’s top rating — Four consecutive years, Alameda County
Bank has been named Feeding America’s 2016 Bank of the Year.

Need: Monetary donations; non-perish-
able food items; volunteer time.

Where: 7990 Edgewater Drive, Oakland 94621

Contact: www.acfb.org or 800-870-3663.

Bay Area Crisis Nursery
The Bay Area Crisis Nursery’s mis-

sion is to prevent child abuse by offering free, voluntary, short-term respite care to children and their families. The nursery is seeking to raise funds to expand its programming to a full

program. Donate online: www.svdp-cc.org.

Where: SVDP, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg 94565

Contact: Barb Hunt, 925-439-5060; svdp@svdp-cc.org; www.svdp-cc.org.

Christ Lamp
Founded in 1964, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers Thanksgiving and Christmas programs to support

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County is a charitable organ-

ization that provides access to much needed goods and services such as the Fire and Police, Winter Job

training, job-drop in centers, free clothing and family services to help people break out of the cycle of poverty.

Need: New toys for children; gently-

worn coats for adults; non-perishable food items; monetary donations and volunteers.

Contact: Muna Tekuir, 2272 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 94616; 510-719-0774 for information or make donations at www.svdp-cc.org.

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra County
Founded in 1964, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers Thanksgiving and Christmas programs to support

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra County has a crisis nursery that provides free, confidential, non-judgmental

6633 or Catherine@bayareacrisisnursery.

Monetary

Stabilization Programs: Need:

3241 Foothill Blvd., Oakland 94601

Contact: Krista Lucchesi, director, 510-

354-8540, ext. 369.

Monument Crisis Center of Contra County
A family resource center assisting and stabilizing the low-income community with nutritious groceries, resource and referrals, adult education, health and wellness.

Where: 1990 Market St. Concord 94520

Hours: 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays), and Tuesday through Thursday until 7 p.m., on Tuesdays.

Contact: Sandra Scherer, executive
director, 925-825-7751, ext. 105; sscherer@monumentcenter.org.

Oakland Catholic Worker
A hospitality house for Latin American immigrants and refugees offering hospitality and

An online program on our website, www.svdp-cc.org.

St. Mary’s Center
St. Mary’s Center is a community of hope, justice, and healing that serves at

A nonprofit crisis pregnancy center offering free, voluntary, short-term service to pregnant women.

Birthright of Concord
A nonprofit crisis pregnancy center offering free, voluntary, short-term service to pregnant women.

Address: 433 Jefferson St., Oakland 94607

Contact: Stephen Mullin, direc-
tor of Engagement, 510-768-3165 or smullin@cbcb.org.

Mercy Brown Bag Program
Sponsored by Mercy Retirement & Care Community, this brown bag program provides

Available in a variety of sizes 4-6; grocery gift cards to Safeway, Food Maxx or

Mention is made in need of

in their transition to independence by cre-

Bills or passes for AC Transit, County

stop, select the campaign, "Fire rebuilding and recovery"

Send checks to:

Continue to pay cost of high school equivalency

In 2016, ACCFB was named Feeding
America Food Bank of the Year. For 11 consecutive years, Alameda County Community
Bank has been named Feeding America’s 2016 Bank of the Year.

Need: Monetary donations; non-perish-
able food items; volunteer time.

Where: 7990 Edgewater Drive, Oakland 94621

Contact: www.acfb.org or 800-870-3663.

Birthright of Concord
A nonprofit crisis pregnancy center offering free, voluntary, short-term service to pregnant women.

School supplies, clothing; diapers to size

Baby clothes to 18 months; volunteers;

School supplies, clothing; diapers to size

Baby clothes to 18 months; volunteers;

School supplies, clothing; diapers to size

Baby clothes to 18 months; volunteers;

School supplies, clothing; diapers to size

Baby clothes to 18 months; volunteers;

School supplies, clothing; diapers to size

Baby clothes to 18 months; volunteers;
People filled the cathedral for the All Souls Day Mass on Nov. 2. Bottom right, during his remarks, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, noted, “We wear black as a way to say it’s OK to grieve.” More photos on Facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice.

