

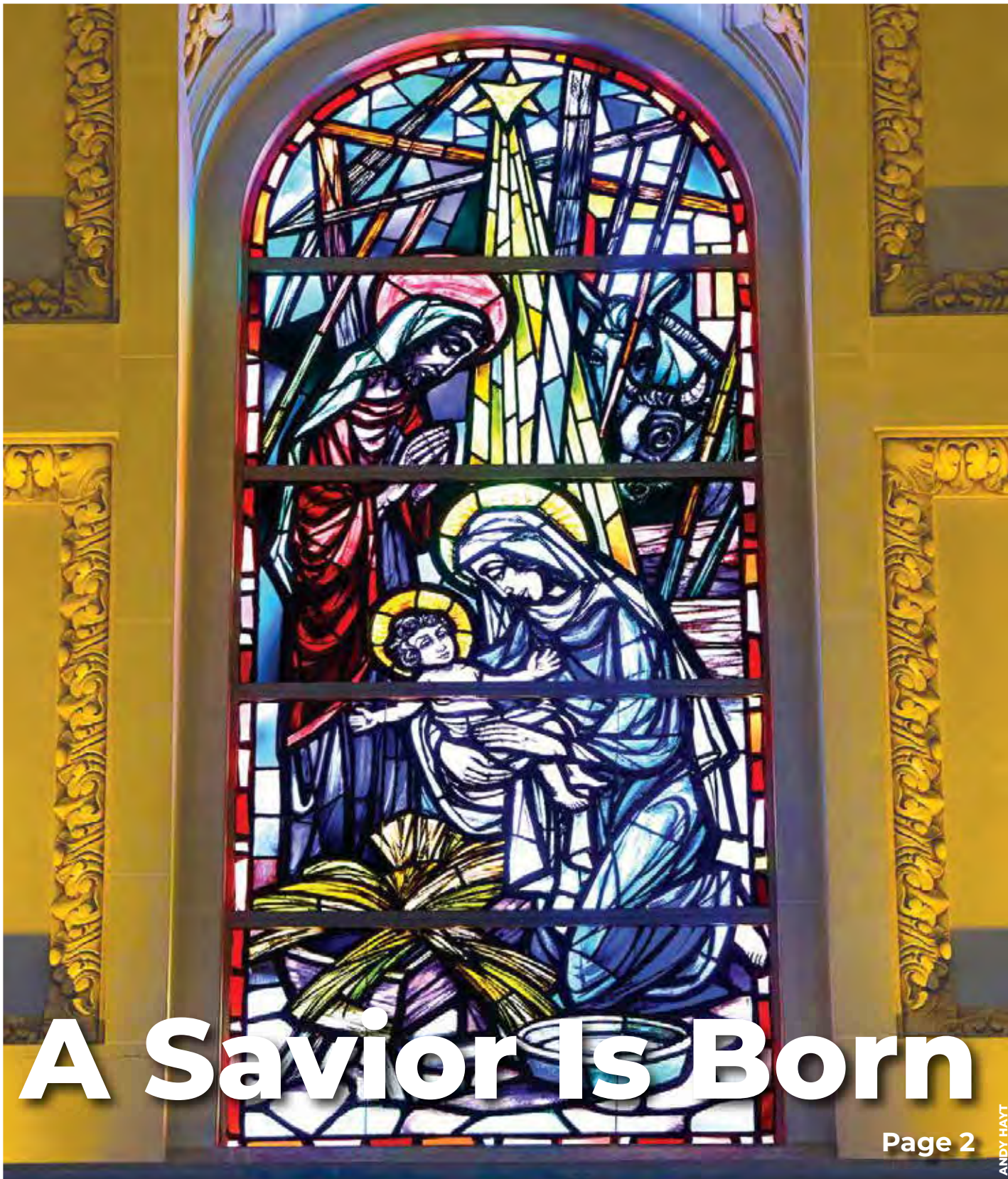
THE SOUTHERN CROSS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 113 • NUMBER 12

THESOUTHERNCROSS.ORG

DECEMBER 2024



A Savior Is Born

Page 2

ANDY HAYT

SIGN OF THE TIMES: A window in The Immaculata Church beautifully conveys the Nativity scene. See Cardinal McElroy's Christmas message inside.



On the Move

Hundreds encounter Jesus on streets of Calexico. **Page 3**



Christmas Gala

More than 400 young adults expected for holiday celebration. **Page 5**



Pathbreaker

Sister shares path from law enforcement to Mother Teresa. **Page 14**

SPECIAL EDITION ON DIOCESAN SYNODALITY
Re-imagining Parish Life & Leadership
in a Synodal Church

Supplement Inside

P.O. Box 81869
San Diego, CA 92138-1869

TELEPHONE: (858) 490-8266
E-MAIL: socross@sdatholic.org
WEB: THESOUTHERNCROSS.ORG

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

PUBLISHER

Cardinal
Robert W. McElroy

EDITOR EMERITUS

Father Charles L. Fuld

EDITOR

Aida Bustos

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Denis Grasska

ADVERTISING/CIRCULATION

Donna Lightsey

CONTRIBUTORS

Roman Flores, Father Bernardo Lara, Ricardo Márquez, Sharon Mousel, Montserrat Ramírez

DESIGN

Pinomaki Design

Founded in 1912,
The Southern Cross
is the official newspaper of the
Catholic Diocese of San Diego.

The Southern Cross
(ISSN 0745-0257) is published
monthly except the month of
December by the Roman Catholic
Diocese of San Diego,
3888 Paducah Drive,
San Diego, CA 92117-5349.

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to The Southern Cross,
P.O. Box 81869,
San Diego, CA 92138-1869.

Periodicals Postage Paid at
San Diego, CA.

TELEPHONE: (858) 490-8266.

EMAIL: socross@sdccatholic.org

WEB: thesoutherncross.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Monthly print subscription:
\$15 per year

CONTACT: (858) 490-8266;
dlightsey@sdccatholic.org



DIocese OF SAN DIEGO

The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California's border with Mexico and serves more than 1.3 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties. It includes 96 parishes and 13 missions, 49 elementary and secondary schools, Catholic Charities and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region. It also includes five historic sites, the most well known of which is the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission established in California by St. Junipero Serra in 1769.

MORE FOR YOU

This symbol indicates where readers can go online to obtain more information about the subject at hand, including additional photos, video and other content.



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Reveals to Us the Central Joy of Christmas

Message from Cardinal Robert W. McElroy

In his recent encyclical letter, "Delixit Nos," Pope Francis reveals to us that in understanding the Church's continuing devotion to the Sacred Heart, we find the key to knowing firsthand the heart of God.

How can we know the heart of God? We know it because God entered into human history to live, and die, and rise for our redemption. In this divine act of love, Jesus Christ suffered physically, spiritually and emotionally, and did so freely in order to teach us the depth of God's tender care for each and every one of us.

How can we know the heart of God? We see it revealed in the teachings of Jesus, who calls us to embody His compassion, His mercy, His integrity, His forgiveness, His prayerfulness and His willingness to sacrifice for others.



How can we know the heart of God? We see it in the love that Jesus has for the Father and the Holy Spirit in the three-fold divine community that has given to us every blessing that we know on this earth: the beauty of Creation, the knowledge of our salvation, and the ongoing sanctifying presence of God in the world.

How can we know the heart of God? We look once again as this Christmas season dawns into the face of a little child born in a manger, and understand that in that face of innocence and hope we encounter the greatest mystery and the greatest grace which has ever touched the earth — God walking among us and beckoning to discipleship and glory.

Rome Synod Calls for Fast Action

By Cindy Wooden



VATICAN CITY

— Parishes and

dioceses must move

quickly to give life to the consultative bodies and broad participation in mission and ministry already foreseen by Church law if the Catholic Church is to have any hope of becoming a more "synodal" Church, members of the synod assembly in Rome said.

"Without concrete changes in the short term, the vision of a synodal Church will not be credible and this will alienate those members of the People of God who have drawn strength and hope from the synodal journey," the 355 members said in the final document they approved Oct. 26. One of them was Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, bishop of the Diocese of San Diego.

Pope Francis convoked the synod in 2021 and called on parishes, dioceses and bishops' conferences to hold listening sessions before the first synod assembly in Rome in 2023. The 2024 assembly, including most of the same members, was held at the Vatican from Oct. 2 to 26.

(As a result of those listening sessions and further consultation of the faithful, the Diocese of San Diego began a project with 17 pilot parishes last spring to re-imagine their parish life and leadership in a synodal Church. See details in a supplement in this edition.)

The members of the synod assembly voted on each of the 155 paragraphs of the document, which made suggestions and requests to Pope Francis that included long-term projects, such as continuing discernment about the possibility of women deacons, the



FINISH LINE: Pope Francis and members of the synod on synodality attend the synod's final working session Oct. 26 in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican.

need to reform seminary training and the hope that more lay people would be involved in the selection of bishops.

But they also included actions that could and should be implemented immediately, including hiring more women and laymen to teach in seminaries or having bishops make pastoral councils mandatory for every parish and pastors ensuring those bodies are truly representative of the parish members and that he listens to their advice.

Synod officials said all the paragraphs were approved by the necessary two-thirds of synod members present and voting; 355 members were present and voting, so passage required 237 votes. A paragraph devoted to increasing women's profile in the Church received, by far, the most negative votes of any paragraph with 97 members voting no and 258 voting yes. The paragraph, which required 66% of the votes, passed with 72%.

"In simple and concise terms," members said, "synodality is a path of spiritual renewal and structural reform that enables the Church to be

more participatory and missionary, so that it can walk with every man and woman, radiating the light of Christ."

In a synodal Church, the document said, members have different roles, but they work together for the good of all members and for the mission of the Church.

Synod members also said listening, consulting, praying and discerning before making a decision is not the end of the process. "It must be accompanied and followed by practices of accountability and evaluation in a spirit of transparency."

Ensuring accountability and regularly evaluating all those who minister in the Church's name "is not a bureaucratic task for its own sake. It is rather a communication effort that proves to be a powerful educational tool for bringing about a change in culture," synod members said.

Catholic News Service

Follow updates from the
synod in Rome at
thesoutherncross.org.



'God Always Is Trying to Reach Out to Us'

By Denis Grasska



CALEXICO —
Almost 325 people
encountered

Jesus on the streets of
Calexico on a recent Saturday.

