Youth are On Fire with the Holy Spirit

By Christina Schreck
Special to The Catholic Voice

It looked like a typical Saturday at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo. Groups were easily identified by their rainbow of customized T-shirts. Lines formed to play carnival games. A dozen African Black-Footed Penguins clustered around their exhibit’s cooling elements to avoid the sweltering heat.

But it was not a typical Saturday. Six Flags was On Fire with the Holy Spirit at Nor Cal Jam 2019 on Sept. 14, the 10th anniversary of the event co-sponsored by the dioceses of northern California and northern Nevada.

Those T-shirts bore the names of parish youth groups and Confirmation classes from places like St. Dominic in Orland, Queen of All Saints in Concord and St. Peter Martyr of Verona in Pittsburg. One group traveled more than seven hours from Elko, Nevada, just to participate.

Steps from the Pinniped Nursery where sea lions performed underwater backflips, an estimated 2,500 youth and young adults gathered in Chabot Stadium for a program emceed by students from the UC-Davis Newman Center.

Lesty Hitjiospa, 18, a student at Diablo Valley College pursuing a career in criminal justice, attending with the Queen of All Saints youth group, appreciated that the emcees were local college students because they were better able to relate to the youths.

Rev. Bert Landry CSP, coordinator of Black Catholic Ministry for the Diocese of Sacramento, energized the assembly with a rousing call to be the positive change the Church needs: “The Church today more than ever before needs you. The Church wants you. The Church needs your creativity. The Church needs your inspiration. The Church needs your presence to make a difference in the world.

“We are here to tell you that God is God, and we are not,” he said.

Gabriel, whose name means “God is my strength,” delivered the news to Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. The bishop asked Father Macadaeg to be like Gabriel “in announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ in your preaching.”

Raphael means “God heals.” “You heal people’s souls when you absolve them of their sins in the sacrament of confession,” the bishop said. “You heal people of their fear of death when you anoint them with holy oil in the anointing of the sick.”

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By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Margaret Peterson. (Continued on Page 18.)

On our cover

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Rev. Rob Galea leads the singing.

Music was a big part of the youth gathering. Here, Rev. Rob Galea leads the singing.

New rector installed at the Cathedral of Christ the Light

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

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Mendoza-Vela sentenced to prison

Staff report

Hector David Mendoza-Vela was sentenced to four years, eight months in prison in a Dublin courthouse on Sept. 27. In the negotiated disposition, Mendoza-Vela was sentenced to five counts of lewd act upon a minor. That list is at www.oakdiocese.org.

He had been accused of 30 accounts. Mendoza-Vela must register as a sex offender for life. He was ordered to stay away from the victim, who was 14 or 15 years old at the time of the abuse.

As of Oct. 1, Vela remained at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, where he had been in custody since March 29. He had been arrested in Fremont on March 28.

Mendoza-Vela was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Oakland on May 18, 2013. He had served at St. John the Baptist Parish in San Lorenzo and was parochial administrator of Corpus Christi Parish in Fremont at the time of his arrest.

Oakland Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, placed Mendoza-Vela on administrative leave after the arrest.

Mendoza-Vela’s name has been added to the list of priests of the Oakland diocese credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor. That list is at www.oakdiocese.org/offices/chancery/credible-accusations.

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Cardinal Etchegaray, Henri de Lubac, and Vatican II

OCTOBER 7, 2019

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Cardinal Levada dies

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, former head of the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation and retired archbishop of San Francisco and Portland, Oregon, died Sept. 26 in Rome. He was 83. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope Benedict XVI in 2005, he named then-archbishop Levada to replace him as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican agency charged with protecting and promoting the church’s teachings on faith and morals. It was the first time a U.S. prelate had headed the congregation, and Cardinal Levada served in that position until 2012.

Ruling in same-sex case

PHOENIX — Arizona’s Catholic bishops praised the state Supreme Court’s Aug. 14, 2019 decision upholding the refusal by two Christian artists to create custom wedding invitations for same-sex couples based on their religious belief in marriage. The court’s majority decision held that the artists “have the right under the First Amendment to deny the requests on religious grounds.”

Christians harassed

WASHINGTON — The genocide conducted by the Islamic State against Christian communities in Iraq and Syria has turned into continued harassment against them by Iran-backed militias and shows no signs of abating soon. This was part of the bleak picture explained Sept. 26 by Iranian Christians who have witnessed or experienced some form of sexual harassment in U.S. Catholic seminaries, revealing that just 6 percent of seminarians reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment or misconduct, while 80 percent reported none. Another 4 percent said they might have experienced misconduct, but were not sure. One seminarian who reported they had experienced sexual harassment or indicated they might have, 80 percent identified a fellow seminary student or religious as the alleged perpetrator.

Groups oppose guns

WASHINGTON — The desire for action on preventing more gun violence may face hurdles in Congress, but those pressing for change are having an effect in the corporate boardroom. Now may be the moment to effect changes in federal firearms policy, that moment did not come without a lot of groundwork, according to Dominican Sister Judy Byrnn, director of the Seattle-based Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment. The current tactic is to urge firearms makers and sellers to adopt human rights policies.

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Vatican suspends decrees

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Parents learn how to instill faith in their children

By Christine Schreck
Special to The Catholic Voice

RSVP with an “Amen” to God’s invitation to a ministry of presence with your children.

To be a successful parent is not to be perfect, nor is it to provide the latest and greatest material possessions and technological gadgets. To be a successful parent is to model for your children what it means to seek to know God. Success can start with something as simple as turning off your phone and sharing a meal together. So say the presenters at Holy Chaos!

“All of you are here because you love your kids and you love our God, and you want your kids to have faith and you want to have faith yourself,” said Mary Machi, of the keynote speaker, shared some statistics about Gen Z, people under the age of 20 who represent 27 percent of the current US population. One-third of them claim no religious affiliation and half of them identify as atheist or agnostic.

To anyone who says that teens are the problem, that they just aren’t interested in answering the deeper question, Hart touts the following challenge: Turn off the TV. Turn your coffee table into an altar for conversation. This is where life happens, where everyone can practice the art of relationship. “All they want to do is talk and be heard,” Hart said of teenagers. He compared starting that conversation with pulling the pin from a grenade.

Nutmable, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. James Parish in Fremont, spoke about teenagers and technology, intention matters. “Are they communicat- ing to the best of their ability from it? Or is it a coping mechanism? Are they dependent on it?” Nutmable asked.

Much as the Church has evaluated art and architecture on the basis of truth, goodness and beauty, technology can be looked at in the same way. Is there truth, goodness and beauty in it and does it outweigh the bad and the ugly?