‘We can do something for those who have died’

By Jeffrey Hall

Staff report

People filled the cathedral of Christ the Light on Nov. 2 for the annual Requiem Mass to honor the faithful departed.

“We are here because someone we know has passed, said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ. “They have died and they meant something to us.”

But the people we knew and loved are more than a sweet memory, he said. We thank God for putting that person in our lives, and our love for them reaches beyond the grave.

“The Holy Sacrifice of the mass is the highest form of prayer,” the bishop said. “We can do something concrete to help those who have died and gone on to heaven — pray for them.”

This year the All Souls Day Mass featured the West Coast premiere of the 21st-century composition, David Briggs Requiem, under the direction of Rudy de Vos, director of music.

The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys (the boys are students at Oakland’s Pacific Boychoir Academy) made its debut that evening.


Five questions to ask before making gifts

By Jeffrey Hall

Special to The Catholic Voice

Many seniors consider transferring assets for estate and long-term care planning purposes, or just to help out children or grandchildren.

Gifts and bequests to a trust often make a lot of sense. They can save money in taxes and long-term care expenditures, and they can help out family members in need and serve as expressions of love and caring.

But some gifts can cause problems, for both the generous donor and the recipient. Here are a few questions to ask yourself before writing the check:

1. Why are you making the gift? Is it simply an expression of love on a birthday or big event, such as a graduation or wedding? Or is it for tax planning or long-term care planning purposes? If the latter, make sure that there’s really a benefit to the transfer. If the value of your assets totals less than the estate tax threshold in your state, your estate will pay no estate tax in any case. For federal purposes the threshold is $5.43 million (in 2015). Gifts can also cause up to five years of ineligibility for Medicaid, which you may need to help pay long-term care costs.

2. Are you keeping enough money? If you’re making small gifts, you might not need to worry about this question. But before making any large gifts, it makes sense to do some budgeting to make sure that you will not run short of funds for your basic needs, activities you enjoy — whether that’s traveling, taking courses or going out to eat — and emergencies such as the need for care yourself or to assist someone in financial trouble.

3. Is it really a gift (Part 1)? Are you expecting the money to be paid back or for the recipient to perform some task for you? In either case, make sure that the beneficiary of your generosity is on the same page as you. The best way to do this is in writing, with a promissory note in the case of a loan or an agreement if you have an expectation that certain tasks will be performed.

4. Is it really a gift (Part 2)? Another way a gift may not really be a gift is if you expect the recipient to hold the funds for you (or for someone else, such as a disabled child) or to let you live in or use a house that you have transferred. These are gifts with strings attached, at least in theory. But if you don’t use a trust or, in the case of real estate, a legal living trust, there are no strings attached. Your expectations may not pan out if the recipient doesn’t do what you want or runs into circumstances — bankruptcy, a lawsuit, divorce, illness — that no one anticipated. If the idea is to make the gifts with strings attached, it’s best to attach those strings legally through a trust or estate life.

5. Is the gift good for the recipient? If the recipient has special needs, the funds could make her ineligible for various public benefits, such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income or subsidized housing. If you make many gifts to the same person, you may help create a dependency that interferes with the recipient learning to stand on his own two feet. If the recipient has issues with drugs or alcohol, he may use the gifted funds to further the habit. You may need to permit the individual to hit bottom in order to learn to live on his own (i.e., don’t be an ‘enabler’).

If after you’ve answered all of these questions, you still want to make a gift, please go ahead. But unless the gift is for a nominal amount, it is advisable to check with an experienced elder law attorney to make sure you are aware of the Medi-Cal consequences, gift tax, estate tax and other possible implications of your generosity.

( Pleasant Hill attorney Jeffrey Hall is a Certified Public Accountant with a master’s in business administration degree. Schedule a free 15-minute telephone consultation through his office at 925-230-9002 or www.HallLawGroup.com.)
In Berkeley . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

the Catholic and Muslim traditions. Additionally, there were six observers from each side. They came from as far away as Rome and Jordan; Argentina and Zimbabwe.