The Imperial Valley Catholic Conference on Nov. 16 concluded with participants walking about one-third of a mile in a Eucharistic procession from Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy to the parish hall, where there was Eucharistic exposition and benediction.

Father Agustino Torres, a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, carried a monstrance with the consecrated host. He was preceded by an honor guard of Knights of Columbus and followed by the youth and adults who had attended the daylong conference, which included Mass, a keynote presentation, breakout sessions, lunch, entertainment, and exhibitor booths.

Maria Olivia "Marioly" Galván, diocesan chancellor and director of pastoral ministries, said that the Eucharistic procession was a historic first in Calexico.

The theme of this year's conference was "Encounter: The Greatest Love Story."

The biennial diocesan event began with a Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

"I think more than ever, we need to hear the voice of God," Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido, the principal celebrant, said in his homily.

He encouraged those in the pews to ignore competing voices that "leave us tired, confused, with no energy, angry, misinformed."

"Once we ... stay away from those voices and pay attention more to the voice of God," he said, "we realize that God ... loves each one of us."

Father Torres, founder of *Corazón Puro* and *Latinos Por la Vida*, delivered two keynote presentations — one for adults and another for youth.

Biblically, an encounter is "not just a chance meeting," he told his adult audience, but rather something to "taste" and to ponder.

He said that encounter might involve struggle and "wrestling with something." Though the encounters that God sends are "always good," he said, that "doesn't mean it's always easy."

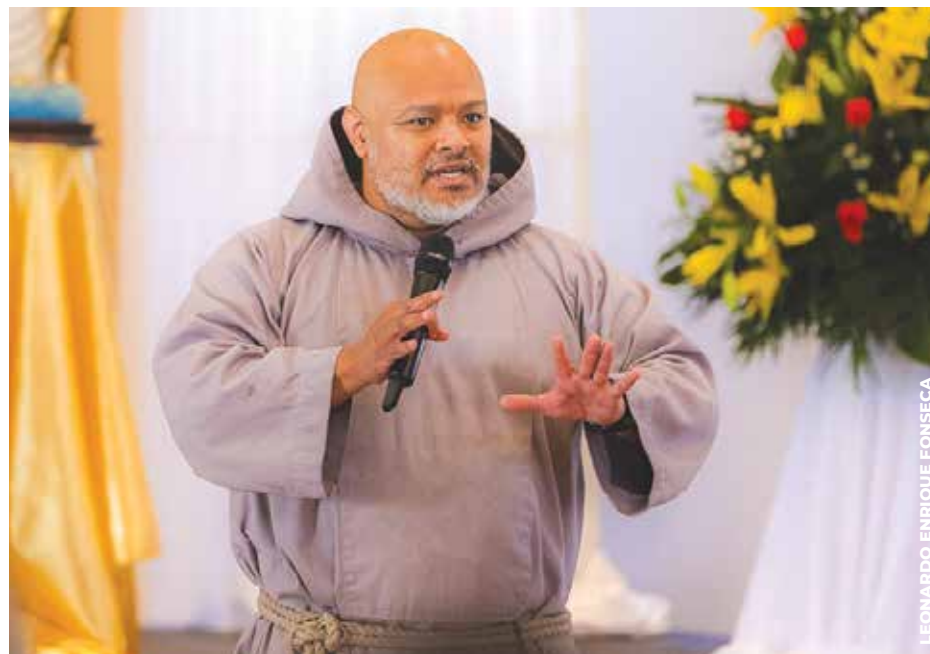
"What is the area in your heart that God wants to heal today?" he asked. "What is that place, what is that wound, what is that area that needs that healing touch, that encounter with the Lord?"

Father Torres shared examples of encounters in his own life, including a dramatic one in which he was able to dissuade a man from committing murder and suicide.

"My brothers and sisters, I will pray for you," he said. "I pray that, in your encounters with the people that the Lord is putting in your life, you too can



MOVING EXPERIENCE: More than 300 of all ages participated in a Eucharistic procession near the conclusion of the Imperial Valley Catholic Conference on Nov. 16, from Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy to the Our Lady of Guadalupe parish hall.



TESTIMONY: New York-based Father Agustino Torres delivered two keynote presentations, one for adults and another for youth.

bring healing, blessing, life, goodness."

Deacon Alberto Moya, who ministers at Sacred Heart Parish in Brawley and St. Joseph Parish in Westmorland, assisted at the altar during the opening Mass at the Imperial Valley Catholic Conference.

Reflecting on the event, he said, "For the Imperial Valley, it was just the perfect time."

The deacon acknowledged that the event, which brought many speakers east from San Diego County, is meaningful for the Imperial Valley Catholic community.

He was buoyed by the presence of so many youthful participants, whom he hailed as "the future of the Church." He remarked upon their attentiveness at Mass, as well as their engagement with Father Torres.

"Overall, it was just a success, especially for the youth," he said.

For Deacon Moya, the takeaway from the conference was "not to lose hope" amidst the struggles that the Church is experiencing.

"In reality, God is working in all of us and is keeping us together in one body and in one heart," he said.

The conference included breakout sessions, in English and Spanish, that focused on such themes as marriage and family life, care for creation, faith and the digital culture, mental health and young adult ministry. They were led by diocesan pastoral directors and lay leaders.

John Prust, director of the Office for Family Life and Spirituality, spoke about "Encountering Jesus Through the Sacrament of Marriage." He noted that the Church's ongoing "vocations crisis" is not limited to priestly and religious vocations.

"It's a vocations crisis to marriage,

too," he said.

Prust acknowledged the challenges associated with convincing today's young people of the importance of getting married in the Church.

He shared that "this generation" isn't convinced by simply being told that "this is what the Church teaches," but rather they respond to "stories and witness."

"I think we have to be able to share our own stories in the same way that priests might share their vocation story," he said.

Prust recounted how the diocese's marriage preparation retreats were improved thanks to putting this into practice. The retreats now begin with two couples sharing the stories of how they were called to marriage.

Noreen McInnes, director of the Office for Liturgy and Spirituality, delivered a Eucharist-themed presentation that suggested that, like the bread at Mass, all Catholics are called to be taken, blessed, broken and given.

She shared how each of these four elements could be seen in the lives of Jesus, Mary and St. Peter, and she invited workshop attendees to give examples from their own lives.

"I want you to see yourself as being taken, blessed, broken, and given at every Mass," she said.

"We are to give not just the bread; we are offering our very lives," she said. "We are on the altar as a sacrifice to the Lord. We are taken. We are blessed. ... We're broken open so that we can be shared and given."

See photo gallery
of the conference at
[thesoutherncross.org/
valley2024](https://thesoutherncross.org/valley2024).



Mass to Mark Parish's 80th Anniversary

The Southern Cross

CHULA VISTA
— Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Chula Vista is concluding a yearlong celebration of its 80th anniversary.

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy and two of the diocese's auxiliary bishops will join the community on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12, at the 6 p.m. Mass.

The concelebrants will include Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido; Father Giovanni Bizzotto, the Scalabrinian provincial superior; Father Bruce Orsborn, a former pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe; and other Scalabrinian priests.

Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano will preside at the 9 a.m. Mass that same day.

The parish's anniversary celebration began last year, also on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with an opening Mass celebrated by Bishop Bejarano, who blessed a church bell to mark the occasion.

Scalabrinian Father Hily Gonzales, who has pastored the parish for over three years, delved into the past as he began preparing for the anniversary celebration in late 2023.

Father Gonzales said that he shared his discoveries with parishioners, believing that it was important for pres-

ent-day parishioners to know — and be grateful for — the “sacrifices” of past generations and to understand that “it is now the task of the present parishioners” to maintain what they have inherited.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish constructed its first church in 1944 at the corner of Anita and Fresno streets, under the guidance of its founding pastor, Father Vincent Cizauskas (1944-1945). The small building only had about eight pews on each side.

By the mid-1950s, with the number of parishioners increasing, it became clear that a larger church was needed. Father Jacob DeMoore, then pastor, purchased land on 4th Avenue, between Palomar and Oxford streets, on which the parishioners themselves built a new church. The new church was named Our Lady of Guadalupe, with the hope of offering more services in Spanish, but that was not realized. After much debate, that church was renamed Most Precious Blood Parish in 1957 and was dedicated in the later part of 1958.

Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioners petitioned the diocese to return to their original parish site on Anita Street to better serve the increasing number of Spanish-speaking parishioners, and a second church was built at that location. This larger church was dedicated in 1963 and designated as a Mexican National Parish in Otay. Architecturally, it is almost identical to



START: Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano began the anniversary celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish last Dec. 12.

Most Precious Blood Church, which still stands on 4th Avenue and is its own parish today.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish eventually outgrew its second church, too. The first and second churches were demolished to make way for the third and current church. Construction began under the leadership of Father Orsborn, who served as pastor from 1990 to 1996. The church was dedicated on Nov. 28, 1993.

Since 2017, the parish has been entrusted to the priests of the Missionaries of St. Charles, a religious congregation also known as the Scalabrinians. The congregation was founded in 1887 in Italy, primarily in response to the great exodus of Italians to North and South America. Today, its charism includes pastoral care for migrants, refugees, maritime workers, and others who have left their countries to work or live abroad.

An example of that can be seen in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish's decision to open a temporary migrant shelter in the parish hall in September 2023.

The shelter remained in operation until March 2024. Father Gonzales said that, by the time it closed, the shelter had hosted 1,791 migrants of 15 different nationalities.

In 2022, in anticipation of the 80th anniversary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish launched its “Restore My House” project. The fundraising campaign enabled the parish to complete a list of upgrades and repairs, including repainting the exterior wall of the church, restoring the doors, repairing a stained-glass depiction of Our Lady of Guadalupe that had been vandalized during the pandemic, and restoring the altarpiece “retablo” of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

SOUTHBAY MORTUARY

**Cremations
Burials
Traditional Services
Military Services
Transfers Out of State/Country**

SouthbayMortuary.com
619-349-2038

DOUBLE FEATURE WITH JASON EVERT

PURIFIED AND GENDER
AND THE THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CATHOLIC CHURCH
2802 CADIZ STREET
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

CHASTITY PROJECT

Sunday, December 8, 2024
ONE DAY - TWO TALKS \$25*
FREE RESOURCES FOR EVERY ATTENDEE!

