Are you ready?  
Pg.11

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
Pg.3

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE  
Pg.4
CONTENTS:

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ..................Page 3
BISHOP HOTLINE ....................Page 4
KOBE THE CATHOLIC .................Page 5
HONORING CLERGY .................Page 7
PRACTICE NFP .......................Page 8
THE ART OF CONFESSION ..........Page 9
QUERIDA AMAZONIA .................Page 10
ARE YOU READY? ....................Page 11-12
NOTABLE NUMBERS .................Page 13-14
HOLY FAMILY STEEPLE .............Page 15
HS NEWMAN CENTER .................Page 16
WINNERS ............................Page 18
CALENDAR ............................Page 19
HELL’S CAPTURED FILES ..........Page 20

NORTH COAST CATHOLIC
THE NEWSPAPER OF
THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA

MOST REV. ROBERT F. VASA
Publisher

CHRISTOPHER LYFORD
Editor

ARTHUR WALIGORA
Knight of Columbus
Creative Director/Graphic Designer
www.arthurmadeit.com

MARCH/APRIL 2020
Volume 11: Issue 2

(USPS 1880)
P.O. Box 1297
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
P: 707.566.3302
F: 707.542.9702
www.srdiocese.org/NCC

North Coast Catholic is a membership publication of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, CA. Published 6 times a year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE FREE

Send all subscription information and address changes to:

North Coast Catholic,
Diocese of Santa Rosa,
P.O. Box 1297
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
Call: 707.566.3302 or
Email: media@srdiocese.org

Periodicals postage pending at Santa Rosa, CA or additional offices.

©2020 North Coast Catholic, Diocese of Santa Rosa.

St. Francis de Sales, pray for us!
It is the tradition of the Church for Bishops to travel to Rome, ideally every five years, for what is known as Ad Limina Visits. The words ad limina mean “to the threshold". As a part of this visit the Bishops have the opportunity to greet the Holy Father, to visit the various Offices of the Holy See and to celebrate Mass at the Major Basilicas in Rome. These are Saint Peter’s Basilica, which everyone knows, Saint John Lateran, Saint Mary Major and Saint Paul’s Outside the Walls. It is the visits to these “Apostolic” locations which allows Bishops to ‘connect’ with the Church of which we are all a part.

For my part, I assure the people of God of the Diocese of Santa Rosa that I will bring the needs and intentions of the Diocese along with me to the thresholds of these various Churches. While every Bishop of the world participates in these visits, the visit arranged from January 25 through February 1 includes all of the Bishops of California. It is always humbling and edifying to approach these significant places of both pilgrimage and profound historical significance.

Please pray for me as I promise to pray for you.

– Bishop Robert F. Vasa
Washington D.C., Feb 6 (CNA) - A new International Religious Freedom Alliance with 27 member states was announced on Wednesday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Pompeo said that the alliance would include

“like-minded partners who treasure, and fight for, international religious freedom for every human being.”

According to the alliance’s official description, it “will advocate for freedom of religion or belief for all, which includes the right of individuals to hold any belief or none, to change religion or belief and to manifest religion or belief, either alone or in community with others, in worship, observance, practice and teaching.” Twenty-seven countries have signed on as members of the alliance—Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, The Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Togo, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

“Human-rights advocacy has lost its bearings and become more of an industry than a moral compass,” Pompeo wrote in an op-ed explaining the creation of the commission.

The alliance would be “consensual,” meaning that joint actions taken by some countries would not bind all member states to join. Some of the principles underpinning the alliance include: the condemnation of violence on account of one’s religion or beliefs; opposition to laws that hinder religious practice such as “blasphemy laws” and state registration of religious groups; support for prisoners of conscience; protection of religious sites; engagement with civil society; the promotion of religious literacy and freedom of religion. The member states pledged to abide by and promote those principles, and use a variety of actions to do so.

Such actions could include public diplomacy, promotion of interfaith dialogue, support for victims of religious persecution, “targeted sanctions against perpetrators as appropriate,” and training of law enforcement.

By way of example, the State Department official pointed to a joint event, hosted by three member nations, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September to draw international attention to the plight of Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang. The official was “hesitant” to list joint sanctions as an action that could be taken by member countries, as “many countries look at us thinking we’re just willing to go there immediately, and a lot of countries don’t want to do that.”

The State Department was questioned about the administration’s expansion of the travel ban to include Burma—one country where many Rohingya Muslims have been driven from their homes and persecuted for their ethnic and religious status. The Trump administration, the official said, is trying to stop persecution of religion, as people “shouldn’t have to leave their country to practice their faith.” Victims of persecution could receive safe haven in the U.S., the official said, giving the case of Asia Bibi.
“The crimes of sexual abuse offend Our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful. In order that these phenomena, in all their forms, never happen again, a continuous and profound conversion of hearts is needed, attested by concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the Church.” Pope Francis, Vos Estis Lux Mundi, May 2019

In the above titled motu proprio, Pope Francis decreed certain procedures that were to be universally adopted regarding sexual abuse of minors by clergy, but in particular by Bishops. Much of the document is similar to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that was signed by the US Bishops in June 2002. That it now is to be a universal decree is such a good thing for the worldwide Church. Most of the document establishes procedures for handling allegations against Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals. Pope Francis has decreed that these types of allegations would be reported to the Metropolitan (the Archbishop of the province) to investigate.