Nutmable points to truth, such as informational podcasts and the work of Bishop Robert Barron; goodness such as bionic limbs; and beauty such as images from the Mars Exploration Rovers. The rosary is the school of prayer. That is where they [your children] learn a relationship with God from their parents: “Your family is the school of prayer.”

Murray, emphasized that children take their cues aboutmiracles have been experienced by many of its devotees. To be a successful parent is not to be perfect, nor is it to provide the latest and greatest material possessions and technological gadgets. To be a successful parent is to model for your children what it means to seek to know God. Success can start with something as simple as turning off your phone and sharing a meal together. So say the presenters at Holy Chaos!

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Pilgrims look forward to learning even more on future trip to Hawaii

By Teresa Enns
Special to The Catholic Voice

The pilgrimage to honor the Great Saints of Hawaii, Sts. Damien DeVeuster and Marianne Cope, took off to a great start on Sept. 8 from San Francisco. It was organized by pilgrimagejourney.com, and we were accompanied by its representative, Belinda Lewis-Held. On arrival in Honolulu, while the bags of the 44 of us went to our rooms, we had lunch, then gathered at St. Augustine by the Sea Church on Waikiki Beach with Revs. Jayson Landeza (as the official chaplain), Jim Schexnayder, Thong Nguyen and Laurent Chumbe to celebrate Mass and to take in the spiritual journey ahead.

On Monday, Sept. 9, our bus took us to St. Patrick Church in Honolulu, where we split into three groups. One group heard Sacred Hearts Brother John Saeckenko present “Charism of the Sacred Hearts and its work of Adoration,” and how Father Damien, also from the order of the Sacred Hearts, used prayer throughout his daily work.

Another group heard Sacred Hearts Provincial Superior Father Herman Gomes provide accounts of “Father Damien’s Call to Service,” and his work on the island of Molokai.

The third group had a special viewing of Father Damien’s relics, led by Sacred Hearts archivist Stuart Ching, who provided insightful details of items such as the tools Father Damien used, the pipe he used to smoke to counter the smell of his afflicted arm. These artifacts will be housed in the Damien and Marianne of Molokai Education Center, to open in early 2020 at St. Augustine by the Sea, Waikiki.

On the way to the cathedral, we drove by the statue of King Kamehameha I, the Iolani Palace and the Hawaii State Capitol, renovated International Marketplace, located directly across from our hotel in Waikiki. It was organized by a pilgrimage to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Father Damien’s ordination in 1864.

The man who portrayed Father Damien in a one-man play, Terence Knapp, died last month and his service was held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace an hour prior to our tour. The cathedral is currently undergoing extensive repairs. The original panels of saints from the large pulpit are now in front of the altar. After a free afternoon, we walked to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel for a beautiful luau and an evening of entertainment.

On Tuesday, we headed to Pearl Harbor to view the grounds with markers memorializing the fallen, watched movies and played, then boarded a boat to the Arizona Memorial. After lunch, we had Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Pearl City, and the rest of the afternoon was free, as many of us explored the newly-renovated International Marketplace, located directly across from our hotel in Waikiki. It was rebuilt as modern shops and restaurants, but one original huge banyan tree remains, almost reaching the third level of the open space in the center.

A tour of the island of Oahu was on Wednesday from the beautiful Hanauma Bay Lookout and Halona Point/Blow Hole to Byodo-In Temple — a smaller version of a similar temple in Japan. The golden statue in the quiet temple was amazing to see as it was two stories high, with serene grounds and a koi pond all around.

Many took the opportunity to ring the bell of the Sacred Hearts, an essential part of the chapel, and a 3-ton bell is this done to create an atmosphere of tranquility for meditation. Lunch at the Turtle Bay Resort on the North Shore and a stop at the Dole Plantation afforded sampling of refreshing soft pine-apple ice cream, and shopping. Mass was held back at St. Augustine by the Sea, and we remembered 9/11 in prayer.

For our trip to the Kalaupapa Settlement, our group was split and some went to Molokai on Thursday, the other group on Friday. We left early in three small, 9-seater propeller planes and headed to the colony for victims of Hansen’s Disease.

The amazing view of the cliffs brought a sense of the intense isolation experienced by the patients.

We were met by Sisters Alicia and Jean, and Father Pat, who led us around Laniaupolu following the footsteps of Sts. Damien and Marianne, then celebrated Mass in St. Philomena Church, one of the numerous churches and facilities built by Father Damien throughout Molokai. We visited the two saints’ graves, and that of Brother Joseph Dutton, who worked with Father Damien in his later years.

We continued to St. Elizabeth Chapel and Convent, where St. Marianne’s order of sisters continue to work and live. We also toured the pier next to the rocks where many of the diseased landed. We visited St. Francis Chapel, Papalua Cemetery, the foot of the Kalaupapa Trail (now closed) and had a picnic lunch.

After we returned to Oahu, we had our farewell dinner, and were surprised by a special visitor, Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva, who took time from a recent procedure and subsequent recovery to greet us and bless items we purchased during our trip. Bishop Silva is a former priest of the Diocese of Oakland.

Early next morning, upon our departure from Waikiki, Father Landeza treated us all to our own bag of malasadas from the famous Leonard’s Bakery, goodies that were gone by the time we reached Honolulu airport.

One cannot take in all that was seen, learned and experienced, so we look forward to another trip to Kalaupapa and thank God for this trip.


The Shrines of France Pilgrimage
Paris, Lourdes, Chartres, Nevers, Ars, Lisieux April 13-21, 2020 (9 days)

$4,199* (from SFO)

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

Highlights Include:

Paris: Sacré Coeur, Notre Dame Cathedral, Sainte-Chapelle, the Eiffel Tower, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal on the Rue de Bac, Shrine of St. Vincent de Paul!

Lisieux – Visit where St. Therese lived, Carmel Chapel, the Basilica of St. Therese

Chartres – View the impressive Our Lady of Chartres Cathedral

Nevers – The convent of St. Gildard, where Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes spent the final years of her life

Ars – Shrine of St. John Vianney, saint of parish priests

Lourdes – Celebrate Mass at the Grotto & join the candlelight procession, the legendary blessing of the sick & the healing waters of the miraculous Lourdes spring

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OCTOBER 7, 2019

BELINDA LEWIS HELD/SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC VOICE
By Sister Constance Voit, LSP
For American Catholics, October is Respect Life Month and this year’s theme is “Respecting the dignity of Every Person from Conception to Natural Death.”