<p>PURIFIED A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT FOR FAMILIES (AGES 13+)</p> <p>3:00 - 4:30 PM</p> <p>The innocence of the family is under attack like never before. Come and discover how to protect and heal yours. This chastity presentation is for teens, parents and adults.</p>	<p>GENDER & THE THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY (AGES 13+)</p> <p>4:45 - 5:45 PM</p> <p>What's the meaning of sex, gender, and the human body? The truth of masculinity and femininity are being questioned like never before. Discover how your body as a man or woman reveals your identity and calling.</p>
<p>Break 4:30-4:45 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration 5:45-6:15 PM Praise & Worship</p>	

Tickets: chastity.com/purified
*Limited number of Teen Tickets for \$10
Info: 619-991-5122 Doors open at 2:30pm

Purchase Tickets with QR Code:

6 MONTHS FREE
*Current subscribers excluded, one per household.

858.490.8266
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT
thesoutherncross.org

Stay informed on the Catholic Community in San Diego & Imperial Counties for
ONLY \$15 A YEAR!

Couple to Be Honored at Young Adult Gala

By Denis Grasska

More than 400 young adults, ages 18 to 39, dressed in cocktail attire are expected to attend the annual Young Adult Christmas Gala.

Sponsored by the diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the ticketed event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, at St. Michael Parish's Holy Family Center in Poway.

"This night is one of our largest diocesan events and brings together young adult communities from all corners of the diocese and beyond," said Brilema Perez, an associate director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. "It's the perfect excuse to dress up and dance the night away with new and longtime friends."

But the event represents "much more than dinner and dancing," said Maricruz Flores Strauss, director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

"It is when we come together to break bread and share with one another what our year has been like," she said. "It is a celebration of all young adults and what they have accomplished on their faith journey."

Continuing a tradition that began at the 2015 gala, the evening will include the presentation of the Fiat Award. "Fiat" is Latin for "Let it be done" and was the Virgin Mary's response when called to be the mother of the Messiah.

Flores Strauss explained that the



FIAT AWARD: A married couple, Monica and Carlos Salazar, from St. John of the Cross Parish, will be honored at the Young Adult Christmas Gala on Dec. 14.

award recognizes young adults who have "gone above and beyond" in ministering to their peers.

This year's recipients are a young adult married couple, Carlos and Monica Salazar, from St. John of the Cross

Parish in Lemon Grove.

Carlos has led the parish's youth and young adult ministry for about a year. He took over from Monica, who now serves as director of catechetical ministry.

The Salazars have been married for eight years. They met at their previous parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Chula Vista, where Monica had been the youth minister for almost a decade and Carlos assisted her as a volunteer.

Monica told *The Southern Cross* that her passion for ministry with young people came from an experience of the love of God during her teenage years.

"When I was 14, I had that encounter, and I just wanted everyone to feel that love," she said, explaining what drew her into ministry.

Carlos said that young adult ministry is "not just checking off a box or a battle of how many numbers we have," but about how many people they can touch with the message that "God loves you."

Flores Strauss said that, during their three years at St. John of the Cross Parish, the Salazars have relaunched the parish's youth and confirmation program after the COVID-19 pandemic and kicked off a young adult group whose weekly gatherings attract about 30 to 40 people. They have also served on planning committees for diocesan events, like the Diocesan Young Adult Retreat, and have shown a willingness to assist other parishes, including with music ministry.

For more information, visit yamsd.org.



AVE MARIA MUTUAL FUNDS

THE LARGEST
PRO-LIFE
CATHOLIC FUND FAMILY

1-866-AVE-MARIA (1-866-283-6274)
avemariafunds.com

Mutual Fund investing involves risk, principal loss is possible. Request a prospectus, which includes investment objectives, risks, fees, charges and expenses, and other information you should read and consider carefully before investing. The prospectus can be obtained by calling 1-866-283-6274 or it can be viewed at www.avemariafunds.com. Distributed by Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC.

20-137-011523 | 14273264-UFD-1/14/2022

'We Work at Both Ends of God's Creation'

The Southern Cross



The Sisters of Nazareth are celebrating 100 years of service in the United States — a national legacy that began in San Diego.

The religious congregation, founded in Hammersmith, London, England, came to San Diego in the spring of 1924 at the invitation of the bishop.

Today, they continue to have a strong local presence, where their primary ministries include Nazareth House San Diego, an assisted living facility that currently has almost 100 seniors, and the nearby Nazareth School, a Catholic elementary school with nearly 280 students located next-door to historic Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

"We work at both ends of God's creation," said Sister Rose Hoye, regional superior. "We welcome children into the world, and we see residents out as they start their journey into eternal life."

On Nov. 15, to mark the centennial, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy celebrated a Mass of Gratitude and Thanksgiving in the chapel at Nazareth House, with Auxiliary Bishops Ramón Bejarano, Michael Pham and Felipe Pulido and concelebrating priests. Local Sisters of Nazareth were joined by sisters from throughout California and from the congregation's motherhouse in



NEW GENERATION: Sister Rose Hoye, regional superior of the Sisters of Nazareth, welcomed the children of Nazareth School to the order's centennial Mass on Nov. 15 at Nazareth House San Diego.

Hammersmith.

"It is wonderful that we are all gathered here in the name of the Lord in thanksgiving and in witness to the heroism and the sacrifice, the love, the mercy and the compassion of generations of sisters and also their collaborators and staff who have brought us to this moment," the cardinal said in his homily.

As local Sisters of Nazareth reflected on their centennial, a common refrain was "gratitude."

Sister Vera Chan expressed gratitude for the courage of her forebears who arrived a century ago, and pride

for "all their goodness to all the people through the 100 years in San Diego and the rest of the U.S."

The Sisters of Nazareth came to San Diego at the invitation of Bishop John Cantwell of the Diocese of Los Angeles-San Diego. The initial group of four sisters left their motherhouse in Hammersmith on April 5, 1924.

They traveled by train from London to the docks at Southampton, sailed to New York aboard the RMS Aquitania, and then traveled by train to San Diego, arriving on April 23.

The newly arrived sisters immediately began their ministry by caring

for children at an orphanage on Georgia Street.

In early November 1924, construction began on the first Nazareth House in America, a children's home located adjacent to the historic Mission San Diego de Alcalá. In July of the following year, the sisters and the orphans left Georgia Street for their new home.

The first school year for children in the care of Nazareth House began in September 1925.

By July of 1949, when sisters celebrated their 25th jubilee in the United States, Nazareth House San Diego had cared for more than 1,400 children.

The site ultimately evolved into the present-day Nazareth School, which opened in September of 1970.

The Sisters of Nazareth's long-standing dream of developing a home for the elderly in the diocese was fulfilled in January 1975, with the dedication of the present-day Nazareth House San Diego.

Though the Sisters of Nazareth have expanded to other dioceses, including Los Angeles and Fresno, San Diego continues to hold a special place in their hearts.

"This is where we started," said Sister Loreta Matila, who serves in pastoral care at Nazareth House San Diego.

See photo gallery of Mass at thesoutherncross.org/nazareth



DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

Spring Forward Conference



ALL are One in the Body of Christ

Disabilities Ministries Conference

2-day Conference

January 31 & February 1, 2025

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

13208 Lakeshore Dr, Lakeside, CA 92040

Friday & Saturday: 9-4 PM

Cost: \$50.00

Please register before January 23rd

Material and lunch included

SCAN ME



Father Joe's Villages
Rebuilding Lives.

We invest in San Diego's most precious assets. Children.

Our teachers and medical staff at Father Joe's Villages provide therapeutic childcare, child development, and medical treatment. But for kids, there's no place like home. So we've pledged to build 2,000 affordable homes where families can thrive.

Donate at Neighbor.org

Father Joe's Villages
Rebuilding Lives



Reflections Before a Manger



I can still remember the Christmas carols

that we sang in my home around the manger during my childhood in Venezuela: “Niño lindo ante ti me rindo, Niño lindo eres tú mi Dios ...” (Beautiful Child, before You I surrender, Beautiful Child, You are my God ...)

When we are children, we don’t question what we are offered; we are like sponges that soak up what’s said, what’s sung, and what’s celebrated in the family. That was my experience; I began to repeat and sing what I heard: “Cantemos, cantemos, Gloria al Salvador ...” (Let’s sing, sing, Glory to the Savior).

Those were the first seeds of faith that my parents planted, reinforced by the environment and culture I was

Columnist

Ricardo Márquez



born into.

Today, I think that Christmas is the singular, special opportunity for children to begin the path to faith. Sing to Baby Jesus, tell His story, build a manger and teach the first prayers: “Jesusito de mi vida, eres niño como yo, por eso te quiero tanto y te doy mi corazón ...” (My precious Baby Jesus, You’re a child like me, that’s why I love You so much and give You my heart ...)

Later, as the years passed, I discovered that my early experiences had begun to pave the way for me to have an intimate relationship with the Lord, with Jesus.

When I heard, as an adolescent, that Jesus was calling me to be His

disciple, I felt invited to have a personal relationship with Him since the ground had already been prepared by those Christmas traditions I had experienced.

Today, as an adult, I empathize with the words Pope Benedict XVI expressed in his beautiful encyclical (“Deus Caritas”): “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”

The experience with faith comes from an encounter with Jesus as a living reality, not just as a historical figure or an abstract concept.

Let’s not leave for later what can be done from the start. You can’t harvest what you don’t sow. Christmas is a privileged time to share the story of God, who became one of us and began His life as a defenseless baby, depending for His care on Joseph and, especially, Mary. Christmas is a unique time to strengthen the pillars of the

domestic Church: the rituals, stories, message of the Gospel, prayers, sacraments and service.

The critical stage of faith begins in adolescence and adulthood, the questions and doubts. Crises that come up are an invitation to experience the mystery, not as a barrier to reason, rather as an invitation to submerge yourself in Him, to experience the immensity of the unknown and to humbly submit oneself to the love of a God who became one of us to have an intimate relationship with each one of us. What is constructed in this stage is built from previous stages.

When I see a manger today, I give thanks to my parents and family members who prepared my heart for a personal, very special relationship with Jesus, the Son of God, who entered humanity’s history, mine in particular.

Ricardo Márquez can be reached at marquez_muskus@yahoo.com.