The US Bishops are establishing a hotline for those types of allegations. The accusations must be related to sexual abuse of minors, or the improper handling of an accusation by a bishop. This hotline should be up and running sometime in March 2020. An independent company will manage the hotline and refer all allegations to the appropriate Metropolitan.

After the fiasco with Cardinal McCarrick, I can see why many feel the need for an independent hotline. There had been accusations against him that involved adult seminarians that were known by some bishops. Once an allegation came in that he abused a minor, Cardinal Dolan handled it exactly right, according to his diocesan policies and more importantly, according to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that he had promised to uphold. The case was investigated and brought to the Review Board for recommendations. They recommended his removal and that was relayed to Pope Francis. Cardinal McCarrick was removed. This is the process that is in place already, and one that works. Does it work that well in all dioceses? I can only assume so. I know for me, when an accusation comes into me, I don’t stop until the process is followed. I meet annually with my counterparts from across the nation, and I can say with absolute certainty that they are like me – committed to making sure that the processes in place are followed.

Which brings me to the question – do we need to have a separate hotline to report Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals? Can’t we use the process we already have in place? It pains me to say it, but I suppose we do. By having an independent company take the call and pass it on to the appropriate Metropolitan, it ensures that someone outside of the immediate diocese would also be aware of the allegation. If a Bishop were foolish enough to try to cover up an allegation, it would presumably be more difficult if the Archbishop is in charge of the investigation. Are there Bishops that might try to cover up? I have no idea, but this would assure it can’t happen.

I think what is making the difference, more than any process or hotline that is put into place is something that Pope Francis calls for in his statement “…attested by concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the Church.” In the Diocese of Santa Rosa, our policies, our training includes almost everyone involved in the Church. We have made changes here and we are all on alert. What happened in that past just won’t happen in the Diocese of Santa Rosa any more – we won’t let it.
REMEMBERING KOBE BRYANT:
Formed and saved by his Catholic faith

On Wednesday, April 13, 2016, Kobe Bryant, one of the greatest athletes of all time, ended his 20-year basketball career with a bang, scoring 60 points in his last game.

While Bryant’s stats can be recited by many — five-time NBA champion, two-time Olympic champion, 18-time All-Star and the third leading scorer in NBA history — few know about the role his Catholic faith played in helping him through one of his darkest hours.

Born in Philadelphia, Kobe Bryant was raised in a Catholic household and even spent some of his youth in Italy. Drafted into the NBA at the age of 17, he eventually married Vanessa Laine at St. Edward Roman Catholic Church in Dana Point, California. Two years later they had their first child. Bryant was at the top of his game and everything seemed to be heading in the direction of his dreams.

Then he made a big mistake.
“The one thing that really helped me during that process — I’m Catholic, I grew up Catholic, my kids are Catholic — was talking to a priest.”

In 2003, Kobe Bryant was accused of raping a woman in his hotel room, while he was in Colorado for knee surgery. He admitted having sex with the woman but denied rape. A judge eventually dropped the charges, but the woman went on to file a civil lawsuit against Bryant that was settled outside of court. In the midst of it all, he issued a public apology, stating that he was sincerely ashamed of what he had done.

The incident had major consequences as numerous sponsors abandoned him and his reputation was tarnished. In 2011, his wife filed for divorce. Yet during one of the darkest moments of his life, Kobe Bryant turned to his Catholic faith. In an interview with GQ in 2015 he explained: “The one thing that really helped me during that process — I’m Catholic, I grew up Catholic, my kids are Catholic — was talking to a priest. It was actually kind of funny: He looks at me and says, ‘Did you do it?’ And I say, ‘Of course not.’ Then he asks, ‘Do you have a good lawyer?’ And I’m like, ‘Uh, yeah, he’s phenomenal.’ So then he just said, ‘Let it go. Move on. God’s not going to give you anything you can’t handle, and it’s in his hands now. This is something you can’t control. So let it go.’ And that was the turning point.”

After some rough years, Kobe Bryant reconciled with his wife, and they remain married to this day. Together they have founded the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation (KVBFF), which is dedicated to, among other things, helping young people in need, encouraging the development of physical and social skills through sports and assisting the homeless. Asked about this commitment in 2013, Bryant’s answer would likely have made Pope Francis very happy:

My career is winding down. At the end of my career, I don’t want to look back and just say, “Well, I had a successful career because I won so many championships and scored so many points.” There’s something else that you have to do with that. [The homelessness issue] is one that kind of gets pushed on the back burner because it’s easy to point the blame at those who are homeless and say, “Well, you made that bad decision. This is where you are. It’s your fault.” In life, we all make mistakes and to stand back and allow someone to live that way and kind of wash your hands of it … that’s not right.