Papers were presented by scholars on both sides of the table on what it means to be human: integral human development; and obstacles and opportunities to integral human development.

"The seminar was closed to the public except for the 40-minute opening session and an hour-long public session at which representatives from both groups briefed the audience on the proceedings, and the final declaration was read. Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, offered greetings at the inaugural session. "You are all very welcome," Bishop Barber told the visitors to his diocese.

He told the gathering that last year, the Diocese of Oakland had hosted at the Cathedral of Christ the Light a gathering of representatives of Islamic, Judaism, Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity to declare that religion is not the source of hatred, but the source of peace, consolation and mercy."

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, had been expected to lead the Catholic delegation but was unable to travel. Bishop Miguel Ayuso, OHC, the council’s secretary, read a letter from the cardinal, who referenced the recent wildfires, hurricanes and earthquakes. These events, he wrote, "illustrate to us humans are not the master of the earth, but its stewards," called to make it "a suitable home for all its inhabitants."

"It is a road map," Bishop Ayuso said of the declaration. "The concerns we are all called in our inner conscience to do our best." He tapped his chest. "Peace starts in our heart, in our families, in our connections, in our societies."

"Just coming together is extremely important," said Shayk Hamza Yusuf, head of the Muslim delegation and president of Zaytuna College. "We’ve made a commitment to work with our Catholic brothers and sisters, to lessen for ways to make these things more impactful."

As he left the gathering, Bishop Ayuso was asked what Pope Francis would think of the forum. "He loves dialogue," he said.

Final Declaration of the Fourth Catholic-Muslim Forum

Staff report

After listening to the presentation of the papers by Muslim and Catholic Scholars the participants noted with satisfaction significant convergences between their respective traditions. Such convergences constitute a motive of hope not only for Christians and Muslims but for all, favoring a meaningful collaboration for the promotion of integral human development.

After sharing viewpoints, ideas and concerns, the participants agreed on the following:

1. Christianity and Islam both assert that God created humanity, placing it at the very summit of creation, for use with gratitude and wisdom with respect for the laws of nature as stewards for the earth and its resources gifted by Almighty God for all generations.

2. God bestowed on every human being an inalienable dignity from which fundamental human rights are derived. Such rights constitute grave obstacles to the realization of God’s will for humanity, its well-being and growth in peace and security. This is why we consider it our moral obligation to denounce wars and consider it our moral obligation to denounce wars and the arms trade that facilitate them, and instead use humanity’s resources for our personal and collective flourishing.

3. We assert the equal dignity and value of all we can to address all that hinders the integral development of humanity, including any erroneous interpretations or understandings of our respective sacred texts and traditions.

4. Freedom of conscience and of religion resides at the peak of the edifice of human rights. Therefore, our collective duty demands that we respect, preserve and promote such freedoms.

5. God, our Creator, willed the integral growth of every human being for the full flourishing of God’s gifts: body, soul, intellect and spirit.

6. Christians and Islam have moral, intellectual and spiritual resources that can contribute to the integral human development of both individuals and communities. Persons of good will will commit to the common good through the promotion of justice, peace and love that fosters the integral development of people, communities and all of humanity and the conservation of the environment that sustains us.

7. As believers, we are called to do all we can to address all that hinders the integral development of humanity, including any erroneous interpretations or understandings of our respective sacred texts and traditions.

8. We believe that injustice, conflicts and the proliferation of armaments constitute grave obstacles to the realization of God’s will for humanity, its well-being and growth in peace and security. This is why we consider it our moral obligation to denounce wars and the arms trade that facilitate them, and instead use humanity’s resources for our personal and collective flourishing.

9. Together, as believers, we assert that those in need of development must be enabled to fulfill their destiny, allowing them to take their rightful place as full members of the human family according to God’s will.