The Frances G. Harpst Center
for Catholic Thought and Culture
at the University of San Diego
cordially invites you to

LESSONS AND CAROLS

A FESTIVAL OF WORD AND SONG TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

All celebrations will take place in
FOUNDERS CHAPEL
Friday, December 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 2 p.m.
Admission is free.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit sandiego.edu/cctc for directions and parking information.
Contact us at cctc@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-7936.



13TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO
WALK4LIFE



LIFE IS A RIGHT, NOT AN OPTION

January 18, 2025
8:30 AM-12:00 PM

WALK LED BY
CARDINAL ROBERT W. MCELROY

WATERFRONT PARK
1600 Pacific Hwy. San Diego, CA 92101



CONTACT INFORMATION
(858) 490-8323
info@sandiegowalkforlife.org



Ramona Treviño
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Former manager of an abortion facility, international Pro-Life speaker, and author of Redeemed by Grace

T-shirt pre-sale, inspiring speakers, free raffles, exhibitors, activities for children, live entertainment, & coffee truck

@SDWalkForLife #SDW4L



Pricilla is being sheltered by Catholic Charities while she receives medical treatment.

Agnessa, a Ukrainian refugee, is supported by Catholic Charities.

Dear Friends and Family of Catholic Charities,

As the holiday season surrounds us and fills our hearts with gratitude, we find ourselves reflecting on the remarkable resilience and strength displayed by those we serve. This past year has been a testament to the power of faith and determination in the face of life's many obstacles. Each individual who walks through our doors is on a journey, often met with trials that seem insurmountable. Yet, time and again, we witness how hope and courage can transform even the most challenging circumstances into stepping stones toward a brighter future.

At Catholic Charities, we are privileged to be a part of these transformative journeys, supporting those who meet their hardships with resilience, creativity, and a steadfast belief that better days are within reach. Through our programs, our team works tirelessly to help individuals find the strength within themselves to overcome. This season, we wish to share some of their stories with you—stories that inspire, stories that remind us of what is possible when we approach life's challenges with an open heart and a hopeful spirit. Each week, through our website, emails, and social media, we will share these stories that inspire and uplift, carrying their impact well into the new year.

For instance, Mary embarked on a courageous journey. She was forced to leave her home behind and all that was familiar to her. Despite facing uncertainty and hardship along the way, she found strength in her faith and in the kindness of strangers who offered support. After enduring many trials, Mary reached a place of safety where she could begin to rebuild her life, finding peace and the chance to start anew within a supportive community.

Our team also worked with Agnessa, who fled Ukraine with her parents to a completely unfamiliar America, where she was finally able to start planning for a future instead of merely surviving day by day. In this new environment, she found hope and support, allowing her to dream of a brighter tomorrow.

These stories, and so many others, remind us that resilience is the heartbeat of hope. This holiday season, we invite you to walk alongside us on this journey of transformation. Each act of kindness, every shared resource, and each moment of support brings someone closer to a new beginning. Together, we can help pave the way for countless others to find their strength and purpose despite the obstacles they may face.

Your support enables us to continue this work—to be there for those who need us most, guiding them with resources, compassion, and hope. As you consider ways to make a difference this season, know that your contribution lights the path forward for individuals, families, and communities.

Looking back on this year, we celebrate the strength of those we serve and how faith in action has brought positive changes to many lives. Life's obstacles will always be present, but we can transform them with resilience, creativity, and hope into steps toward a brighter, more compassionate world.

Thank you for being part of our mission. We are grateful for your continued support and for standing with us in compassion and service this holiday season. We also invite you to join us in our mission of assisting those on a journey of transformation. Today is your opportunity to support Catholic Charities, helping us to sustain our work and programs as we move towards a brighter future where everyone can reach their full potential.

Your contributions hold the power to illuminate the path of hope for so many. We invite you to make a difference today, either by using the pre-paid enclosed envelope or visiting www.ccdsd.org/donatenow.

With profound gratitude and unwavering hope,

Appaswamy "Vino" Pajanor
Chief Executive Officer



Cheryl and Maggie reside in one of our community residential buildings.

12 WAYS OF GIVING



Mary and Minnie Mouse at Rachel's Promise.

Put your **FAITH** into action this Christmas Season and help the most vulnerable. You can be the difference in someone else's life.

<p>1  Donate Online at: CCDSD.ORG/DonateNow</p>	<p>2 Call us at (619) 363-9774 and say, "I want to donate" </p>	<p>3 Scan our QR code with your phone </p>
<p>4 TEXT YOUANDME TO 44321 </p>	<p>5  Donate with venmo or paypal: CCDSD</p>	<p>6  Transfer appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds</p>
<p>7  Give from your 401(k) or IRA</p>	<p>8  Join our Good Samaritan Society</p>	<p>9  Include a bequest to "Catholic Charities SD" in your Trust or Will</p>
<p>10  Donate your vehicle call (855) 780-4483</p>	<p>11 Donate on behalf of or in memory of a loved one </p>	<p>12  Ask your employer about their corporate gift matching program</p>



LY DANG



CEOPTIONS.COM



LY DANG

We Are Family!

By Christina Bagaglio Slentz, Ph.D.



The holidays are marked by time with family — both the families we were born into and the families we have adopted and grown entangled with over the years.

If we are honest, we might admit to a little tension in these moments. Complicated family histories and differences of opinion challenge our openness to each other, tempting us to close ourselves off from one another in judgment. Enveloped in skepticism, we might not believe it possible to find common ground, though we share a common planetary home.

Helpfully, the gift of creation reveals a spirit of kinship embedded in God’s design, which calls us to set aside our earthly divides in favor of love and openness toward each and every person as a child of God — “siblings all” or, in the Italian, “Fratelli Tutti,” the title of Pope Francis’ third encyclical. But what does it mean to be the kind of sibling God wants us to be, and how might we, as families, foster “God with us” — Emmanuel — to help us embrace the perfectly imperfect joy of being family as we enter into Advent and prepare for Christmas?

Siblings in Scripture

In Scripture, family struggles begin pretty much “in the beginning,” as Cain, firstborn son of Adam and Eve, is moved with jealousy after God favors the offering of his brother Abel. In a rivalrous rage, he kills him. When God asks where Abel has gone, Cain denies knowing and responds with very adolescent-sounding sarcasm, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” What sorrow must have come to God and to his parents!

Fortunately, Cain and Abel are not our only ex-

ample of sibling behavior. The hero of the book of Exodus, Moses, owes his life to the bravery and cleverness of his sister, Miriam, who at his mother’s instruction, places him in a basket and follows him down the river to save him from the Pharaoh’s infanticide. After Pharaoh’s daughter finds and adopts Moses, Miriam brilliantly steps in to offer her mother as a wet nurse, reconnecting the infant with his mother. As Moses becomes a man and returns to his people as God’s chosen deliverer, Miriam, as well as her brother Aaron, become his most faithful supporters as he confronts Pharaoh and leads his people out of Egypt to freedom.

Radical Call to Kinship

Perhaps no one in history has demonstrated greater fraternal love with all of God’s creation than St. Francis of Assisi. This coming year is the 800th anniversary of his “Canticle of the Creatures,” one of the oldest texts in Italian literature and one of the most powerful declarations of faith in our tradition. Composed in the last two years of St. Francis’ life, he expresses love and gratitude despite his significant ailments, praising God for the loveliness of creation.

“Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,” he sings, repeating “Praised be You, my Lord” throughout the canticle. With each declaration, he names a feature of creation as a sibling through whom he finds connection to and appreciation for God: Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire, Sister Mother Earth, reflecting his recognition of all earthly

creatures as his fellow offspring.

St. Francis loved and was open to all God’s creatures; he preached to birds, kissed the leper, negotiated with wolves, welcomed women into his religious community, and traveled in the midst of the Crusades to dialogue with the Muslim Sultan of Palestine, Syria and Egypt, al-Malik al-Kamil.

Kinship in Our Homes

Aspiring to the example of St. Francis of Assisi is no small task. Most of us need a little help with our embrace of kinship, but with the “grace” of Christmas cookies and a little eggnog, these suggestions might bring love and joy to your family time and set a new course for 2025:

- Play games suitable for multigenerational groupings.
- Do non-controversial activities, such as puzzles, crafting or baking. Gingerbread house-building combines all of the above. Find eco-friendly Christmas crafts at gathered.how/arts-crafts/eco-friendly-christmas-crafts.
- View old movies/pictures to revive good memories.
- Get into nature to get away from the noise of technology and negative news cycles.
- Focus on faith! Sing carols or watch a faith-based Christmas movie such as “The Nativity” or “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” which ends with Linus’ reading of Luke 2:8-14.
- Pray for peace.

If you have more suggestions, please email cslentz@sdccatholic.org and send pictures if you give them a try. We will share them on our social media during the season!



Scan for the full text of the “Canticle of the Creatures” and info from the *Secular Franciscans San Luis Rey Fraternity*.



Send pictures of your family or parish illustrating Care for Creation to cslentz@sdccatholic.org. We will post them on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

sdccatholic.org/creation

Creation Care Ministry Explores a Theme Monthly to Inspire Action.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS — We appreciate your business. However, errors sometimes occur. Please read your ad the first day it runs. If you should find a mistake in your ad, please let us know right away, by calling (858) 490-8266. We’ll be happy to make the necessary changes. Tearsheets are provided upon request.

LIMITS OF LIABILITY — The Southern Cross assumes no financial responsibility for errors or omissions of copy. It is the advertiser’s responsibility to read ad proofs before publication and notify us of any errors. We reserve the right to adjust in full any error for which we are responsible by publishing a corrected insertion. Requests for adjustments must be made within 30 days of ad publication. All copy must be approved by the newspaper, which reserves the right to request changes or reject an ad. Publisher reserves the right to cancel any ad at any time. All advertising is subject to credit approval.

BILINGUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY

Based in the Catholic Faith

Sliding fee scale, and various insurances accepted.



Mary L Hill
MA LMFT (Lic. # 83383)
760-687-9883

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Anxiety and Depression
- Parenting
- Bereavement and Loss
- Marriage & Family Relationships

maryleehillmft@gmail.com
www.maryleehillmft.com
1650 Linda Vista Dr. Ste. 210,
San Marcos, CA 92078

O’CONNOR’S

CHURCH SUPPLY & GIFTS

Shop with Us Today

CHURCH GOODS & RELIGIOUS ARTICLES
Rosaries • Jewelry • Books • First Communion Gifts
Baptism Gifts • Statues • Art • Holy Cards • Icons
Vestments • Chalices • Ciboria • Mass Kits • Candles
And much more.