In his letter introducing this theme, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann pointed out that the bishops of the US bishops’ Conference have continually emphasized that every life, even the life of a child conceived after abortion, has value. He added, “Older generations have much to tell you and offer you. True, sometimes we elderly people can be overbearing and nagging, or we can try to make you act, speak and live the same way we do. That is wrong. You will have to find your own way but by listening to and appreciating those who have gone before you.
The pope’s words to youth in Mozambique are refreshingly honest — and they give me pause as I realize that I am closer to my own golden years than to the days of my youth. Our Holy Father expects a lot of us! He is calling upon elders — and I include those with us on the way to becoming the elder generation — to rise up and teach young people how to set their gaze above the horizon and to persevere in faith.
To do this we must be truly wise. But there is the catch: wisdom — the realization that we come from God and are going to God — does not come automatically with age. The experiences of a lifetime sow the seeds of wisdom, but they must be cultivated by prayer and reflection on those experiences in light of the Gospel.
So, for those of us soon-to-be-seniors, let’s ask ourselves — while we still have time — if we seek wisdom and eternal values. Let’s ask ourselves if we believe that anxiety about the future can be overcome. Let’s ask ourselves if we are more focused on others than ourselves, if we believe that there is more joy in giving than in receiving, and if we try to show love not only in words but in actions. These are the lessons that millennials and Gen Z are waiting for us to teach them, even if they don’t know it.
While we still have time let’s follow the advice of Pope Francis: “Growing older means preserving and cherishing the most precious things about our youth, but it also involves having to purify those things that are not good and receiving new gifts from God so that we can develop the things that really matter.”
This is how we will teach the young to face the future with hope!
(Sister Constance Voit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.)

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

Caring for the caregivers is a new program for the diocese

Heinisch

Voit

Naumann

Kaiser Deer Valley

St. Mary Church Hall

You are invited to Celebrate LIFE Fall Dinner and Fundraiser to benefit the Diocese of Concord, Pregnancy Support Service Saturday, October 12, 2019

St. Mary Church Hall
1158 Bost Lane, Walnut Creek
Door opens at 5:30 p.m. for a 7 p.m. start followed by a dinner at 6:15 p.m. catered by Bambino’s Italian Restaurant.

Christine Watkins will share inspiring story of hope and healing. Christine is a popular speaker, foundation chairwoman, and former biologist with the SF Ballet Company.

There will be silent and live auctions.

Price: $50 for adults
Purchase tickets online at: www.birthrightdinner2019.eventbrite.com or by calling 925-798-7227
Contact oliviarickelman@gmail.com with questions.

Pro-life events around the diocese

Through Nov. 3

40 Days for Life in Walnut Creek vigil continues through Nov. 3, on the public right-of-way outside an abortion facility at 1357 Oakland Blvd. in Walnut Creek. Vigil hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily, except Sundays. To sign up, go to 40daysforlife/walnutcreek.

40 Days for Life, an annual campaign that began in Texas in 2004, and went national in 2007, has taken place in Walnut Creek for the past four years.

For additional information: 40daysforlife/walnutcreek or friendsforlifevalley@gmail.com

Oct. 12: Relationship conference
Ethics California is hosting a Panel discussion on respect, dating and relationships. A new initiative of CatholicsCare, a ministry of the archdiocese.

Helping first responders

Firefighters from the Alamo County Fire Department enjoy a fish fry feast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at St. Raymond Parish in Dublin. In honor of Sept. 11, the Knights invited first responders from throughout the area to be their guests, and thank them for their altruistic and heroic service to their community. The first responders who were unable to attend were notified of a tray of pasta and extra sauce was sent to the firehouse.

Local contact: FriendsForLifeTriValley@gmail.com, Text or call 925-984-7602

HELP SAVE LIVES IN WALNUT CREEK

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers

Here’s how to take part:

• Vigil location: Planned Parenthood, 1357 Oakland Boulevard, Walnut Creek
• Vigil hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., daily, except Sunday.
• For additional information: 40daysforlife/walnutcreek or friendsforlifevalley@gmail.com

Learn more and get involved by visiting our campaign:

40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek

Respect for Life
Teaching the future generations what it means to be pro-life

By Sister Constance Voit, LSP

In its borders, with Level I trauma centers, three assisted living centers, and at least 30 private care homes, the parish is answering the call to the sick often.

Many of those calls come from caregivers in their homes, people who are doing one of the toughest jobs with the most minimal of training.

But alone is how many caregivers feel.

A new initiative of CatholicsCare, a ministry of the archdiocese, is hoping to engage caregivers in monthly support group sessions at their parish.

The project will use Nourish, a program pioneered by the Archdiocese of Chicago, said Mimi Streett, who coordinates CatholicsCare and the Marriage and Family Life Office.

Sandra Heinisch, who has coordinated grief ministry training for the diocese, will coordinate the effort to introduce the program into parishes and train the caregivers who would like to lead them.

Her first efforts have been fruitful in Eastern Contra Costa County, where Father Rien, as well as Father Tony Hoang at Church of the Good Shepherd in Pittsburg, have shown interest and enthusiasm for the project. Heinisch could begin early next year, Heinisch said.

At St. Ignatius of Antioch, Father Rien said, ‘a significant number of parishioners participate in the pastoral care ministry.’ Many parishioners, too, are caring for loved ones, at home or in care centers.

Father Rien has personal experience, caring six years for his mother who had dementia. She lived in care homes near his parish, where he could visit often. He would go at night to be with her as she fell asleep.

“I know what it’s like to be a caregiver,” he said, “doing things I never thought I’d do.”

Caregivers are called to perform tasks that they may feel is beyond them.

“There is no training for someone to be a caregiver,” Father Rien said. If the person needing the care enters hospice, he said there is some help in “how to be the person who provides intimate, emotional, spiritual preparation” at the end of life.

He is also aware of the needs of the many professional caregivers in the parish, who work at the hospitals and care centers, as well as the first responders in the city.

He is as chaplain to the Contra Costa firefighters who serve his community, sometimes takes him to emergency rooms.

A few days later, he will follow up with the patient. He is able to bring the good news that the patient’s condition has stabilized.

It has been active in ministry at her home parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Brentwood and Church of the Good Shepherd in Pittsburg, helping more parishes, when introduced to care for the caregivers, will embrace it, too.

Heinisch, a nurse for 44 years, knows the toll caregiving can take on the professionals.

If Heinisch gains her way, it will be known by those who would like to lead them.

Local contact: FriendsForLifeTriValley@gmail.com, Text or call 925-984-7602

Vigil hours:
1357 Oakland Blvd, Walnut Creek
“Make a difference,” Rev. Raymond Ogbemure implored the pupils in the pews at St. Cornelius Church in Richmond. “Make your life better. Make other people’s lives better.”

It was the Back to School Mass for the students, dressed in their uniforms, sitting by class; the tiny transitional kindergartners in the front. Older pupils were altar servers, choir members and lector.

The light of Christ was shining through the stained-glass windows at the school, one of the seven Lumen Christi Academies.