Throughout all of his trials, and perhaps even in response to them, Bryant has realized that fame and fortune were nothing compared to the importance of faith and family. When everyone else in the world abandoned him, the Catholic Church was always there.

He may be an All-Star and NBA legend, but even superstars can use the foundational support of faith-formation, and a good priest to turn to.
On January 14, 2020 Father Gary Logan, a retired priest of the Diocese of Santa Rosa died peacefully after a number of months on hospice at OUR HOME, 2364 Millbrook Way, Santa Rosa, where he resided since January 2018.

Father Logan was born in Lansing, Michigan on January 5, 1941. He received his elementary education in Upper Sandusky, Ohio and graduated from Warren High School, Warren Michigan in 1959. He joined the United States Navy and was on the USS Enterprise carrier during the Cuban crisis of the early 1960s. After he completed his time in US Navy he worked for a number of years as a salesman. Late in 1986 he decided to study for the priesthood and in 1987 he entered Mater Dei Seminary at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Upon completion of his studies in Philosophy and Theology he was ordained to the priesthood on November 21, 1993 at St. John the Baptist Church, Healdsburg, California for ministry in the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

He ministered as a Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist parish, Healdsburg and St. Joseph parish, Cotati from 1993 to 1996. He was appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Anthony parish in Willits and served there for three years. In 2000 he went to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to serve as a hospital chaplain at St. Joseph Medical Center in Oxnard, California. He returned to the Diocese of Santa Rosa in July of 2002 and served as the Parochial Administrator of St. Elizabeth parish, Guerneville for two years. In 2004 he was appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Philip’s, Occidental and St Teresa, Bodega and ministered in that parish until his retirement in the summer of 2011.

He is predeceased in death by his parents, brothers and sisters. He is survived by relatives in Michigan.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at St. Philip’s parish, Occidental by Bishop Robert Vasa. The homilist was be Fr. Loren Allen. Burial followed at St. Teresa cemetery in Bodega.

May he rest in peace.
April 18th the Deacons will gather as they do regularly, and will focus on the groundbreaking document Ecclesia in America. Ecclesia in America is the apostolic exhortation written by Pope John Paul II, published on 22 January 1999. The exhortation follows up on the Special Assembly for America of the Synod of Bishops, which met in the Vatican from 16 November to 12 December 1997. It addresses the Church in the Americas. The document helped to show how gospel-centered evangelization could be authentically Catholic. It declared: “The vital core of the new evangelization must be a clear and unequivocal proclamation of the person of Jesus Christ, that is, the preaching of his name, his teaching, his life, his promise of the Kingdom which he has gained for us by his Pascal Mystery.” Dulles SJ, Avery (2009). Evangelization for the Third Millennium. Paulist Press.

With the statistical rise in non-practicing Catholics, the so called nones (Catholics who no longer claim a religious affiliation), and those leaving the church out of discouragement because of the clergy abuse crisis, there are many successful apostolates active in the Church today that can trace their inspiration back to the promulgation of this document, including the Catholic apologetics, Catholic TV, and Catholic Radio movements, as well as the increase in Lay involvement in the Church in the past 20 years. Let’s keep our Deacons in prayer as they gather for fellowship, prayer and study on April 18th.

Greetings to you all who are living your Catholic faith in your marriage through the use of Natural Family Planning!

Do you ever feel excited by your knowledge of how God created us as man and woman and why? Do you ever get disheartened in your use of NFP? Are you interested in sharing your experience in using NFP with others but don’t know where to go or know of others in your position? The Marriage and Family Life Office would like to connect with NFP users in the Diocese of Santa Rosa to begin an informal group where the goal is to spread the good news of NFP, perhaps have a yearly gathering for NFP families, and most of all, to support each other in a lifestyle that is so healthy and yet so misunderstood and dismissed in our society today.

All couples who are engaged to be married in our diocese now have the opportunity to attend an introductory class to introduce them to the beauty of using Natural Family Planning. We are also looking for faithful couples who would be willing to share their experience and help present this 2-hour class and maybe some of you will even feel the call to become certified NFP instructors.

So if you are a user of NFP or want to learn more about NFP, let us know who you are and be a part of starting an NFP community within our diocese. Email us at: familylife@srdiocese.org. God bless your witness to the beauty of Natural Family Planning.
How to Go to CONFESSION...

1// PREPARATION
Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer, and reflect on your life since your last confession. How have you—in your thoughts, words, and actions—neglected to live Christ’s commands to “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37, 39)? As a help with this “examination of conscience,” you might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (Ex 20:2-17; Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; or Lk 6:20-26).

2// GREETING
The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.

3// THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [give days, months, or years] since my last confession.”

4// CONFESSION
Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: “I am sorry for these and all my sins.”