Shop online at www.OConnorsChurchSupply.com
4780 Mission Gorge Place San Diego, CA 92120 | 619-283-2306

Two Women from Valley Profess Final Vows

By Denis Grasska

EL CENTRO — In recent months, the Imperial Valley has proven to be fertile ground for religious vocations.

Two women, both with ties to Our Lady of the Valley Parish in El Centro, have professed final vows as consecrated religious.

Our Lady of the Valley Parish was formed in 2022 through the merging of two El Centro parishes: Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Mary.

Sister Patricia Rodriguez, 45, was born and raised in El Centro, where she has attended Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

She made final vows with the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament on Aug. 31 during a Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Calexico.

Not long before that, she began her first year as principal of Vincent Memorial Catholic High School.

Sister Rodriguez was a teacher at Seeley Elementary School and



Sister Patricia Rodriguez, SJS



Mother Mary Cause of Our Joy, SSM

St. Mary's School in El Centro before entering religious life in 2014. She professed first vows on Aug. 15, 2018, at Corpus Christi Parish in

Bonita, and later taught at St. Kieran School in El Cajon and Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy in Calexico.

Tess Magin, whose name in religious life is Mother Mary Cause of Our Joy,

made final vows with the Servants of the Lord & the Virgin of Matará on Sept. 14 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The 31-year-old has been assigned to serve as a missionary in St. James, Minnesota.

She was born in Yuma, Arizona. In 2008, her family moved to El Centro, where she was a member of St. Mary Parish.

Mother Mary Cause of Our Joy entered religious life in 2017 in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and made her first profession of vows on Nov. 1, 2018, at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Parish in Washington, D.C.

Three to Take One More Step to Priesthood

By Denis Grasska

Three men will soon be one step closer to being priests of the Diocese of San Diego.

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will ordain seminarians Brian Frulla, Jesse Lopez and Anthony Jimenez to the transitional diaconate during a Mass on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The ordination liturgy will take place at 10 a.m. in The Immaculata Church, located on the campus of the University of San Diego.

Ordination to the transitional di-



Brian Frulla



Anthony Jimenez



Jesse Lopez

aconate marks the last major step on the path to priesthood. At that time, a seminarian promises to lead a life of prayer, celibacy and obedience to his

bishop.

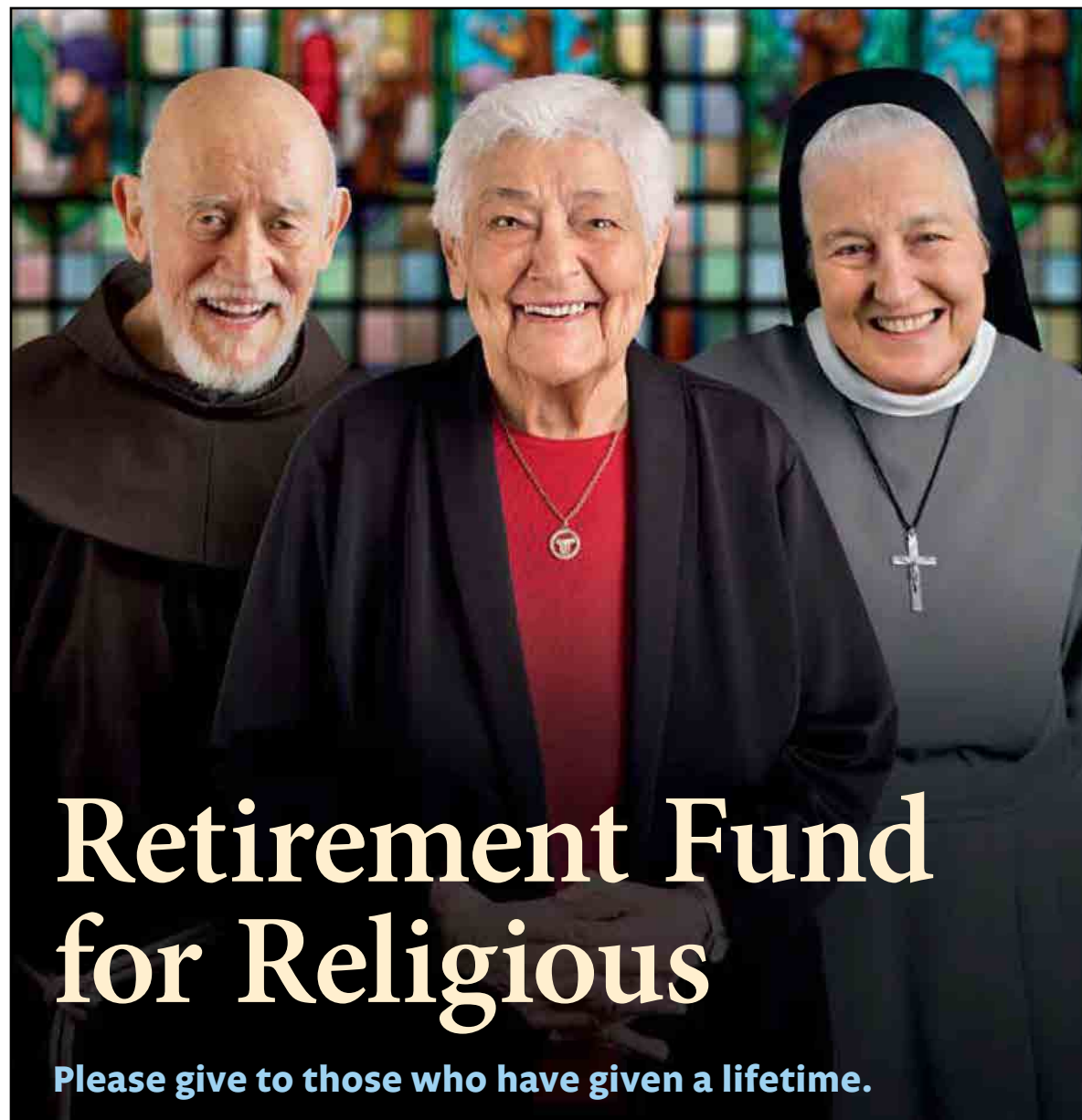
Frulla, 28, is a native of Escondido, where he was a member of Resurrection Parish. He is currently assigned

to St. Jude Shrine of the West Parish, where he will serve for the next six months until his ordination to the priesthood.

Lopez, 43, is originally from Cary, Illinois. He was a member of The Immaculata Parish when he discerned a call to the priesthood. He is assigned to St. Therese Parish in Del Cerro.

Jimenez, a 43-year-old from La Mesa, was a member of Holy Trinity Parish in El Cajon. He is serving at St. Luke Parish in El Cajon.

Their ordination to the priesthood is expected to take place on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at St. Therese of Carmel Parish in Carmel Valley.



Our aging religious need your help. Like those pictured, more than 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others through prayer and ministry. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings to care for them. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide care, medicine, and other necessities. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

Please donate at your local parish, December 7-8, or by mail at:

Office of Women Religious
Attn: Sister Kathleen Warren, OSF
3888 Paducah Dr.
San Diego CA 92117

Make check payable to the Diocese of San Diego/RFR.

retiredreligious.org

Visit retiredreligious.org/2024photos to meet the religious pictured.
©2024 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC • All rights reserved • Photo: Jim Judkis

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Sister Shares Path from Police to Vocation

By Denis Grasska



Sister Joy Bourgeois is a 96-year-old widowed mother and grandmother.

She enjoyed an exciting career in law enforcement before joining the Missionaries of Charity contemplative branch.

Born in San Francisco and raised on Long Island, she entered religious life in 1986. She made her first profession of vows on Dec. 12, 1989, in the Bronx, New York, and professed final vows on May 31, 1997, in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Question: You have led a colorful life, experiencing both the vocations of marriage and religious life. What has been the through line?

Answer: My motto, in looking back over a very full life, is all about service: I served my family as a wife, mother and grandmother. I served my country as one of the first female law enforcement officers in its history, and now I serve God with full-time duty as one of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

You grew up in a very different world. What are some of your childhood memories?

I grew up on Long Island, New York, at the tail end of the Depression.

During World War II, families were put on rations. The war got serious for us kids when all the young men in the neighborhood left for service. When we saw military cars coming down the street slowly, we would all run to the street: One driver would mean that someone had been wounded; two of-

icers meant that someone had been killed or was missing in action.

If we kids did our chores on Saturday mornings, our parents let us go to the movies. For 25 cents, we'd see coming attractions, a newsreel, a feature movie, comics, and a shorter movie, and we had a box of popcorn. Try that today!

When I was about 13 years old, a German spy tricked his way into our house.

Wait ... what?

My stepfather worked for the Navy before, during and after World War II. He was in charge of all the mechanical and engineering shops at the large medical school in New York City, and his inventions saved many lives during the war.

It was against the rules for employees in his secret unit to take work home. But the wheels would not stop turning in his head and, sometimes, the order was disobeyed. He once attracted the notice of a German spy, who followed him to our home in Long Island.

One day, the spy showed up when my stepfather was out. He was dressed in dirty work clothes and said he was there to check the burners in our basement. I let him in and left him to his work. After some time, I checked to see if he was still there. He threw me against a wall about 5 feet away and ran up the stairs.

You can imagine what happened after that. It looked like all the FBI agents in the country were in our house for the rest of the day. My mother said she preferred to clean up after them than to imagine what the Navy said to my father, even though



Sister Joy Bourgeois, MC

the spy did not get anything of value.

What role did the Catholic faith play in your childhood?

I was raised Protestant, but my husband, Everett — we called him “Bud” — was a serious French-Canadian Catholic.

Before we were able to get married, the local bishop instituted a ban on marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics in his diocese. Bud barged into the bishop's office and told him: “I have come home from four years of war, and you are telling me that I cannot marry the woman of my choice?” The bishop replied, “I guess not,” and gave us a dispensation.

We were married on May 24, 1947, in the old wooden church of St. Mary's in Bud's hometown of Westbrook, Maine. The day before our wedding, I found out that ours wouldn't be a mixed marriage after all: My father had secretly baptized me in a San Francisco church as a Catholic, with only him,

my godparents and the priest present. After a quick confession, I got married as a Catholic in good standing. We could imagine the bishop laughing up his sleeve.