Pupils looked on as their teachers were called forward at Mass by Principal Shervin Moradi to receive the light of Christ, a candle to carry back to the classroom.

It was an inspiring start to the day for the 129 students. “Every single one,” their principal would say later, receives financial assistance.

At her desk in her office, principal Moradi has a portrait of Mother Mary — Our Lady of Guadalupe — looking over her. Abraham Lincoln has her back. The images are a constant reminder of her commitment to her students.

“When the parents thank me, I say thank her,” Moradi said. “I am just the instrument.”

She is firm in her faith about Catholic education. “The mission is to educate the poor,” she said.

What being part of the Lumen Christi Academies has done for her students, so far, is remarkable. The advance in technology — there is one device — iPad or Chromebook — for every three students. The 3 to 1 ratio comes into play with some new ways of learning adopted by the academies, through a new partnership.

At the eastern end of Contra Costa County, pupils at St. Peter Martyr School in Pittsburg are settling into not only some new ways of learning, but a refurbished campus.

Dayana Redick, music teacher at St. Cornelius School, and the sixth-grade class decide on what the students will sing in the Christmas concert. Among the choices the students at the Richmond school considered was “Carol of the Bells.” St. Cornelius is one of the seven Lumen Christi Academies in the Diocese of Oakland.

(Continued on Page 13.)

Lumen Christi Academies: Power of the alliance begins to show

Lumen Christi Academies
Queen of All Saints, Concord
St. Anthony, Oakland
St. Catherine of Sienna, Martinez
St. Cornelius, Richmond
St. Elizabeth, Oakland
St. Paul, San Pablo
St. Peter Martyr, Pittsburg
Information: lumenchristiacademies.org

Root beliefs
• We share in God’s love and live in service of others.
• Mutual trust builds respectful and inclusive communities.
• Collaborative and constructive dialogue inspires holistic development.
• Empowered learners persevere through the lifelong journey.
• Critical thinkers seek the truth with an open mind and an open heart.

(Continued on Page 13.)

LUMEN CHRISTI
QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS
CONCORD
ST. ANTHONY
OAKLAND
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA
MARTINEZ
ST. CORNELIUS
RICHMOND
ST. ELIZABETH
OAKLAND
ST. PAUL
SAN PABLO
ST. PETER MARTYR
PITTSBURG

Information: lumenchristiacademies.org
Uncovering a gem at St. Joseph School

Special to The Catholic Voice
St. Joseph School in Pinole is so pleased to relinquish its reputation as having the carpeted gym floor for more than 25 years. Arlene Marseille, the former principal who retired before the project was finished, was invited back to cut the ribbon on the new gym on Sept. 13.

Rev. Geoffrey Baaran, pastor of St. Joseph Church, gave words of wisdom and blessed each and every crevice with holy water. He proceeded in throwing the first basketball and not denying his reputation for the game, made the basket.

The gym will be used for intermural sports practices, CYO games and host Young Ministry classes, school and community events.

For additional information on how St. Joseph Catholic School dedicates itself to serving the ‘whole child’ from TK to eighth grades, visit www.stjosephpinole.com.

Students helping students

Cade Hardesty and Donovan Claytor are among the pupils at St. Isidore School in Danville who have worked hard to fill donation bins with crayons, markers, notebooks, paperclips and more to provide school supplies to needy students in the Philippines. St. Isidore School partnered with St. Isidore alumni Richard and Ryan Mabanag, Rev. Gerald Pedrera from St. Isidore Church, the Knights of Columbus, and the Filipino-American Parishioners of St. Isidore in the effort.

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‘In The Heights’

In spring of 2018, Rodeo’s St. Patrick Middle School pupils performed the musical “In the Heights.” This show, written by Lin Manuel Miranda of “Hamilton” fame, was both technically and vocally challenging. The production was entered into the American Prize for Performing Arts Competition and St. Patrick School was named a Finalist for the second year in the row (2017 award winner for “The Lion King Jr.”) The production was in competition with colleges and community theater groups, so this award speaks to the quality of the production. Some cast members in the photo, from left: Darius Olayiwola, Ava Santos, Jessica Lim, Kennedy Academia, Roman Respicio, Johnny Drake and Kaitlyn Meyers. See the video at: https://youtu.be/G1TZIVgFVMu.

STEM DAY

Giving girls the tools to create the unimaginable

Design, build, and manufacture your own car before you can even drive! All middle school girls are invited to this special preview of the dynamic STEM program at Holy Names High School.

Tuesday, October 22nd 4:30 - 6:30

REGISTER ONLINE: bit.ly/hnhstem19
Assumption school scores big with gym improvements

By Christine Ruiz Parisotto
Special to The Catholic Voice

Assumption School in San Leandro rolled out the red carpet for the 2019-2020 school year to celebrate improvements to its 60-year-old gymnasium, and to introduce the school’s new Catholic Youth Organization sports logo to students and parents.

Assumption’s motto is “Together, We Can Do Great Things,” and the results are being seen campus-wide.

Founded in 1952, Assumption School strives to meet the challenges of providing a quality education that meets the diverse needs of San Leandro area families.

Three years ago, the Church of the Assumption Parish and Assumption School Board committed to a long-term plan to re-envision the school’s TK-8 academic programs by moving forward with state-of-the-art updates to the campus facilities.

Several projects focused on facility renovations to the outdoor playground spaces. Trees, a grass playground, wrought iron security gates and fencing, as well as a modernized drainage system were installed when the original 2-acre asphalt playground was bulldozed and removed.

The school was recently connected to the city of San Leandro fiber ring, bringing high-speed internet access campus-wide to enhance technology instruction.

The school administration relied on student-led initiatives to re-imagine under-utilized spaces on campus:

- The computer resource room has been transformed into a Maker Space lab with robotics, laser cutting, and 3-D printing, while a new amphitheater now provides bench seating for outdoor class instruction.
- This past summer, the 30-year-old hardwood floor in the gym was resurfaced and painted. A special student assembly was held to unveil the new Trojan athletics logo at the center of the completely refurbished gymnasium floor.
- “We needed a modern logo to represent our progressive and inclusive environment, which is the heart of who we are,” said Paul Carney, school board president.

The re-envisioned Assumption sports image was created by Assumption parent Kisitina Venegas, an experienced artistic creative director, who recognized the challenges in modernizing the cherished school mascot.

“The face of this new Trojan represents each and every single one of our student athletes,” Venegas said.

The new Trojan, with both male and female profiles, is not limited by race or gender, but is youthful and vibrant, and embodies Venegas’ graphic design vision.

Lana Rocheford, who began the school year as the new principal, said, “Being a part of Assumption has been a blessing. Over the years as Assumption’s Eighth Grade teacher, I have seen students graduate and succeed in high school and beyond. As principal, I see that we are continuing to build that excellence with our energetic and passionate faculty and staff.”