5// PENANCE
The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.

6// ACT OF CONTRITION
After the priest has conferred your penance, pray an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more.

7// ABSOLUTION
The priest will extend his hands over your head and pronounce the words of absolution. You respond, “Amen.”

8// PRAISE
The priest will usually praise the mercy of God and will invite you to do the same. For example, the priest may say, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.” And your response would be, “His mercy endures forever”

9// DISMISSAL
The priest will conclude the sacrament, often saying, “Go in peace.”

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, whatever good you do and suffering you endure, heal your sins, help you grow in holiness, and reward you with eternal life. Go in peace.

—Rite of Penance, no. 93

A suggested Act of Contrition is:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

(Rite of Penance, no. 45)

Photo Credit: Grant Whitty
Vatican City, Feb 12 (CNA) - Pope Francis promulgated on February 12th a new apostolic exhortation, or letter of encouragement, about the Church in the Amazon region. The document is a follow-up to a synod, or meeting, of bishops convened last year to discuss the Church in the region.

Here are five things to know about 'Querida Amazonia':

1. **The Eucharist is the heart of the document.**

   Pope Francis spends much of the document talking about the needs of the Church in the Amazon region, where at least 20 million people live, across 8 countries. But the most important need of the Church, Pope Francis says, “is the celebration of the Eucharist because it ‘makes the Church.’

   Quoting from the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis says that “no Christian community is built up which does not grow from and hinge on the celebration of the most holy Eucharist.” Because the Eucharist is at the center of the Church, Pope Francis encourages the promotion of vocations, missionary priests in the Amazon, along with teaching and formation about what the Eucharist is, and why it matters so much.

2. **The document does not permit married priests.**

   The 2019 Synod of Bishops on the Amazon recommended to Pope Francis that diocesan bishops in the Amazon region should be permitted to ordain as priests married and mature permanent deacons to serve in communities without a priest. The idea gained traction, and became the source of debate, in many corners of the Church. The pope did not accept that recommendation, and, Vatican officials said Wednesday, has no plans to accept it.

3. **Seriously, the document is not about married priests, or priestly celibacy.**

   *Querida Amazonia* discusses evangelization, cultural, missionary life, the environment and economic concerns, and the need for priests to collaborate with lay people, and especially women, to proclaim the Gospel and witness to Christ. It also discusses the importance of the priesthood in the life of the Church. But for all the debate in recent months among some people about married priests, Pope Francis never even mentions the idea in his document. The pope has said for years that he thinks priestly celibacy is an important value for the Church, but did not raise the question at all in *Querida Amazonia.*

4. **The pope encourages Catholics to read the recommendations of the 2019 Synod of Bishops.**

   At the conclusion of the 2019 Synod of Bishops, participants approved a document making recommendations to the pope about the Church’s ministry in the Amazon, including the possibility of ordaining married men as priests. In *Querida Amazonia,* Pope Francis recommended that Catholics read that document. He did not endorse all its proposals, or any of them specifically, nor did he approve them with the magisterial authority of his office. He commended them for reading, study, and discussion.

5. **The document ends with a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

   Pope Francis prays:

   *Mother of life, in your maternal womb Jesus took flesh, the Lord of all that exists. Risen, he transfigured you by his light and made you the Queen of all creation. For that reason, we ask you, Mary, to reign in the beating heart of Amazonia.*
“On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy”
Are You Ready…

To Receive Complete Forgiveness?

By Judy Keane, Catholic Exchange

It is available in abundance to everyone if only we would embrace it. It is an endless and unfathomable gift that flows most profusely on the Sunday after Easter. It is the devotion of the Divine Mercy and it offers each of us a wonderful chance to begin anew through the Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena. Begun on Good Friday and completed on Divine Mercy Sunday, this powerful novena offers us a chance to change our lives forever! It is also a powerful way to intercede for our loved ones and the entire world by bringing all before the merciful gaze of Christ.

In 1931, a young Polish nun named Sister Faustina Kowalska, saw a vision of Jesus who, with rays of mercy in the form of blood and water streaming forth from His Heart, told her to paint an image of him and sign it, “Jesus, I Trust in You!” Calling her the Secretary of His mercy, He ordered her to also begin writing a diary so others would come to know of his unfathomable mercy. In a series of revelations that followed from 1931 through 1938, Jesus taught her about His unlimited ocean of mercy available to even the most hardened of sinners, saying “Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet” (Diary 699).

In her Diary, Jesus told Sr. Faustina, “I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that from there they may draw strength and refreshment and whatever grace they need in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death” (Diary, 1209). While the Chaplet can be said anytime, the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena, promising that “By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls” (Diary 796).