Staff report

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800 runners participate in CYO championship

By Bill Ford
Special to The Catholic Voice

After the smoke cleared from the North Bay Fires, more than 800 runners con- verged on Crown Beach Regional Park, Alameda, for the annual Oakland Diocese Cross-Country Championship Meet.

The disappointment of the CYO meets cancelled the previous week, due to poor air quality, quickly turned into excitement as the young runners ran over a wind-swept course through sandy pathways with a view of the beach and Bay.

Runners from third through eighth grades, both girls and boys, pushed for individual medals and team awards run over the mile-long course. In a special division, runners from kindergarten through second grade ran a half-mile race. Teams at the meet represented 39 parishes and Catholic schools in Catholic Youth Organization Cross Country.

As with all CYO events, the meet began with a prayer with the runners and their families. After the opening prayer, runners competed in five races in individual age groups. As darkness fell over the beach, the meet and the CYO Cross Country season concluded with a gathering of runners and families for a closing prayer and an awards ceremony.

The 2017 CYO Cross Country season featured four weeks of running on Friday afternoons in late September and early October. Races were held in parks around the East Bay at Crown Beach, Alameda; Joaquin Miller Park; Oakland; Oak Hill Park, Danville; and Gran Park, Hayward.

Each race had an exciting start, sometimes with more than 200 runners along multiple starting lines. Runners then paced themselves, running through wooded trails or along sandy beaches. After covering the distance, runners sprinted over flat, grassy areas to the finish line.

At each meet, all runners, both competitive and recreational, were greeted along the course by cheering, enthusiastic family members. All in attendance appreciated the accomplishment of an athlete finishing a mile or half-mile race. The attraction of CYO Cross Country for young people is running with friends in a natural park setting, running up and down hill slopes on tree lined or sandy pathways, in sun or in wind, and then beginning a fall weekend, perhaps with post-meet pizza.

Winnners:

Individual diocesan meet winners, with times over the mile course, were:

3rd-5th Grade Girls:

1st – Isabella Shalauta, CCOP, 7:07.2
2nd – Alexa Lawson, St. Patrick, Rodeo, 7:12.6
3rd – Talianna Wilson, St. Leander, 7:27.8

3rd-5th Grade Boys:

1st – Evan Malotzo, St. Patrick, Rodeo, 6:33.7
2nd – Brett Morrison, St. Isidore, 6:38.2
3rd – Conner Snow, St. Joan of Arc, 6:38.8

6th-8th Grade Girls:

1st – Rhea Braganza, St. Joan of Arc, 6:15.8
2nd – Sasha Piper, St. Michael, 6:18.3
3rd – Lauren Yee, Holy Rosary, 6:27.7

6th-8th Grade Boys:

1st – Aidan Surliny, St. John Vianney, 6:10.7
2nd – Justin Peterson, St. Michael, 6:12.4
3rd – Ryan Frankel, St. Joan of Arc, 6:13.5

Boys and girls, in kindergarten through second grade, competed in a half-mile event.

K-2nd Grade Girls:

1st – Erin Dodson, Immaculate Heart, 3:50.7
2nd – Alyssa Ragasa, St. Philip Neri, 3:52.8
3rd – Marina Beers, St. John, San Lorenzo, 3:55.4

K-2nd Grade Boys:

1st – Cody Harrington, St. Theresa, 3:41.0
2nd – William Spain, St. Joseph, Fremont, 3:41.7
3rd – Kai Sullivan, School of the Madeleine, 3:48.0

For Diocesan Meet Team Award winners, teams are scored one point for the first place runner, two points for the second place runner, etc., and then scoring for their first three runners. As in golf, the low score wins. No team awards are presented for the K-2 race. The top three teams in each division with points were:

3rd-5th Grade Girls:

1st – St. Theresa (43)
2nd – Corpus Christi, Piedmont (49)
3rd – St. Joan of Arc (58)

3rd-5th Grade Boys:

1st – St. Joan of Arc (20)
2nd – St. Isidore (22)
3rd – St. Michael (70)