Assumption School unveiled its new gymnasium floor and new CYO Athletics logo during a student assembly on Aug. 22.

COURTESY PHOTO

Assumption School’s newly refurbished gymnasium floor was coordinated through the efforts of school parent volunteers, the Dad’s Club, the Diocese of Oakland CYO and the Church of the Assumption Parish.

From left: Marketing Creative Director Kisitina Venegas, Principal Lana Rocheford, Assumption CYO Athletic Director Nathaniel Fripp, alumna Lauren Sugayan.

Renovation has special meaning for one Assumption family

Recent updates to the gymnasium has special meaning for one Assumption School family. In mid-August, Assumption alumnus Lauren LaPlante Sugayan, walked her 5-year-old son to the classroom door for his first year in Assumption’s T-K class.

“My brothers and I went to Assumption between the years of 1984 to 1999,” explained Sugayan, “Shortly after my older brother started Assumption, my dad, Ron La Plante, took over as athletic director. He coached and organized the teams from 1986-1996. The school was built in the 1950s, and by the late 80s, the gym was very outdated. The kids were struggling to get excited about sports. So, my dad not only replaced the gym floor, he put in basketball backboards, updated the uniforms and he started an awards program. All of those changes were quickly able to get the kids excited about team sports.”

“We have dedicated volunteer coaches who have helped the students with their skills and game strategy. Last year, several of the Assumption student teams went on to compete in the Diocese of Oakland CYO playoffs and championship level games against East Bay CYO teams,” said Nathaniel Fripp, Assumption CYO athletic director. — Christine Ruiz Parisotto
8th-graders — and their guardian angels — visit the cathedral

By Michele Jurich
Staff writer

“Every single one of you is important to us,” Jocelyn Pierre-Antoine, associate superintendent of the Diocese of Oakland’s Department of Catholic Schools, told the 350 eighth-grade pupils as she welcomed them Oct. 2 to the annual event at the Cathedral of Christ the Light honoring them as leaders of their schools.

Travel — by bus, BART and chaperones — ended on the Cathedral Plaza, where youth ministers provided music as the pupils awaited the 10 a.m. beginning of the program.

“Additionally, there is a lot of the people who have been invited to the cathedral,” said Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, who joined the pupils before the 12:10 p.m. Mass to teach them about the vestments they would wear to celebrate the Mass. He was joined by Father Macadaeg, who also serves as episcopal master of ceremonies, and Deacon Mac Lingo.

The Solemn Mass, he told them, would be more solemn than what they might be accustomed to in their parishes. The Mass was intended to show “the reverence, the glory and the majesty of God and draw you into that.”

The Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys was the choir for the Mass of the Guardian Angels. The boys are from the Pacific Boychoir Academy in Oakland.

In his homily, Bishop Barber echoed Jesus’ words in the day’s Gospel reading. “He said children and adults have a guardian angel the Heavenly Father has placed over us on this earth.”

He gave an example from his days of Naval chaplaincy. A helicopter pilot was the sole survivor of a crash off an aircraft carrier.

On the chaplain’s visit to sick bay, the pilot told him: “The helicopter filled up with cold water. It was very dark and we were going down. My seatbelt came off and the door next to me just opened and I swam out.

“I’m sure it was your angel,” the chaplain replied.

“You don’t see the angel, but you see its effects,” the bishop told the students. “You will see him when your time on earth is up.”

The bishop told the students he would bless guardian angel medals, one for each student, which their teachers would give to them later as a reminder of their visit this day.

On the plaza, after Mass and a photo with the bishop, students from St. David School in Richmond, when asked what they would take away from the day, appeared to agree: a greater appreciation of their guardian angel.
Celebrating grandparents at St. Catherine of Siena School

By Brittany Rogers

Special to The Catholic Voice

As grandparents and VIP’s walked through the historic doors of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Martinez, smiles of excitement and anticipation beamed on all faces as the pupils searched for their loved ones.

On Sept. 13, pupils at St. Catherine of Siena School celebrated their grandparents with a day full of love and fun. Grandparent’s Day has become a tradition eagerly looked forward to by students, grandparents, families, and the community. Each year, pupils, staff, parents, and community members plan the celebration of a day with great love, devotion, and care.

St. Catherine pupils start each day with a pledge stating that they show “service toward others, are academic learners, involved Christians and love one another.” It was in this spirit and with these values the entire school came together to celebrate those most important to them.

The day began with a gathering in the church, located adjacent to the school, with a prayer service in honor of these very important visitors. During the service, readings from the bible, songs and prayers were presented to grandparents and VIP’s by each class, preschool through Eighth Grade.

At the conclusion, Grandparents and VIP’s received a special blessing by all in attendance. The half day celebration continued in the school yard with games, fellowship and lunch. Despite the heat, laughter could be heard throughout the neighborhood signaling to all that Grandparent’s Day was in full swing at St. Catherine’s.

“Y ou just don’t get this in a public school — especially one grandparent looking over the assembled families, being so welcomed in the church and by the school,” said one grandparent looking over the assembled families.

“...It truly is wonderful to see the families of our students being so welcomed in the church and by the school,” said one grandparent looking over the assembled families.

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“...It truly is wonderful to see the families of our students being so welcomed in the church and by the school,” said one grandparent looking over the assembled families.

While some grandparents traveled far distances to celebrate this special day with their grandchildren, a visitor would be hard pressed to find one who would pass up this annual event.

St. Catherine of Siena School in Martinez has a preschool and serves pupils in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. The school celebrated its 70th anniversary on Oct. 5 after the 4:30 p.m. Mass.

Lumen Christi . . .

(Continued from Page 9.)

Principal Joe Sino knows the campus well, having arrived in 1960 as a first-grader. He retains that enthusiasm for the school and its mission as he shows visitors around the campus.

First, there’s the new paint and windows. Doors, locks, cabinets have been upgraded. The school’s technology room/makers center has had a facelift and is ready for its first projects.

In classrooms, there’s new technology. Students sit at desks that can be easily reconfigured to accommodate small group work.

There’s the same ratio of devices — iPad or ChromeBook — in these classrooms, too.

In addition to the sparkling campus, Sino is proud of the teachers in these classrooms. At the end of the 2017-1018 school year, eight staff members retired.

Their successors include new teachers, alumni with teaching credentials, who have become leaders in learning the Lumen Christi methods.

One of those adopted by the Lumen Christi Academies involved dividing the class into thirds for subjects such as history, for example. For one part of the lesson, the pupil works at his or her own pace, on the iPad or Chromebook, on materials geared to the student’s level. Next, the pupil moves into a small group of students to discuss the materials. The third step is time with the teacher.