During each day of the Novena, which is prayed on Rosary beads, Jesus asked that souls be brought to His merciful heart to be immersed in His “ocean of mercy” for each of the nine days, “On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy … On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for graces for these souls” (Diary 1209). Specific intentions include all mankind, especially sinners; the souls of priests and religious; all devout and faithful souls; those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Jesus; the souls who have separated themselves from the Church; meek and humble souls and the souls of little children; the souls who especially venerate and glorify His mercy; souls detained in purgatory; and souls who have become lukewarm. It is interesting to note that Jesus saves the ninth day of the novena for “lukewarm” souls saying, “These souls wound my heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out – ‘Father, take this cup away from me if it be your will.’ For them the last hope of salvation is to flee to My mercy (Diary 1228).

On Divine Mercy Sunday 2014, two great servants of mercy, Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII, were canonized saints. In 1966, through the diligent efforts of then Karol Cardinal Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II), the informative process for beatification of Sr. Faustina was begun. The message of mercy is now being spread throughout the world. On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world that “from now on throughout the Church” this Sunday will be called “Divine Mercy Sunday.” In speaking of Divine Mercy Sunday in Faustina’s Diary, Jesus said, “On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy” (Diary 699). Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy” (Diary 965).

It is important to note that there are three places in St. Faustina’s Diary that record promises from our Lord of the extraordinary graces He will make available through the devout reception of Holy Communion on this Feast Day:

- I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy (1109).
- Whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (300).
- The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).

The powerful Divine Mercy Novena as ordered above by Jesus gives us the tremendous opportunity to begin again – a fresh start of “complete forgiveness of sins and punishment” that may have otherwise been due to us in life up to that point. So powerful is the Chaplet that Christ said, “Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy” (Diary, 687). Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will” (Diary 1731)

Jesus in his unfathomable mercy gives us this grace to begin anew through his passion and death on the cross where blood and water gushed forth from His heart. This Good Friday then, let us take advantage of this powerful novena while there is still time – for the sake of our souls, the souls of our loved ones and a world deeply and desperately in need of Divine Mercy.

To Download the Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena, please visit: www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/novena.htm, or visit our Lenten Resources page at www.srdiocese.org
We are grateful to the generous supporters of the 2019 Annual Ministry Appeal. Over 4,500 individuals from all parts of our Diocese pledged $1,145,000*, $93,000 over the 2019 AMA goal of $1,052,000.

Thank you for working together as one family in faith to further the mission of Jesus Christ in our Diocese. Funds raised through the AMA are the life-blood of vital ministries touching souls and changing lives across our diverse Diocese. As was mentioned in the Bishop’s letter last month, the following information details how the 2019 AMA funds were allocated by ministry grouping.

We are happy to report that 35% of parishes have exceeded their 2019 AMA goals and they will receive over $80,000 for parish use.

The AMA funds were allocated to the ministries of the Diocese according to four broad categories: Education, Evangelization, Clergy, and Marriage.

In giving to the AMA, each donor participates in and furthers the mission of each of the supported ministries. The impact of these ministries cannot be measured by numbers and percentages, but a more in-depth report may be found at srdiocese.org/development.

* Pledge numbers as of December 1, 2019. Numbers rounded to the nearest thousand.
How often have we seen the news reports, pictures and stories of the desperate need and suffering of people around the world? The challenge to help seems so huge it is difficult for us to imagine how we could make any difference in the face of the enormity of these problems.

But many wonderful, kind hearted and generous people of our Diocese have been taking the challenge and doing what they can to make a difference through the Mission Co-op Program (MCP). This program, sponsored and supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is giving hope to the brave and unselfish missionaries that are stationed in the remotest and poorest parts of our planet.

Many of you may remember missionaries making appeals and presentations once a year at your parishes. These missionaries are all part of the MCP that our bishop and our diocese enthusiastically support. They are selected after a rigorous vetting process to ensure they meet all diocesan requirements and policies for participation.

Through the contributions given to this program from dioceses across this country, we have delivered schoolbooks to children desperately trying to learn and have rebuilt chapels that have been destroyed by violence. We have provided drinking water to countless thousands in places where sometimes the closest water source is miles away. We have given resources to priests and missionaries who travel long dangerous distances to spread the Good News.

The MCP’s overall goal is to evangelize and spread our faith while meeting the huge needs of communities around the world.

This year our diocese raised a record $123,316.63 from your contributions. Virtually every penny raised is sent directly to the organizations and churches in need. We as a diocese are showing that we are an important part of the worldwide church and are doing something directly to help with poverty, both spiritually and financially, around the world.
The unobtrusive, valley-acquired quietness of 200 Antonina Avenue, American Canyon is no longer; something has changed as of January 29, 2020 at 9:30 AM. It’s distinctive feature of change? A church steeple.

The architectural design and ecclesiastically approved 30 feet high steeple gracefully towers over the nearly finished construction of the Holy Family Catholic Church. A gold cross, the mark of Catholic Christians, is perched on a golden globe. This symbolizes that Christ died for all humankind. The cross glistens as it catches rays of the sun, leaving the people watching below breathless. The globe is mounted on a four sided tapered spire.

Steeples in Christian churches function to inspire people to direct their gaze heavenwards, as a form of prayer meditation and a call to salvation.