6th-8th Grade Boys:

1st – St. Joan of Arc (10)
2nd – St. Michael (28)
3rd – St. Isidore (34)

6th-8th Grade Girls:

1st – St. Joan of Arc (16)
2nd – St. John Vianney (20)
3rd – St. Michael (38)

For complete meet results or for more information on CYO Cross Country, visit the CYO Cross Country page of the CYO Website: www.oaklandcyo.org

(Bill Ford is the director of the Catholic Youth Organization in the Diocese of Oakland)
Sister Mary Denis Baldwin, OP

Sister Mary Denis Baldwin, a longtime educator, died Oct. 31 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose in Fremont. She was 88 and had been a Dominican Sister for 70 years.

Born in Pasadena, Sister Baldwin’s ministry was Catholic education. She was a teacher at St. Elizabeth High School in Oakland, and she also served at Immaculate Conception Academy in San Francisco, Marycrest High School in Portland, Oregon, and many schools in southern California.

The funeral Mass was held Nov. 6 at the Dominican Sisters Chapel in Fremont. Bural took place the following day in God’s Acre, the Dominican Sisters Cemetery, also in Fremont.

Sister Romona Nowak, OP

Sister Romona Nowak, formerly known as Sister Jane Lucian Nowak, died Nov. 8 at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan. She was 72 years of age and in the 51st year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

A native of Chicago, Sister Nowak was graduated from Aquinas Dominican High School in Chicago and from Siena Heights College (University) in Adrian, Michigan, with a bachelor of science degree in biology and from the University of Chicago with a master of science in teaching degree. She was also certified as a chaplain by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains and as a retreat and spiritual director by Columbiana Spirituality Center.

Sister Nowak ministered in California for seven years. In the Diocese of Oakland she served as religious education director at All Saints Parish in Hayward from 1976 to 1980. She was also chaplain at St. Vincent Medical Center in Daly City (1987-89) and was associate director, field education at St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park (1989-90).

Sister Nowak also spent several years as an elementary and high school teacher in Illinois and as a chaplain and pastoral care associate in Indiana and Michigan. In a grace-filled and uplifting interview posted earlier this year by her Adrian Dominican community on YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn2zEn3Xl4g Sister Nowak discussed her life, ministry and terminal illness and going for what she called her “P.H.D., Preparing for a Happy Death.”

She is survived by her brother, Robert Nowak of Oswego, Illinois. The Rev. Reinaldo Balboni, O.P., pastor of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception in Fremont, will celebrate a memorial Mass Nov. 9 in the Congregational cemetery in Adrian, Michigan.

Explore lay Passionists

Staff report

The Confraternity of the Passion (Passionists) has its own unique charism: devotion to our Crucified Lord, and seeing the passion of Christ in the poor and the powerless. The Blesseds John of the Cross and Francis de Sales both had a special devotion to the Passion of Christ, which included prayer to Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Man and the Suffering God. The Confraternity of the Passion, known as the Passionists, is a religious family of the Roman Catholic Church founded by St. Paul of the Cross in 1730. In the United States on the East Coast, the lay Passionists are affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Ghost Fathers.

In the Diocese of Oakland, there are Passionist Confraternities around the world, most in the United States on the East Coast. Those interested in finding out more about the Confraternity of the Passion, an affiliation of lay people dedicated to remembering the Passion of Jesus by prayer and good works, may contact Joseph William Crotty, Provincial of the St. Paul Province at 510-541-9504. St. Paul of the Cross founded the Passionists. A lay Passionist can be a member of a confraternity, or a priest of the Order, or a novice. A passionist can be a member of a confraternity, or a priest of the Order, or a novice.

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Fatima in Alameda

At St. Joseph Basilica in Alameda, a candlelight procession around the block of people praying the rosary in different languages took place after Mass on Oct. 13, the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal. The parish observed the Fatima centennial each month marking 100 years since the apparitions began on May 13, 1917. The procession also included singing, and a new statue of Our Lady of Fatima was blessed.