With 175 students — about two-thirds receive financial assistance — St. Peter Martyr School could grow by an additional 100 students, Sino said.

There’s the opportunity for growth at all seven academies. Today, about 1,300 students are enrolled at the seven schools: St. Anthony and St. Elizabeth in Oakland; St. Paul in San Pablo; St. Catherine of Siena in Martinez; Queen of All Saints in Concord; St. Cornelius in Richmond; and St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg.

“We’re stronger together” is the message as the academies grow together.

“We have clarity around our goals for this year,” said Rodney Pierre-Antoine, executive director of the Lumen Christi Academies. “The first goal is forming a professional learning community. We’re going to get to the students. To get to the students, we need to have leaders and teachers working together.”

This includes professional learning days built into the school calendar. “By investing in our teachers, we are investing in the students entrusted to their care.”

The academies are bolstered, too, by a new partnership with the IDEAL Institute at Loyola Marymount University. A coach from the Blended Learning Institute will provide coaching to an identified teacher-leader in each school.

One program, Freckle, provides English language arts, math, social studies and science. Students have the opportunity to move forward at their own pace, and at their own level.

Students get what they need, at the time they need it if it’s a blended classroom, Pierre-Antoine said.

The shift toward blended learning is a process. “Where we are today isn’t where we’re going to be tomorrow,” he said.

One of the elements of the Lumen Christi Academies that will remain the same, and be strengthened along the way, are their ties to the communities. At St. Anthony School in Oakland, a community meeting was held to discuss some neighborhood issues. Like St. Peter Martyr School, St. Anthony School was refurbished over the summer through the generosity of the Shea Family Foundation.

“These schools are a beacon in their communities,” Pierre-Antoine said.
St. Felicitas celebrates 60th anniversary

Special to The Catholic Voice

St. Felicitas Catholic School in San Leandro is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

The school opened its doors in 1959. Msgr. Michael J. McGrath, the first pastor, invited the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita, Kansas, to staff the school and for 34 years, they worked to provide a quality education for the children. Although the St. Joseph sisters no longer work at the school, their spiritual presence continues to permeate through it.

The anniversary celebrations kicked off in January during Catholic Schools Week. The school week opened with 50s day, traveling back to 1959. Pupils and staff members dressed in their fantastic 50s wear, teachers held serious classes and no technology was used.

Principal Meghan Jorgensen channeled Sister Mary Margaret with ruler in hand, and students would stand to greet her as she checked in on classes throughout the day. Everyone had a great time, but we were all glad to be back to school in our own time period.

The rest of the week, staff and pupils were appreciated with a sock hop and an ice cream social. Besides the fun and games, pupils used their Service Learning Projects to celebrate the Sisters of St. Joseph. All grades, from Pre-K to Eighth, picked a project they cared about to help the community, and those around the world.

In March the 60th year festivities continued by celebrating our patron saint with a masquerade gala. Current and alumni families showed up to enjoy a lovely dinner catered by Miraglia Catering — one of our own alumni, win amazing prizes at the auction, and dance the night away to great music. (If you are, or know a St. Felicitas alumnus, head to the alumni page on our website to get back in touch with us.)

After the summer and into the new school year the celebrations continue as the school resurrects the Harvest Festival and Posey Parade.

The school has been getting into the spirit of the festival with weekly spirit days — a 50s hair day, 50s character day and Falcon Pride day.

60 Years of Faith and Family were celebrated with family fun, games and food on Oct. 5, beginning with a parade down Manor Boulevard, like the school used to have every year. There was also an outdoor, multilingual Mass in the afternoon.

All fundraising efforts are going towards the renovation of the library and science lab. While the school family enjoyed celebrating the 1950s, it is time to bring the library and science lab into the future.
Concord woman commissioned as Salesian Lay Missioner

By Rev. Mike Mendl, SDB
Special to The Catholic Voice
NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK — Anna Kate Moore of Queen of All Saints Parish in Concord was among 11 women and men commissioned as lay missionaries by the Salesians of Don Bosco on Aug. 15.
Moore left for Waau, South Sudan, on Sept. 9, where she will serve as a teacher and youth minister in the Salesian-sponsored primary school, living in the community of Salesian sisters there for a period of one year, with the option of extending for a second year.
Moore, 22, was graduated from Thomas More College of Liberal Arts in Merrimack, New Hampshire, with a major in liberal arts. She is the daughter of Annie Martine and Joseph Moore of Queen of All Saints Parish.
“I want to serve God by joyfully serving His beloved children here on earth,” Anna Moore said.

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Climate action

Adults and children gathered at Laney College in Oakland on Sept. 20 to join their voices with climate activists around the world in calling for immediate action on what many are calling a growing environmental crisis. Pope Francis’ 2015 ecology encyclical, “Laudato Si’,” noted: “Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” In Oakland, a number of young people took turns to use a bullhorn to address the well-behaved and attentive crowd at the downtown Oakland campus. Some speakers expressed their fears for the future.

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Senior Living/Resources
OBITUARIES

Sister Charlene Cote, OP
Sister Charlene Cote, OP, formerly known as Sister Mary Leonette Cote, died Sept. 11 at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Michigan. She was 89 years of age and in the 61st year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Born in Chicago, Sister Charlene entered the Adrian Dominican Congregation from Aquinas High School in Chicago and received a bachelor of philosophy degree in fine arts from Siena Heights College (University of the Visitation) in Adrian, Michigan. She spent teaching at St. Thomas Aquinas in Oakland from 1965-1968 in elementary education and at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Chicago and from Aquinas High School in Oakland for 11 years.

She was 89 years of age and in the 61st year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation from Aquinas High School in Chicago. She was 89 years old and had been a member of the Adrian Dominican Congregation for 61 years. She died Sept. 11.

Sister Dorothy Simpson, SNJM
Sister Dorothy Simpson, an educator who also shared her gifts of faith and scripture in parish ministry, died Sept. 15 in Oakland. She was 89 and had celebrated her 90th birthday in March.

Sister Sisk, also known as Sister M. Catherine Regina, spent 20 years as an educator in elementary schools in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Anselmo and Aftahna. She then taught theology and religious studies courses at Holy Names University in Oakland for 11 years.

She also ministered in adult spiritual- ity and RCIA at Corpus Christi Parish in Piedmont in the Diocese of Oakland as well as in parishes in Encore, Hawthorne and Los Angeles.

“We remember Sister Dorothy’s love of her family, her warm smile, her ability to be very present to another; her life as a community woman and her devotion to Mary” according to an obituary posted on Legacy.com by her religious community.

She is survived by her nieces, Karen Simpson and C. Mary Simpson.

Sister Walsh, OP
Sister Patricia Marie Walsh, OP, a teacher and administrator at Holy Names University, died Sept. 16 at St. Martin Residence of Mission San Jose in San Jose, California. She was 89 years of age and in the 61st year of her religious profession.