Steeples have deep biblical history and significance. Proverbs 18:10 recite, “the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous man runs into it and is safe.” The psalmist says, “I look to the mountains from whence the tower of my strength comes from.”

Our forefathers believed that God’s presence is found in high places. Jesus was transfigured on Mount Tabor. He ascended to heaven on a mountain top. Early Christians turned their gaze towards heaven in times of plenty at harvest and in times of sorrow at famine, distress and disaster.

During the early century, Diocletian saw the destruction of church towers and spires, steeples, as we know now essentially the same. It was Constantine I who later initiated the restoration and rebuilding of churches in different architectural forms - the gothic style with tall jutting spires, baroque, Romanesque and revived other aspects of medieval art.

About 100 parishioners, guests and parish leaders joined Rev. Fr. Fred Kutubebi, Deacon Vic Leach, in prayer and blessing of the muted green-colored steeple before a boom crane mounted it permanently into place. A festive reception capped this historical occasion.

Through the able leadership and enthusiasm of Rev. Fr. Fred Kutubebi, the beloved pastor, the Holy Family parishioners’ 25 years thirst for their own church has been finally quenched!
The Humboldt State Newman Center is truly a community of believers filled with the joy of discipleship. Director Regina Fosnaugh sent this report of recent activities:

The first photo of the larger group is a photo of our Wednesday Catholic College Night on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. The night was part I of our three-part talk series on vocation. In the center back of the photo, Deacon Dance Farrell and his wife, Kim Farrell, gave a talk to the college students on the vocation to marriage. (FYI, his real name is Dance, it’s not a mistake). Wednesday, February 12, Fr. Raul Lemus spoke to the college students on the vocation to the priesthood. On Wednesday, March 4, Mother Theresa Christi will talk on how to discern your vocation and the vocation to religious life.

The photos of the smaller group are our Evangelical Catholic Reach More Leaders. On Saturday, February 8, they went on a retreat with Mark Rose, the representative of Evangelical Catholic from Madison, Wisconsin. We began our day with Adoration and the Liturgy of the Hours. It was filled with prayer, practical advice, and activities to prepare ourselves for launching our small groups. The small groups will be based on the St. Louis De Montfort Total Consecration to Mary as well as lectio divina meditation on the scriptures of Lent.

The leaders have spent 14 weeks of formation, committing themselves to 30 minutes of prayer a day and lectio divina. They went through a workshop on how to disciple others in a one-on-one setting. They have put into practice generous giving of their hearts to the Lord and being prayerful intercessors for others. They have sought the promptings of the Holy Spirit in conversations and ways to talk about our relationship with Jesus.

Please pray for our leaders as they began their small groups the week of February 17 and throughout Lent. The group’s regular Wednesday gatherings start with a community dinner at 6:00pm, followed by an inspiring speaker, and more fellowship.

Find out more at: hsunewmancenter.com
a dozen reasons
to choose Catholic Schools

1. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
7. We teach children respect of self and others.
8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
12. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
NCEA.org/csw
Cardinal Newman Freshmen gain top honors in the Sonoma County Pro-Life Essay Contest

By Stephen Morris
Director Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Newman Freshman Elise Jackson, grew up at Covenant Christian Academy and had reflected on her feelings about abortion, but had never put her thoughts on paper until now. The result was first place in the first ever Sonoma County Pro-Life essay contest. She claimed to “learn a lot about abortion and the Pro-Life movement” when researching her essay. She was pleased to discover that in fact “being Pro-Life meant being Pro-Woman.” And as she noted in her essay, “[Pro-Life] demands that one supports and encourages women to love and care for both their unborn body and their body, it elevates unborn lives, but also fights for women and their bodies.”

Fellow Freshman Kaylin Smith also discovered things she’d never considered before when preparing her paper. While the mantra of “your body your choice” rattles around in popular society, Kaylin found a different tune after researching the subject. “Yes women should have choices, but when they become pregnant, it’s not just her body she needs to think about anymore” she noted in reflection.

Elise and Kaylin are just two young voices in a surging tide across the nation, most notably represented in the non-profit Students for Life, who claim this generation as the “Pro-Life Generation.”

Do you want more?

By Chris Lyford
Director of Communications
Diocese of Santa Rosa

A friend of mine told me of his mother’s near death experience where her spirit left her body and she was drawn into the light. He said his mother was given a view of her whole life, in detail from the perspective of heaven. “Indescribable love”, was what she just kept saying as she re-lived and reviewed her eighty four years in a flash. She saw all the things she did that was hurtful to others, even the things she could have done but chose not to. Her overwhelming feeling was described in the phrase: “I could have done more”. She was given the grace through God’s Mercy to come back to her life and finish her days in ‘an offering of love’ to God as she says. Eternity is a concept we can ponder, yet never fully contain in our finite minds. We are in the ‘now’ of our own lives while we have breath, and the Spring of 2020 will be as unrepeatable as any other season or day in our past.