30 year celebration

Rev. Jayson Landless, C.S.C., explained how he had just tucked three young children into bed for a safe night at St. Benedict's Church in Oakland, was joined at the celebration of his 30th anniversary of ordination by Oakland Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone and Father Robert Gibson, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Alameda.

A native of New York, he said Father Landless was one of the first diocesan priests to serve in Oakland. Father Landless was ordained to the priesthood at O’Hara College, Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1979 and was assigned to Catholic schools in the Oakland Diocese.

He was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in 1989 and served as pastor from 2010-19.

Sister Ann Weltz arrived at Orinda’s Santa Maria parish hall from the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, explaining she had just tucked three young children into bed for a safe night at St. Benedict's Church in Oakland, was joined at the celebration of his 30th anniversary of ordination by Oakland Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone and Father Robert Gibson, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Alameda.

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Play a Novena

For a family member

If you wish to public a Novena in The Catholic Voice please follow these instructions:

1. Select a Novena and pray as described (see page 16).
2. Write a short prayer (100 words max) and include contact information for the sponsor.
3. Write a short prayer (100 words max) and include contact information for the sponsor.
4. The Novena should be running at least five (5) days before the date of publication.
5. All Novenas must be pre-paid.
6. The Catholic Voice reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement submitted for publication; however, The Catholic Voice does not attempt to investigate or verify claims made in advertisements. The appearance of advertising in The Catholic Voice in no way implies endorsement or approval of any advertising, claims or of the advertiser, its product or services. The Catholic Voice discards any liability whatsoever in connection with advertising appearing in its publication.

Cost $25

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Catholic Voice — November 20, 2017

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SPIRITUALITY**

Nov. 28 to Dec. 19

**Mary of Advent** series with Jane Stegman: 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 710 Highland Drive, Danville. Cost is $25 per session and includes Sunday mass and lunch. Information: registration.wandmall.com or 510-937-1411, ext. 315.

Dec. 1 to 3

Advent Silent Retreat Weekend with Father Patrick Fagan: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 5252 Farrell Street, Pacifica. Cost is $30 per person and includes lunch. Information: registration.wandmall.com or 510-937-1411, ext. 315.

Sat., Dec. 2

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 5252 Farrell St. My Soul Magnifies the Lord with Sister Barbara Hazel, OSB. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 5252 Farrell St. Cost is $40 per person and includes lunch. Information: registration.wandmall.com or 510-937-1411, ext. 315.

**“What Sawyer Music!” — A Festival of Lessons and Carols** at 7 p.m. Sundays at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 5252 Farrell St. Tickets at the door. Benefits CDA charities. Information: Josie Michael Gallaher, 510-537-6600 or michaelgallagher1025@outlook.com.

**PARISH ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

First Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the church on Wednesdays at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 1155 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Information: registration.wandmall.com or 510-937-1411, ext. 315.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

First Fridays at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, 1965 Reliez Valley road, Lafayette. Information: 510-943-3217 or NSDictionary@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Nov. 25

St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley. After the 4:30 p.m. mass; Dec. 3: starting at 7 p.m. in the church on Wednesdays at St. Raymond Parish, 1155 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Information: registration.wandmall.com or 510-937-1411, ext. 315.

**RETREATS**

Nov. 24 to 28

Cappaleti Days of Thanksgiving. At 4 p.m. Third Saturdays at Holy Angels/Cooper Chapel, 17062 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Murrieta. Information: 925-757-0658.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Remembrance Tree Celebration, 6:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 2000 E. 18th St., Concord. Information: 925-333-2012.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Remembrance Tree Celebration, 11 a.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Orinda. Information: 510-236-3636.

Sunday, Dec. 10


Thursday, Dec. 7

Remembrance Tree Celebration. All 11 a.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Orinda. Information: 510-236-3636.

**GRIEF WORSHIP**

Saturday, Nov. 25

Coping with Grief through the Holidays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Orinda. Information: 510-236-3636.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Coping with Grief through the Holidays, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 at St. Joseph Vianney Catholic Church, 1155 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Information: 510-943-3217 or NSDictionary@yahoo.com.