Born July 14, 1900 in Los Angeles, Sister Walsh met the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose at the School of the Madeleine in Berkeley. She joined the congregation in 1946 and made first profession of vows as a Dominican Sister in 1973.

For 32 years Sister Walsh served as a teacher or administrator at Catholic schools in California including the School of the Madeleine in Berkeley and St. Elizabeth Elementary School in Oakland in the Diocese of Oakland. She also served at schools in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Anaheim, San Gabriel and Santa Barbara.

She also ministered for 20 years as a hospital chaplain at hospitals and medical centers in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Tucson, Arizona. In 1994 she was a founding member of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.

The funeral Mass was held Sept. 20 at the Dominican Sisters’ Motherhouse in Fremont, followed by the congre- gation’s cemetery. God’s Acre, located at the Motherhouse.

PRAYERS

THANK YOU, Saint Expedite for answering my prayers. In your name, my prayer will grow.

Thank you, Saint Judic for prayers answered.

Thank you, Saint for prayers answered.

Thank you, Saint Theresa for answering my prayers.

Thank you, Saint Joseph for prayers answered.

ST JUDE NOVENA
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus love you, cherish you, and preserve you in all situations of life, and evermore. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us, saints of all generations. Help us, even in our hours of peril. Through the power of your love, purge our souls of all sin, and fit us to live in your heavenly dwelling.

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To consecrate your heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, consecrate yourself and your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. Consecrate yourself and your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. Consecrate yourself and your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.

REMEMBERING SISTER DOROTHY SIMPSON
With love and gratitude for our beloved Dominican Sister Dorothy Simpson, who passed away on August 19, 2020.

Dorothy, you touched our lives deeply with your wise counsel and unwavering commitment to education. Your legacy of love and service continues to inspire us. May God bless you and remember you with his love. Amen.
**NEW EVENTS**

**Tuesday, Oct. 8**
Catholics@Work, 11 a.m., at Croix Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Presenter: Rev. Walter Hoey, an Oakland-Baptist layman and pro-life crusader. He tells the story of t
talks told nationally. Presented by Mass at 5:30 a.m. Breakfast. Dress is required for men. $25 for mem
to attend. For info: www.catholicsatwork.org

**Oct. 12, 15, 19, 23**
St. Vincent de Paul’s Paid Part-time Employment and Training Program at St. Vincent de Paul provides paid train
ing and job placement to eligible individuals. Interested individu
d of wildrose spring youth and the rosary, please missing out.

**Saturday, Oct. 19**
Branch 13, Annual Family Potlatch Dinner. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the parish hall at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 604 Melita St., Martinez. East hall on Henrietta Street. $20 per

**Sunday, Oct. 13**
St. Edward Annual Fall Festival. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 5788 Thornton Ave, Newark. 7685. Sponsored by Sacred Heart Parish

**Saturday, Oct. 26**
School of the Madeleine Festival. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1225 Milpitas St., Berkeley.

**Sunday, Nov. 3**
The Berkeley Chapter of St. Paul Street Evangelization is a grass-roots organization that takes seriously the mission to spread the good news. We do it in a non-confron
tional approach, offering seeds of hope. Attending and

**Saturday, Oct. 19**
23rd Fiesta In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Oakland. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mass. Followed by free dis
can dance in cafeteria. Raffle: Information: Hermano Vázquez, 510-733-4243 or (Ben Nevaro, 510-658-

**NEW SPIRITUALITY**

**Oct. 7, 14, 21**
Weekly meditation group in the John M.

**Oct. 8, 15, 22**
Men of St. Joseph monthly meeting. 7 to 8 a.m. Tuesdays at 326 Maple St., Livermore. Contact: The Most Reverend Bishop of the Catholic Church in the Parish of the

**Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Oct. 27**
Mass in Tagalog. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish, 3002 Harbor St., Pittsburg. Holy Mass, Str. Mary Magdalene, and losa dinner. Tickets $45, after sales will be limited to the first 100. Questions: Deacon John Kortuem, 925-984-7602  Or visit: 40daysforlife.com/wal

**Sunday, Oct. 20**
Pastor dinner at San Damiano. 4:30 p.m. at 710 Pasta Dinner at San Damiano.

**Sunday, Oct. 27**
Eighth Grade Scholarship, the ICF National Charity: $25 adults, $6 children, free children under five

**Tuesday, Oct. 8**
OCTOBER 7, 2019
**THE CATHOLIC VOICE — 17**

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Cross was celebrated by three bishops—Most Rev. Oscar Macadaeg in his new mission "which has been given to him by God."

After the homily, who had been sitting among his fellow priests, rose to walk toward the altar, and faced Bishop Barber, who had returned to his chair, the cathedral.

Father Macadaeg made a statement of fidelity to the Church and its teachings. He made a profession of faith as well. His parents, Cindy and Cerdic Macadaeg, brought the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. The gift of their son had taken his place on the altar.

At the end of Mass, Father Macadaeg spoke to the assembly. After giving thanks, he related the story of learning, on the Tuesday after Easter, of his new assignment.

When he got home, after dinner with the bishop, Father Macadaeg realized he had not said yes.

He wrote a letter and sent it to the bishop.

"It wasn't a full yes until today," he said.

"Jesus Christ is always leading us," he said. "We are able to say yes because Jesus never lets us down."

He quoted from Archbishop Allen Vigneron's first homily in the cathedral, which celebrated its 11th birthday Sept. 25, and the late Bishop Robert Christian of San Francisco, who had been his teacher at the seminary in Rome.

"As I begin my ministry here at the cathedral," he said, "let's recommitt ourselves to Jesus Christ, we need each other, we need Jesus, together we can really transform this world."

Very Rev. Brandon Macadaeg was greeted by many well-wishers after the Mass. A reception was held at the Cathedral Plaza.

Youth are On Fire . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

proclaiming the good news of God's love.

Mass on this feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated by three bishops—Most Rev. Oscar Cantú of San Jose, Most Rev. Daniel E. Garcia of Monterey and Most Rev. Robert Vasa of Santa Rosa. In his homily, Bishop Cantú told a story about experiencing sensory overload from the bright lights of the Las Vegas strip. Each of those lights represented a promise in the modern world.

Many will go unfilled or come with disclaimers.

Jesus was born in darkness to be light, to fulfill God’s promise. "Jesus doesn’t write fine print in the Gospel. It’s all bold print and he tells us what the difficulties will be and asylum claims in the 2020 fiscal year.