But surely there will be a time when we will have no more ‘tomorrows’ in our earthly journey, and our lives will be complete. How will we want to feel as we look back? Most of the saints describe their own inadequacy at length, and spend most of their time extolling the Mercy and kindness of God having drawn near to Him and still being able to stand in His brilliance and love.

A good prayer reflection during this time of Lent, Holy Week, Divine Mercy, and Eastertide, is to set our stop watch at 2 minutes, push ‘go’ and review our own lives in the light of God’s infinite love. Chances are there will be things we see that cause us to say “I could’ve done more”.

What is the ‘more’ you would do? Do that now.
MARCH 14TH LENTEN RETREAT ST. ELIZABETH SETON
All are invited to “A Family Retreat” with Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. This is a video presentation from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. @ St. Elizabeth Seton’s church in Rohnert Park. The late Archbishop speaks about topics that apply to everyone: Mass, Confession, Youth & Sex, the Devil, Making the Right Choice, Suffering, True Love and many more. Cost is $5.00. Lunch is provided. Please R.S.V.P. to Maureen Sheridan Scott 707-584-0586.

MARCH 15TH ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE WINDSOR
The Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef Dinner on March 15, 2020 in the Mary Agatha Furth Center hall at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church located at 8400 Old Redwood Hwy in Windsor. Doors open at 5:30pm. Dinner includes corned beef and cabbage and all the trimmings. There is a no-host bar. Guests will be treated to special “Irish” entertainment. Tickets are $20.00 each for persons 12 years old and up. Tickets for children 11 through 6 years old are $3.00 and children under 6 are free. Tickets may be purchased after the 5:00pm mass on Saturday and the 9:00am mass on Sunday. Tickets are also available at the church office during normal business hours. The last day for ticket sales will be March 11th. For additional information, please call Bob Nickel (707)481-2267.

MARCH 21ST ULTREYA
To grow closer to Jesus during the Lenten season, the Catholic Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Santa Rosa invites all Catholics to attend a Ultreya on Saturday, March 21, from 2 – 3:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. Ultreya means “moving forward,” and teaches about the Catholic faith and how to walk more closely with Jesus Christ and other Christians. Those who want to know more about the Catholic Cursillo Movement and those who have already lived a Cursillo weekend are invited to attend. For further information call Molly Touchette at 707-292-8389 or Olga Dorado at 707-755-0022.

MARCH 28TH ST. EUGENE’S GOD IS! RETREAT: A ONE DAY JOURNEY CLOSER TO GOD
Adult Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited. Saturday, March 28, 2020 - 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
St. Eugene’s Cathedral, Santa Rosa
On Saturday, March 28, there will be an awesome day of spiritual renewal. Participants will hear the Good News proclaimed in a dynamic way that will invite all to journey closer to their loving Father, his saving son Jesus, and the transforming Holy Spirit who they will receive in the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will experience informative talks, inspirational personal witness, sacramental renewal, prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and Mass. A continental breakfast will be available and lunch will be provided. Wear comfortable clothes. This Day of Renewal will conclude with Mass which will fulfill your Sunday obligation. No cost to attend. Space is limited. Registration is required at Gods@sonic.net by March 13. When you register, include full name, parish, and affiliation as a Confirmation candidate.
For more information, contact: Kirstin Merrihew kmerrihew@srdiocese.org (707) 566-3326

CO-sponsored by the Cathedral of St. Eugene, the Diocesan Department of Religious Education, and the Diocesan Department of Marriage & Family Life.

ONGOING

PRAY FOR PRIESTS
Thursdays 5:30pm “Pray for Priests” prayer group St. Sebastian Parish
Is God calling you to enrich your prayer life in the very meaningful way? If so, you are welcome to come to our parish “Pray for Priests” prayer group on Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in St. Sebastian’s church. Weekly attendance is not a requirement, join us when you can.

MARIS STELLA INSTITUTE’S ADULT CATECHISM CLASSES
Every 2nd Saturday of the Month (October 2019 through July 2020, except Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020), 9:30 am -3:30 pm
Want to deepen your relationship with God? Register with the Maris Stella Institute (MSI): Your Catechism Training Institute. MSI offers adult and young adult formation classes in the “Catechism of the Catholic Church.” Both English and Spanish programs are available.
Classes are scheduled each 2nd Saturday of the month, both in person (at Kolbe Academy & Trinity Prep Catholic School in Napa) and live online.
Register at www.marisstellainstitute.org.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
Catholic Young Adults (18-38ish) check out: www.catholicya.org and join our regular meetings at the Chancery (1st Monday of the Month) or at Sonoma State Catholic Newman Center hosted by the Young Adult community “The Father’s Glory” (event details at www.transformingfire.org). Meetings are a great place to ask questions, expand prayer life, and form friendships.