Bud and I were married for about 35 years. We had two sons and one daughter. Today, I'm also a proud grandmother to two boys.

What were some of the jobs you had before entering religious life?

In the 1950s and 1960s, I served with the Civil Air Patrol. With the completion of 25 courses from the Air Force Academy, plus all the required hours of flight, I received my silver wings with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Air Force. I was a navigation instructor and flew search-and-rescue operations.

In the early 1970s, I joined the U.S. Customs Service's Sky Marshal Program, where I was one of the first female sky marshals.

As part of the training, in addition to a rigorous written exam, I was handed a used revolver and told to put 100 rounds in the bullseye from about 100 feet away, 50 righthanded and 50 lefthanded. A perfect score was required. Many people washed out of the program.

I was a sky marshal for about two and half years, and then I became a U.S. Customs Patrol officer. I later served as a licensed private investigator for the University of Maine Law School.

What are some memorable experiences in law enforcement?

I was a U.S. Customs Sky Marshal

Joy *Continued on Page 15*

858-333-8751

**DONATE
YOUR CAR**

- Free Vehicle Pickup
- Accept All Vehicles - *Running or Not*
- 100% Tax Deductible

CarsForBabies.org



Help Light and Life 70X7 and the Knights of Columbus with their Life-Saving Mobile Ultrasound Initiative

Light and Life

70X7

ULTRASOUND
Instrument of Light and Life



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



CHAPEL: A member of the Missionaries of Charity contemplative branch prays during Eucharistic exposition at the convent where Sister Joy Bourgeois lives.

Joy *Continued from Page 14*

in the Treasury Department with a warrant as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Department of Justice, cross-trained as a bodyguard in the Secret Service and eligible to fly and sail with the Coast Guard. Ultimately, I did all of these things, bodyguarding movie stars, some members of the Kennedy family, and one American ambassador whose life had been threatened.

All told, I gave my country 23 years of my life. When I finally hung up my spurs and said farewell to the U.S. Customs Service, I had 32 letters of commendation in my files.

Someone once made an attempt on my life. One night, I was followed by a car that tried to force me off the road. I turned up all the interior lights in my car, so the driver could clearly see me, pulled out my weapon and aimed it at him with the window down. He took off at high speed, with me in pursuit,

and crashed through the exit barrier and into a wooded area. After calling fellow law enforcement, we went into the woods with drawn pistols and flashlights. We found his smashed-up, stolen car, but he had gotten away.

My family knew that I went to work with a weapon or two and that I did not work in an office, but I never told them about some situations that happened.

When did your association with Mother Teresa begin?

I first heard about Mother Teresa in 1980, when an Indian bishop came to Chebeague Island, Maine, and spoke about her work. Bud and I both wanted to know more about her.

Bud died from spinal cancer in 1982, and I didn't know what I was going to do after that. Some friends encouraged me to write to Mother Teresa, expressing my interest in working with her.

I met Mother in the Missionaries of Charity's house in Harlem, New York,

and did a lot of work for her for a year as a lay volunteer. I transferred to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1983 and served there until 1986.

In 1986, Mother put me in the contemplative branch of the Missionaries of Charity because that's where she wanted me.

The Missionaries of Charity is just about the greatest outfit I ever knew about. Of course, I didn't come up from the bottom like most of the sisters. I started at the top, with a personal relationship with Mother and with her pushing me toward where God was calling me.

How did your children respond?

I sat down with them and said, "We're a family. We've always done things together. This is what I want to do, this is my opportunity, but I won't do without your permission."

They said, "You need our permission? Well, you've got it. And, if you

don't like it with the Missionaries of Charity, just come back to us."

They were very happy for me and, since I've entered religious life, they've come to visit as often as they could. They always come on my birthday.

How did you go from "Louise," your birth name, to "Sister Joy"?

As I told Mother one day, Jesus spoke to me in the chapel.

Mother said, "Oh, really? What did He say?" I answered, "He told me, 'Sister Joy, own nothing, want nothing, be nothing.'"

When Mother looks you right in the eyes, you better be square. Well, that's exactly what He said.

What was Mother Teresa like?

Mother looked simple, like a peasant, but she was as sharp as a tack. She was as kind as any human being could be, and she had a great sense of humor. She could get mad once in a while — I've seen her get mad — and she could fall asleep in a pew. But what she stood for, what she did, walking out of that convent with just a few rupees! She knew what God wanted her to do, she never stopped helping the poor, and she taught us how to do it, too.

What is your message for those discerning a vocation to religious life?

If the young women of today only knew what religious life was like, they'd be pounding at the door to get in.

When they get tired of this world, of what's going on in this world, just come over and see us. We'll give them a life that they'd be happy with. It's a completely different life. It's happiness that they don't even know exists. They'd be sorry they didn't do it earlier.

Newly Remodeled!

NAZARETH HOUSE

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

- Daily Mass
- Engaging Activities in a Welcoming Social Environment
- Delicious Meals
- Beauty Salon
- Quality Care with 24 hrs. Licensed Nurses
- Library
- Private Living Spaces with Scenic Patio Views

For information and to schedule a tour contact:

Amber Zendejas

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION

Amber@NazarethHouseSD.org
619-563-0480

Scan for a Virtual Tour

NazarethHouseSD.org

6333 Rancho Mission Rd, San Diego, CA 92108
Lic # 372000400

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | HOSPICE CARE

Prepared Meals

Ready to Reheat at Home

Entertain with Ease

Hors d'oeuvres & Party Trays

The makings of a Holiday Party or impromptu virtual get-together

LARGEST SELECTION OF HOLIDAY TREATS BAKED DAILY

Order Online www.theFrenchGourmet.com

"DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE"

BAKERY OPEN DAILY 7AM

RESTAURANT INSIDE & PATIO

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY

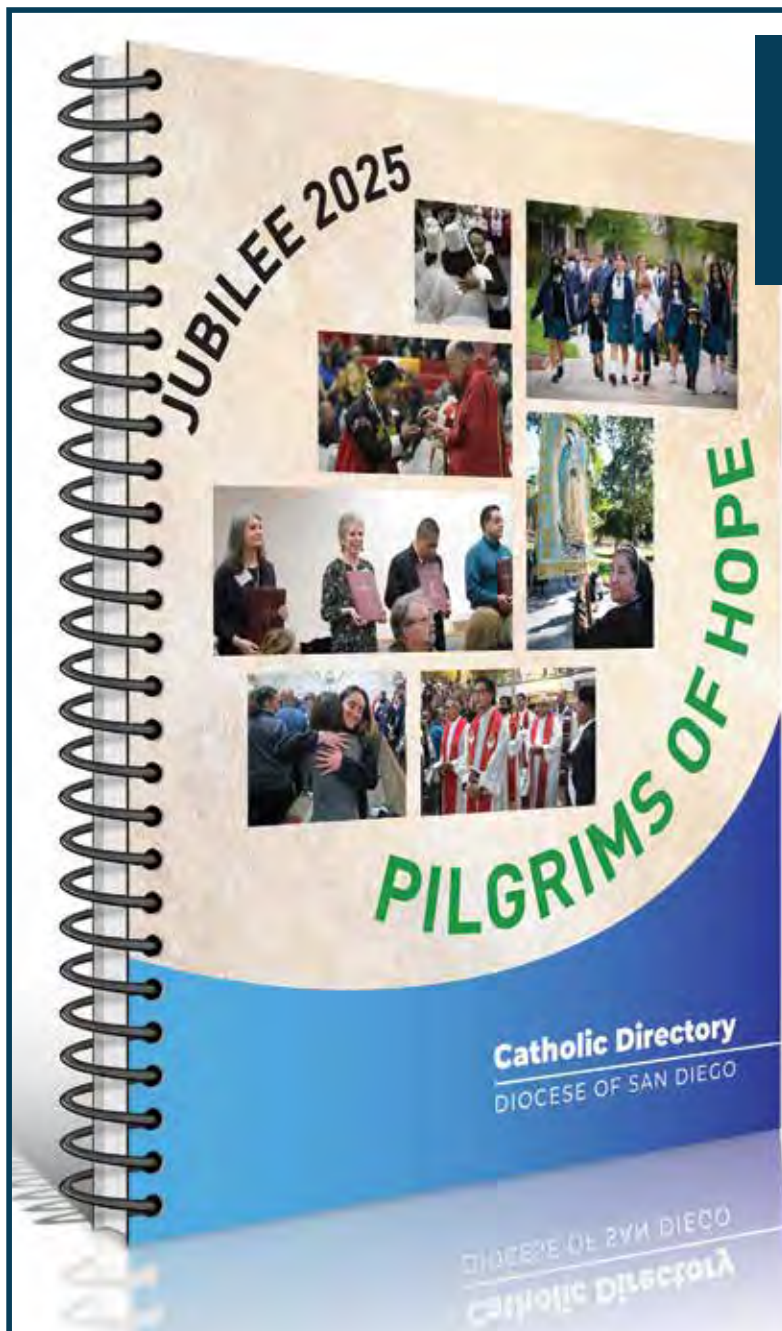
(858) 488-1725

It's Always A Delicious Day at

THE FRENCH GOURMET

Catering • Restaurant • Bakery • Wine Boutique

960 Turquoise Street • Pacific Beach



PRE-ORDER NOW! 2025 Catholic Directory

ORDER TODAY

Share One with Your Family & Friends

\$25 Each Plus \$5 Shipping

PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY AFTER PUBLICATION.

Online Ordering:
thesoutherncross.org

Mail Orders: Catholic Directory, P.O. Box 81869, San Diego, CA 92138-1869

Name: _____

Address _____

Please send me the following copies of the 2025 Catholic Directory _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check Enclosed (make check payable to Catholic Directory)

Credit Card or Debit Card Payment

Please call Donna at 858-490-8266 or email at dlightsey@sdccatholic.org to pay with a debit or credit card.

We deeply appreciate our loyal advertisers. With their support we are able to distribute the directory for free to all our priests, deacons and women religious. Please keep them in mind in your future purchases.