Next Voice: December 11. Submissions to November 29 to Carie McClure, 2121 Hamilton St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612; Deadline: 111/15. catholicvoice@kcnews.com (text/photos); phone 510-419-1074; or fax at 510-693-7474

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS**

Through Nov. 29

Saturday, Dec. 23


Third Wednesdays

Military Peer Support Group. 7 to 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Pleasanton. Veterans share the challenges and opportunities. Contact Dom. Pietro at 510-492-4655 or pp411@concast.net.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Wedding/widowers grief support group, 5 p.m. of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 37588 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. Information: Sandy Jarvis, 510-547-7105 or sandynca@sbcglobal.net.

**CFC EVENTS AND GRIEF MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUPS**

Presented by the Catholic Foundation for CFC Events and Grief Ministry. Licensed bereavement counselors are available to anyone who is facing grief.

**EVENTS**

Nov. 25 and 26

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

Through Nov. 29

Support group at St. Patrick’s, Antioch 94509. Information: 925-757-0658.

Friday, Dec. 1

Remembrance Tree Celebration, 6:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 2000 E. 18th St., Concord. Information: 925-333-2012.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Remembrance Tree Celebration. After the 11 a.m. mass at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Orinda. Information: 510-236-3636.

Saturday, Dec. 9


Thursday, Dec. 7

Remembrance Tree Celebration. 6:30 p.m. at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Church, 1051 Harden Street, Lodi. Information: 209-339-0200.

**GRIEF WORSHIP**

Saturday, Nov. 25

Coping with Grief through the Holidays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Orinda. Information: 510-236-3636.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Coping with Grief through the Holidays, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 at St. Joseph Vianney Catholic Church, 1155 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Information: 510-943-3217 or NSDictionary@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Coping with Grief through the Holidays, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 at St. Joseph Vianney Catholic Church, 1155 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Information: 510-943-3217 or NSDictionary@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Dec. 23

Coping with Grief through the Holidays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Orinda. Information: 510-236-3636.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

Through Nov. 29

Grief support group at St. Patrick’s, Antioch 94509. Support group meeting once a week see parish ministry grief support group began Oct. 17 in collaboration with Catholic Foundation for CFC Events and Grief Ministry, Archdiocese of San Francisco. Contact the parish office at 510- 547-7105. Information: Teuchos@conftel.net.
Drive through prayer -- it’s ‘God on the go’

By Albert C. Pacciorini

Staff writer

Following a successful model he crafted at Holy Spirit Parish in Fremont three years ago, Rev. Mathew Vellanakal has brought drive-through prayer to his new parish, St. Bonaventure Parish in Concord.

“Pope Francis has said we should go to the peripheries to reach people,” Father Vellanakal said, and people seek spirituality.

“People might be sick, have lost a job, have someone who is gravely ill, and they don’t know where to go,” Father Vellanakal said.

The program is geared to catch commuters on their way home; they can turn off Clayton Road into the church driveway, where they are directed by teams of volunteers to others who will help the driver with a short prayer.

“You don’t have to get out of your car. It’s fast — God on the go,” Father Vellanakal said.

The drive-through prayer runs from 5-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; prayers are limited to no more than three minutes; no names are given, and no details. The prayers aren’t formal; they’re spontaneous.

“I’ve been waiting for something like this to happen,” said volunteer coordinator Kathy Geyerman, a St. Bonaventure parishioner for 33 years. “I just close my eyes and let the Holy Spirit fill my lips.”

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About 30 cars came through in one hour on the program’s first, rainy night Nov. 13. Father had little trouble getting about 25 adults and 25 young people to volunteer for the program.

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Letters to the editor provide 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 not necessarily of the Catholic Voice or the Diocese of Oakland. The Catholic Voice reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. It is hoped that this forum will help our readers to understand better others’ thinking on critical issues facing the Church.