Of those, De Leon led the assembly in the song "Who You Say I Am" with choruses in both English and Spanish as her identity as a Latina is close to her heart: "I’m a child of God. Yes, I am. (Soy hija de Dios. Si lo soy)

De Leon ended with this reminder: "You wear the Gospel. You invite it by who you decide to be and that is a child of God. So my beautiful women, please be the missionaries.

"The contemplative is a good thing, to contemplate prayer and love Jesus and understand his truth but just as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were asked to go and invite the brothers and tell them where to find Jesus, that is your mission."

Catholic Charities . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

resettlement.

The tributes flowed generously throughout the event, held at St. Columba Parish in Oakland. There was some sadness that Catholic Charities East Bay is no longer resettling refugees.

The decision resulted from falling numbers of refugees being resettled.

According to the State Department, the United States anticipates receiving more than 368,000 new refugees and asylum claims in the 2020 fiscal year. Of those, 18,200 refugees would be proposed for resettlement.

Two agencies continue to resettle refugees in the Bay Area. They are the International Rescue Committee and Jewish Family and Community Services of the East Bay.

Christopher Martinez, program director of Catholic Charities East Bay, said although the agency will not be receiving new refugees, its services continue to be available to those it has settled over the years.

Sister Elizabeth's strengths went far beyond the trips.

"She made people welcome," Bishop Cummins said.

"She made them stand on their own two feet."

Jude Stephens, who worked with her in resettlement said she learned from Sister Elisabeth that although the families seem so vulnerable, "the families are very resilient and they're very resourceful. They'll find a way to make their way."

Chi Huynh attested to that, describing Sister Elisabeth looking over her shoulder as she took a typing test.

"You're not only providing services, you are changing lives," she said. "I am one of the lives you have changed. Everything I am is because of you."

Sister Elisabeth was also resourceful herself. John Esparza, chairman of the board of Catholic Charities East Bay, recalled Sister Elizabeth "always finding a way to get resources."

Others recalled her as an advocate on behalf of refugees with local government, particularly when it came to providing translators at public health providers.

Sister Elisabeth hasn't stated what her next ministry might be, but Margaret Peterson, CEO of Catholic Charities East Bay, may have provided a clue. She recounted a conversation with Sister Elisabeth. "I'm not done yet, Margaret. I'm doing all I can to learn Spanish;"

New rector . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

"Since you didn't ask for it, you know it must come from God.

Bishop Barber asked those present to support Father Macadaeg in his new mission "which has been given to him by God."

As estimated 2,500 youth and young adults gathered at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom for a program organized by students from the UC-Davis Newman Center.

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ings included building a culture of vocations, a Spanglish tal and a young adult talk.

Cynthia De Leon from San Antonio, Texas, spoke to young women. She credits the Salessian Sisters for helping her discover her mission in ministering to young people through music. She compared young women to diamonds — formed under pressure and multifaceted with their many gifts.

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Some of the well-wishers honor Sister Elisabeth Long, OP, during her tribute luncheon.

ALBERT C. PACCORINI, EDITOR

CHRISTINE SCHRECK
By Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OM

We quite naturally think of the word “Christ” as Jesus’ second name. We think of the name “Jesus Christ” like we think of names like “Susan Parker” or “Jack Smith.” But that’s an unhealthy confusion. Jesus didn’t have a second name. The word “Christ” is a title, a name, while it includes the person of Jesus, speaks of something wider than Jesus alone. What’s the difference between “Jesus” and “Christ”?

Jesus refers to a concrete person who, though the Second Person within the Godhead, walked this earth for 33 years and is still today whom we understand and relate to as an individual person. Christ refers to something larger, namely, the huge mystery of both creation and salvation, the foundation of which includes the Eucharist, the Christian community, the historical Christ and the Christian Church of the whole community of all sincere people who acknowledges him as the Son of God.

This has huge implications, not least in how we understand spirituality and church. For example, this is a matter of how we are more centrally to us, what Jesus has done for us or the person of Jesus himself? Is it interesting to look at the various Christian churches in terms of that question: Are they more focused on the teachings of Jesus or on the person of Jesus? Are they more focused on Jesus or on Christ? In a large part of general overgeneralization, we might say that Roman Catholics and mainline Protestant theologians mostly focus on the teachings of Jesus and the groups of discipline that flow from those teachings more than they have on the person of Jesus himself.

The reverse is true for the Evangelical tradition, where the emphasis has been and continues to be on the personality and our individual relationship to him. In fairness, both traditions, certainly also include the other dimension. Roman Catholics and mainline Protestants haven’t ignored the person of Jesus and Evangelicals haven’t ignored the teachings of Jesus; but in both cases, one has been much more central than the other.

Roman Catholicism, at least in part, also emphasized the dimension of one-to-one intimacy with Jesus but placed within individual practice more so than within its mainstream theology which is more focused on the mystery of Christ than on the person of Jesus.

Spirituality, not surprisingly, tended to follow the same pattern. Early Roman Catholics and mainline Protestants, unlike the Evangelicals, have not made one-to-one intimacy with Jesus the centerpiece of spirituality, even as they held it up as the ultimate and most important goal of Christianity. Evangelicals, on the other hand, focused on an intimate personal relationship with Jesus in a way that left off Roman Catholics and mainline Protestants wondering what happened when they asked: “When I die, who will Christ your personal Lord and Savior?” “Have you been born again?”

Conversely, Roman Catholics and mainline Protestants often looked critically at the Evangelical brothers and sisters, questioning whether their over-riding emphasis on personal salvation and personal intimacy with Jesus does not distract them from having to deal with some central teachings of Jesus that have to do with social justice and with wide faith embrace. We have seen this, for example, with immigration. We see that, beginning already with St. Paul, the earliest Christian preachers shifted the primary focus of their proclamation to Jesus himself, almost as if they could not allow the name of him through whom the kingdom was accomplished to go by unnoticed.

Proclaiming a person himself (rather than just that person’s message) was novel to the early Christian missionaries. Their proclamation of Jesus’ person was radically different from the way the Hebrew Scriptures honor Moses, in that they honor his message but pay a greater attention to his person in terms of asking anyone to relate to him as such. There’s a lesson in terms of how we often treat our saints and our holy persons. We honor them through their admiration when what really’s asked of us is that we imitate their actions.

We have been talking about the one-to-one intimacy of Jesus in the sense of what some have called a personal relationship with Jesus. As an aside: There’s a lesson here in terms of how we often treat our saints and holy persons. We honor them through their admiration when what really’s asked of us is that we imitate their actions. We need to be careful not to fall into the error of thinking that the one-to-one relationship with Jesus is the most central aspect of Christianity. It is not. As the ancient Latin phrase goes: “We have been born again.” It is not an end in itself. It is the start of a lifelong journey, a start of the call to love, to live, to serve, to be.”

(Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and author, is president of the St. Mary’s School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.)
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