ACCOUNTANTS

West Rhode & Roberts (619) 615-5380

ARCHITECTS

CCBG Architects Inc. (619) 234-2212
Domus Studio (619) 692-9393
Kluger Architects (562) 498-2400
Lord Architecture Inc. (858) 485-6980

ATTORNEYS

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani (619) 230-7469
Greene & Roberts (619) 398-3400

CATERING

El Tapatio Catering (619) 423-2440
The French Gourmet (858) 488-1725

CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic Charities (619) 323-2841
Father Joe's Villages (619) HOMELESS (466-3537)
Knights of Columbus (619) 929-9964
Office for the Missions (858) 490-8250

CEMETERIES & MORTUARIES

Dignity:

Beardsley-Mitchell Mortuary (619) 223-8100
Cypress View (619) 264-3168
El Cajon Mortuary & Cremation (619) 440-8033
Erickson-Anderson Mortuary (619) 466-3297
Funeraria Del Angel Chula Vista (619) 425-9111
Funeraria Del Angel National City .. (619) 474-6565
Glen Abbey Memorial Park (619) 498-4600
Goodbody Mortuary (619) 582-1700
McLeod Mortuary (760) 745-2100
Merkley-Mitchell Mortuary (619) 295-2177
Miramar Memorial Services (858) 566-9100
Pacific Beach - La Jolla Chapel (858) 488-5553
Holy Cross Cemetery (619) 264-3127

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Hoffman and Associates habuildingcorp.com
W.E. O'Neil Construction (858) 926-4087

COUNSELING

Resources for Living (800) 342-8111
Thomas Schmierer, LMFT (760) 529-0830

CREMATION SERVICES

Balboa Cremation Services (619) 563-8810
Village Cremation Services, Inc (619) 422-7900

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

US Private Wealth Management,
U.S. Bank (619) 699-6692

HEALTH SERVICES

Scripps Mercy Hospital (858) 914-4711

INSURANCE

Catholic Mutual Group (858) 490-8285
Knights of Columbus (619) 929-9964

NEWSPAPERS

The Southern Cross (858) 490-8266

OFFICE TECHNOLOGIES

Ricoh (619) 300-7957

PRINTERS

Neyenesch Printers (619) 297-2281
Vision Press (760) 597-5999

RELIGIOUS GIFTS & BOOKS

O'Connor's Church Goods (619) 283-2306

RETIREMENT FACILITIES/ SENIOR SERVICES

Nazareth House (619) 563-0480

SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

Academy of Our Lady of Peace (619) 297-2266
Santa Clara University (408) 554-4831
University of San Diego (619) 260-4600

SPECIAL CARE FACILITIES

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center (619) 442-5129

**Thank You to Our
2024 Catholic Directory
Advertisers**

News Briefs

Workshop for Divorced on 'Navigating the Holidays'

Divorced and separated Catholics are invited to attend "Navigating the Holidays," a free practical workshop and Advent meditation presented by the diocesan Office for Family Life and Spirituality.

It will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

Email jperegoy@sdccatholic.org for more information.

Women's Group Hosting Night of Reflection

The Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary will hold an Advent Night of Reflection at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Nativity Prep Academy.

The guest speaker will be Alyssa Vasquez, a religion teacher and director of school ministry at Nativity Prep. The event is free, but a "love offering" will be accepted.

Email laguilera@me.com for more information.

Caroling to Be Held Outside Abortion Clinic

EL CAJON — The annual "Peace in the Womb" Christmas Caroling event will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, on the public sidewalk outside the Planned Parenthood facility at 1685 East Main St. in El Cajon.

"Babies have been saved from abortion when their mothers were waiting for abortion appointments and heard pro-lifers singing carols outside," organizers said. "It is also a sign ... that peace on Earth begins with peace in the womb."

Upcoming Collection Supports Retired Religious

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held at Mass during the Dec. 7-8 weekend.

Proceeds from the national collection assist eligible U.S. religious communities with their retirement

needs and can be applied toward immediate expenses, like medications or nursing care, or invested for future elder-care needs.

Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for little to no pay. Today, many religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings.

Visit retiredreligious.org for more information.

Chastity Speaker Has Two Talks

Chastity speaker Jason Evert will deliver two talks on Sunday, Dec. 8, at St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

"Purified," from 3 to 4:30 p.m., is a chastity presentation for teens, parents and adults. "Gender and the Theology of Your Body," from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., is also for ages 13 and up and will focus on what the male and female body reveal about identity and calling. There will be Eucharistic adoration and confession from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m.

Tickets to this double feature are \$25 at chastity.com/purified. Call (619) 991-5122 for more information.

Parish to Offer Traditional 'Lessons & Carols'

SPRING VALLEY — A traditional Lessons and Carols service will be held at 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, at Santa Sophia Parish.

The free event will be presented by the Santa Sophia choirs and Canticle.

Call (619) 463-6629 for information.

Dec. 13 'Encounter' Is Canceled

The previously announced Dec. 13 installment of Encounter, an evening of music, prayer and Eucharistic adoration, has been canceled.

The monthly event is typically held on the second Friday of each month at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Rancho Peñasquitos.

Email olmcheartsoffire@gmail.com for more information.

Miles Christi Offers Silent Retreats

OCEANSIDE — Miles Christi priests and brothers lead silent Ignatian retreats for both men and women.

The next retreat for men will be held Dec. 13 to 15 at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside. A single room is \$350.

Call (858) 768-0872 or visit MilesChristi.org/spiritual-exercises.

Mission San Diego Hosting Candlelight Musical Meditation

The Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá Choir will perform its 48th annual Candlelight Musical Meditation at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 21 and 22, in the mission church.

With a theme of Lessons and Carols, it will include traditional and new music set around Scripture readings of the season. It will be performed by candlelight.

A free will offering will be taken, and a reception will follow. Call (619) 283-7319 for more information.

Walk for Life Returns Jan. 18

The 13th annual San Diego Walk for Life will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at Waterfront Park.

More than 3,000 people, including Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, are expected to attend. There will be a half-mile walk, speeches, exhibitors and live entertainment. Ramona Treviño, former manager of a Planned Parenthood facility, will be the keynote speaker.

Visit sandiegowalkforlife.org for more information.

Teens Consider Evidence for Miracles

A recent "Faith and Science" retreat presented youth with scientific evidence for the miraculous.

It focused on the Shroud of Turin, believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus, and the tilma of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, on which the unpainted image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in the 16th century. Both relics have baffled scientists.

The retreat, held Oct. 26 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, was attended by 78 high school students from both OLSH and St. Didacus parishes.

Diocesan Paper Wins 11 Awards

The Southern Cross



The Southern Cross won 11 awards overall,

including five first-places in the San Diego Press Club's 51st annual Excellence in Journalism Awards.

The awards, which were presented Oct. 22, recognized work in various media, including online and daily newspapers; non-daily newspapers, like *The Southern Cross*; magazines; radio; and television.

The Southern Cross, the diocese's newspaper, competed in two divisions — its writing and graphic design in the Non-daily Newspapers division, and its photography in the Photography-Still division.

Assistant Editor Denis Grasska won five awards, including:

- Education: first place, "Realistic' Training Strengthens School Safety"
- Entertainment: first place, "New Mouse Tale Weaves Faith and Fun for Kids"
- History: first place, "'Rebuilder' of Mission San Luis Rey Comes Home"
- Feature-Light Subject: second place, "Young Adults Dive into Books & Snorkels"
- Education: third place, "We're Grateful to Have a Place to Call Home"

Graphic designer Shelly Pinomaki won first place in the Feature Layout Design category for her presentation of the "'Rebuilder' of Mission San Luis Rey Comes Home" article and photos.

Ricardo Márquez, a former associate director of the diocese's Office for Family Life and Spirituality whose columns appear monthly in *The Southern Cross*, took second place in the Column-Serious Subject category for his work.

Two freelance photojournalists — John Gastaldo and David Maung — also were recognized for their work with *The Southern Cross*.

Gastaldo received first place in the Feature-Light Subject category for "Moving Feast," a dynamic photo taken at this year's Pentecost Mass for All Peoples. (Image below.)



In the Photo Essay category, Maung won both second place (for "Auxiliary Bishops' Ordination") and honorable mention (for "Academic Decathlon"). In the News category, he also won third place (for "Auxiliary Bishop's Ordination").



Celebration

PROCESSION: The Samoan Catholic Community celebrated its annual Mass on Saturday, Nov. 2, at St. Rita Church, in San Diego. The members held a reception afterward in the parish hall, where they served traditional fare. See a photo gallery of the Mass at thesoutherncross.org/Samoan2024.

Joyful Change in Mass Began 60 Years Ago

By Noreen Madden McInnes, D.Min.



Nov. 29, 1964,
was a pivotal
moment in

our Church. It was the first Sunday the English liturgy was approved for use throughout the United States and the first of many milestones to implement the “Aggiornamento,” the “bringing up to date” of the Roman Catholic Church.

The movement officially began Oct. 11, 1962, when Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council and concluded under Pope Paul VI on Dec. 8, 1965. But the movement continued. Changes large and small stirred up great excitement as they worked their way into the liturgy and peaked with the “Novus Ordo Missae” (New Order of the Mass) coming into effect on Nov. 30, 1969.

Charles and Ede Radloff, parishioners of San Rafael Catholic Church in San Diego, describe the order of the Mass as monumental.

“Having had the privilege of being worshipping members of the Church, pre- and post-Vatican II, we feel an obligation to share with Catholics born after Vatican II the wonderful, spiritual experience and great joy of those times,” Charles said.

The couple, survivors of the Great Depression and two World Wars, testify,



TRADITION: A priest, celebrating Mass according to the pre-Vatican II liturgical books, elevates the chalice after the consecration.

“The New Mass is the cornerstone of our spiritual life and a lifeline to our Lord.”

Msgr. Mark Campbell, priest in residence at Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, La Jolla, recalls that active participation of the laity was a major objective of Vatican II as cited in “Sacrosanctum

Concilium” (SC), the foundational council document: “... The faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations ...” (SC, 14).

For, in those days, the priest “said” Mass and the assembly merely “heard”

it. As priests whispered in Latin, with their back to the people, the faithful, unable to hear or understand, resigned themselves to private prayer, kneeling with bowed heads over clutched rosary beads and novenas.

Msgr. Steven Callahan, pastor of St. Brigid Parish, Pacific Beach, explained that the ringing of the bells signaled the assembly to look up from their prayers to adore the elevated host. Since many Catholics felt unworthy to receive the Eucharist, ocular communion, adoring with the eyes, became a substitute for receiving Holy Communion.