Too much politics

R. Zanker recently asks (Forum, Nov. 6) whether we can imagine Jesus being into politics. Tom Zanker, a candidate for the Democratic Party, the party of slavery, perversion and abortion? Is it possible to imagine that neither of the major parties is very attractive to a thinking Christian; we must vote by candidate, not by party, and, fortunately, that is how elections in the U.S. are mostly arranged. Catholic church leaders should rescue themselves on matters of contraception and abortion. So then should secular humanists (including many who call themselves “Jews” or “Liberals”) who have no conscience probably have no judges left to judge such cases. Of course, the Democratic party sees these two matters are rooted in natural law, as U.S. law used to be, led to the point of true candor: it is perfectly reasonable and desirable — that new judicial fiat and vote on the law itself.

I have not checked the statements that my parish has a 100% of their contraception wrong or abortion, but they may be true, in which case the former shows a failure in catechesis and the latter on the high-school biology teaching. I got married a few years after “Vatican II” came out; at the marriage preparation classes one participant stated that he did not want to teach the Church teaching on contraception; I asked whether he had read “Humanae Vitae,” and evidently he had not. Have the Catholics polled read their success document “Evangelium Vitae” (Vatican II”)? Have they read any of our catechists have read?

Bigotry is OK?

R. Zanker (Forum, Nov. 6) misrepresents Patricia Weisner’s letter (Forum, Oct. 9). I am not writing a letter critical of the abusively biased questioning aimed by Senate Democrats at federal judicial nominees. Both my Father John M. Tracy OMI (professor and extremely qualified jurist. The Democrats challenged Barrett’s ability to avoid any influence of “Catholic dogma” in conflicts with existing law, despite his assertion of voluntary recusal in such circumstances.

I believe the “if it’simus test” based on religious bigotry,” noted Weisner, implicating Wiesner’s thoughtful letter criticized the Church’s urgent need to reach out to Hispanic Catholics” to all of us — a warning by fire.

The reality is that missionaries struggling with this problem and we are increasingly a mission to the world. So patience is important.

However, there is a caution that is too often ignored. Any priest or seminarian coming to a diocese, when speech is an issue, should be immersed in an appropriate speech program until he can enunciate clearly.

To its credit, the diocese has been requiring seminarians and encouraging priests to learn sufficient Spanish. My puzzlement for years has been why this is not required for those seminarians that are difficult to understand by the predominately English-speaking youth. I am at large. In fact, there are qualified instructors available on either a volunteer or paid basis. It’s not too late.

Barb Norris
Oakland

Language frustration

Margaret Richards’ plea (Forum, Nov. 6) was on spot. Priests who cannot pronounce English clearly would be a respected leader for the Church.

Fortunately, for all those opposed to religious bigotry, Barrett’s Seventh Circuit Court nomination was confirmed on Oct. 31, 55-43. All 43 absents (2 abstentions) were Democrats.

Matt Lopez
Clayton

Eccumenical spirit

My wife and I were pleased with the eccumenical spirit displayed in the program where the ecumenical spirit of the Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation of 2017.

But, it saddened us that nowhere could we find mention of Erasmus of Rotterdam, the Catholic humanist and theologian who worked tirelessly to reconcile Christians with the rite within the Church.

It reminds me of the mob following their modern-day Balaam in the Old Testament. "If only we could all learn to seek the full truth and think for ourselves."

Clifford Wisner
Concord

Want to write?

Contributions to Reader’s Forum should be limited to 250 words. Letters must be signed and must include the writer’s address and phone number for verification purposes. All letters are subject to editing. Writers are generally limited to two letters in any 12-month period.

Mail your letter to: The Catholic Voice, 2321 Hamilton St., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Our e-mail address is: Forum@oakvoice.org

In these political times, we all need to take action,” Ross said. “You can’t sit back and listen to what happens to immigrants without taking action.”
Saturday Mass not available in Livermore: St. Michael Cemetery
San Pablo: St. Joseph Cemetery

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

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

* Saturday Mass not available