The Eucharistic fast made receiving Holy Communion challenging. The Council of Hippo (393 AD) prohibited consuming food and drink, including water, after midnight before receiving the Eucharist. In 1964, Pope Paul VI reduced the fast to only one hour.

Charles Radloff exclaimed, “I clearly remember the jubilation after being informed of the shortened Eucharistic fast. Things were getting exciting; people were happy and overjoyed by the declarations by the pope; it was a lively, happy Church.”

Noting further changes, he recounts his unforgettable first “Novus Ordo” communion, “Kneeling at the communion rail, the priest held up the Sacred Host so I could see it and declared, ‘The Body of Christ.’ I responded ‘Amen,’ and the priest placed ‘the Body of Christ’ in the palms of my

60 Years Continued on Page 19

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re The Roman Catholic Bishop of San Diego
Case No. 24-02202

Notice of Deadline for Filing Claims: FEBRUARY 3, 2025

YOU MAY HAVE A SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM OR OTHER CLAIM AGAINST THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

On June 17, 2024, The Roman Catholic Bishop of San Diego, sometimes referred to as The Diocese of San Diego (“Debtor”) filed for protection under chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with Debtor, you must file a claim so as to be received by February 3, 2025, or otherwise you will be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtor. Even if you have already filed a lawsuit against Debtor alleging abuse you must still file a claim to maintain and/or preserve your rights.

Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before June 17, 2024, must be filed on or before February 3, 2025, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated, or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated, or certain before June 17, 2024.

For more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, please visit [donlinrecano.com/rcbsd](https://www.donlinrecano.com/rcbsd), or contact Donlin Recano, the Debtor’s claims agent, via email at rcbsdinfo@drc.equiniti.com or by phone at 1-866-521-4424, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time), Monday through Friday.

TÒA ÁN PHÁ SẢN HOA KỲ CHO HUYỆN NAM-PHẦN CALIFORNIA

Về vụ thưa kiện Giám mục Công giáo La Mã của San Diego
Vụ kiện số 24-02202

Yết thị về Hạn Chót Nộp đơn Khiếu nại: Ngày 3 Tháng 2 Năm 2025

BẠN CÓ THỂ CÓ MỘT KHIẾU NẠI LẠM DỤNG TÌNH DỤC HOẶC KHIẾU NẠI KHÁC ĐỐI VỚI GIÁO PHẬN SAN DIEGO

Vào ngày 17 tháng 6 năm 2024, Đức Giám mục Công giáo La Mã của San Diego, còn gọi là Giáo phận San Diego (“Con nợ”) đã nộp đơn xin bảo vệ theo chương 11 của Tiêu đề 11 của Bộ Luật Hoa Kỳ (“Bộ Luật Phá sản”).

Nếu bạn bị lạm dụng tình dục bởi bất kỳ người nào có liên quan đến Con nợ, bạn phải nộp đơn khiếu nại để nhận được cho đến ngày 3 tháng 2 năm 2025, nếu không bạn sẽ vĩnh viễn bị ngăn chặn, bị đình chỉ, và bị lệnh cấm không được đòi quyền khiếu nại đối với Con nợ. Ngay cả khi bạn đã nộp đơn kiện Con nợ để cáo buộc lạm dụng, bạn vẫn buộc phải nộp đơn khiếu nại để duy trì và/hoặc để bảo vệ quyền lợi hợp pháp của mình.

Các khiếu nại dựa trên các hành vi hoặc các bỏ sót của Con nợ xảy ra trước ngày 17 tháng 6 năm 2024, phải được nộp trước hoặc vào ngày 3 tháng 2 năm 2025, ngay cả khi các khiếu nại đó hiện chưa được ấn định, thanh lý hoặc xác định hoặc chưa đáo hạn hoặc đã được ấn định, thanh lý, hoặc xác định trước ngày 17 tháng 6 năm 2024.

Để biết thêm thông tin về cách lấy và nộp mẫu bằng chứng khiếu nại và các tài liệu phụ thuộc, vui lòng truy cập <https://www.donlinrecano.com/rcbsd>, hoặc liên hệ với Donlin Recano, đại lý các khiếu nại của Con nợ qua thư điện tử tại rcbsdinfo@drc.equiniti.com hoặc qua điện thoại số 1-866-521-4424, trong khoảng thời gian từ 9:00 sáng đến 5:00 chiều (Giờ Miền Đông hiện hành), từ Thứ Hai đến Thứ Sáu.

60 Years *Continued from Page 18*

hand. At that moment, wonderment set in; I was holding Christ in the palms of my hand! Next, I was offered the chalice, I placed it to my lips and for the first time, I received the Sacred Blood of our Lord. This was a forever moment, an unforgettable spiritual event in my life. A few weeks later, the communion rail was removed and, with it, the physical separation between priest and people.”

Remarkably, shocking as it was to receive the Eucharist in the hand, the practice was customary for the first 800 years of Christianity. In 348 AD, Cyril of Jerusalem instructed, “make your left hand a throne for the right (for it is about to receive a King)” (“Mystagogical Catecheses,” 5, 21).

Msgr. Donal Sheahan, retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, noted that a profound outcome of Vatican II was access to more Scriptures in Mass. He quoted, “The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s word” (SC, 51).

The one-year cycle of readings was increased to a three-year cycle that only now regularly includes the Old Testament. It is difficult to imagine not hearing about Abraham, Isaac, Moses, King David and so many of our treasured Old Testament Scriptures.

But, more importantly, Scriptures are now proclaimed in the common language of the people. Charles describes the welcome change, “The Scriptural passages were read in En-



LOOKING BACK: Charles and Ede Radloff reflect on the monumental change the Catholic Church made in 1964.

glish and people could understand, join in, and be part of the celebration of the Mass. They were jubilant!”

Yet, translating Scriptures into the vernacular is not unprecedented. In 250 BC, the Jewish Bible was translated into Greek. In 382 AD, Pope Damasus commissioned St. Jerome to translate Greek and Hebrew Scriptures into Vulgate Latin, a form of Latin that was the language of the people.

Many of the Second Vatican Council mandates have come to fruition. The laity enjoy full, conscious and active participation at Mass through singing hymns, hearing Scriptures in the vernacular, participating in responses, and serving as liturgical ministers. Yet, there is more.

Father Ron Cochran, retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, in his book, “The Catholic Mass: an Oppor-

tunity for Encounter,” explains an important aspect of participation that may not be understood or exercised.

“We are invited to place our lives on the altar with our Lord and offer them to the Father as one sacrifice, our lives joined with each other and with His.”

The Council hoped, “(The Church) should learn also to offer themselves; through Christ the Mediator, they should be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other” (SC, 48).

“Knowledge of the mystery of Christ is not a mental assimilation but a real existential engagement,” Msgr. Callahan says.

He quotes Pope Francis: “Every one of the baptized (is) called to become always more and more that which was received as a gift in baptism; namely, being a member of the Body of Christ. Leo the Great writes, ‘Our participation in the Body and Blood of Christ has no other end than to make us become that which we eat’” (“Desiderio Desideravi,” 41).

As Nov. 29 marked the 60th anniversary of the First Mass in English, Charles and Ede Radloff pray that the fruits of remembering these cornerstone moments in our Church will bring us together and make the Church one.

Let us pray the words of Eucharistic Prayer III with full, conscious and active participation: “Grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of Your Son and filled with His Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ” (“Roman Missal,” 113).

Noreen Madden McInnes, D.Min., is director of the San Diego Diocese’s Office for Liturgy and Spirituality.

Church Calls Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025

The Southern Cross



The Catholic Church worldwide will observe a holy year, or jubilee, beginning this Dec. 24 and concluding on Dec. 28 of next year.

Jubilees are special periods the Church dedicates to repentance, conversion, reconciliation, and striving for greater holiness. “Ordinary” jubilees, like the upcoming one, are held at regular intervals. There are also “extraordinary” jubilees, so called because they are held outside of the typical 25-year cycle.

As part of the 2025 Jubilee Year observance, Pope Francis will open the “holy door” at St. Peter’s Basilica on Dec. 24. Over the following days, he also will open holy doors at the papal basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Locally, on Sunday, Dec. 29, there will be a brief procession beginning at 9:15 a.m. from Piazza della Famiglia, west of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, to St. Joseph Cathedral, where the opening Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. The crucifix that will be used to lead the procession will remain at the cathedral, which will be a local pilgrimage site throughout the year.

There will be an effort to show how the virtue of hope animates annual events, like the San Diego Walk for Life and the World Day of the Sick Mass. These events will be seen through the lens of the holy year.



INTO THY HANDS, O Lord, we commend the spirits of these beloved ones who are gone before us into the realm of thy eternal happiness and peace. AMEN



Goodbody
MORTUARY
Since 1920

(619) 582-1700
goodbodymortuary.com

5027 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego’s Leading
Catholic Funeral Directors
FD LIC #790

Every Detail Remembered | Dignity

Receive Free Information with No Obligation by Contacting Us.

Mary Elizabeth Accardi, LMFT
MARRIAGE, FAMILY & CHILD COUNSELOR
MFT LIC. #20751



2067 W. Vista Way, Suite 130
Vista, CA 92083

The Shops
1030 La Bonita Dr., Suite 130
Lake San Marcos, CA 92078
(760) 304-4522



KATE ROMOSOD

REALTOR®
(858) 518-2344
Kate.Romosod@gmail.com
Cal BRE#01957292

Upon closing, \$500 will be donated on your behalf to the church you are registered at, and \$100 will be donated to “The Southern Cross,” or any charitable organization of your choice.

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Lighting the Way to Christ

Handog ay Ilaw
Patungo kay Kristo

Simbang Gabi



DIOCESAN VIGIL AND COMMISSIONING MASS

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, main celebrant,
with Auxiliary Bishops Bejarano, Pham and Pulido

Dec. 14, 2024 • 6:30 p.m.

St. Mary Church

1170 South Broadway, Escondido

Everyone is invited to join the Filipino Catholic community for this beautiful celebration that lights the way to the birth of our Savior.

Simbang Gabi Masses begin in many parishes across the diocese starting on Dec. 15.



**DIOCESE OF
SAN DIEGO**



Schedule of Masses at sdcatholic.org/simbanggabi2024