Stay current on Youth & Young Adult ministry events in the diocese: www.sryouth.org & www.catholicya.org.
Humboldt State Newman Center events: Regina - rfosnaugh1@hotmail.com www, hsunewmancenter.com

Stay current on Youth & Young Adult ministry events in the diocese:
HELL’S CAPTURED FILES
By Deacon Dennis Purificacion
File #B-1213-1284

Dear Soulsmasher,

Did you destroy those files I sent you over 25 earth years ago? Rumor mill among the Lowerarchy is that the Enemy has gained new intelligence about our covert operations. Umm, I thought we burned those files. Burning, after all, is our specialty.

There are rumblings about calling me out of retirement. Alas, I thought I was done and able to enjoy my catch for all eternity. When I was Dean of our illustrious Academy, a training ground for new junior special operators, I trained literally Legions on how to deceive those putrid servants of the Enemy. I trained so many that the sun would be blotted out if the human eye saw all those I trained. Ohhh, how our father has rewarded me, yet how it tortured me at the same time.

And you, dear nephew. You’ve done well. I hear you’ve been promoted to Major. That’s quite a catch of trophy-souls you’ve managed to steal from the Enemy. How he l-l-l-loves them...ooo I just hate that “L” word.

Since last I spoke to you, millions have left the Enemy’s Camp. Many of them leave as early as 13 years old. How delicious our strategy! They have forgotten the waters of Baptism and how Confirmation strengthens them. Baptism is a “new birth” and the beginning of their miserable service to the Enemy, so necessary for eternal life. How their souls shine with such blinding light with these waters!

Once when that pesky little deacon of His baptized one of his first set of babies, how I triple-shrieked in agony! Not only was the new Enemy’s servant removed from Original Sin, our father’s doing, but the newly baptized baby became an “adopted” daughter of the Enemy once more. Oh the thought of those holy waters of life, how they burn me as a reminder of our Great Rebellion!

Our master plan, Original Sin, removed and replaced with “sanctifying grace.” What is sanctifying grace, you ask, dear Soulsmasher? It’s a free gift that makes those putrid souls share in divine life, a friendship with God, where they are now in the state of grace. Make sure that they don’t die in the state of grace.

But stop ‘em, dear Soulsmasher! Stop ‘em! Tell them that baptism’s not necessary, especially the parents. That’s it’s just a ceremony so they can party. Or even better, if they do it, have them pick godparents that are not committed to the Enemy’s expectations. Try to have the parents forget that they are “accepting the responsibility of training” their children in the practice of the faith, as the Rite of Baptism For Children says. Oooo...my delectable palate salivates and my innards warm with thoughts of fresh victims.

Send my regards to Lt. Devilita. She was such a fine student but too kind for a Special Forces officer.

Eternally Yours,

Colonel Scumhead (Retired)
Dean Emeritus of Hell Academy
Who celebrates the Liturgy?
“Liturgy is an ‘action’ of the whole Christ (Christus totus)” (#1136)

1. Heaven (#1138)
   a. “These are the ones who take part in the service of the praise of God” (Rev. 7:9):
      i. the Mother of God
      ii. the heavenly powers
      iii. all creation
      iv. servants of the Old & New Covenants
      v. new People of God, especially martyrs
      vi. a great multitude

2. Earth (#1140)
   i. “It is the whole community, the Body of Christ united with its Head, that celebrates.”
   ii. “Liturgical services are not private functions…” (Vat II, SC 26).
   iii. “The celebrating assembly is the community of the baptized…” (#1141).
   iv. “It is in his presiding at the Eucharist that the bishop’s ministry is most evident, as well as, in communion with him, the ministry of priests and deacons” (#1142).
   v. Other particular ministries: “Servers, readers, commentators, and members of the choir also exercise a genuine liturgical function” (Vat II, SC 29).

CATECHISM BULLET POINTS
(CCC – Catechism of the Catholic Church #1069)

Save the Date Guarde este fecha

Santa Rosa Religious Education Congress
Congreso de Educación Religiosa de Santa Rosa
Saturday, September 26, 2020
Sábado, 26 de septiembre de 2020

Held at Cardinal Newman High School Santa Rosa

* Registrations begins August 2020
* Mailings go out in August.
* If you wish to receive the brochure, please send us your name, email & mailing address.

* El registro comienza agosto de 2020
* Folletos salen en agosto
* Si desea recibir el folleto, por favor envíenos su nombre, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección postal.

Contact: Carmen Perez Aanenson Diocese of Santa Rosa Department of Religious Education P.O. Box 1297, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 566-3366  FAX (707) 791-7495  dre@srdiocese.org
96% of households have a reader

Publishers Information Service

The North Coast Catholic appeals equally among adult age groups.

“In some respects the editors...have found the Holy Grail long sought by their colleagues in the Catholic press. They have shown that it is possible to publish a diocesan publication that appeals equally to all age groups.”

—Publishers Information Service

North Coast Catholic is a high-quality publication produced 12 times per year (printed and digital) and distributed to 40,000 homes throughout the diocese.

Advertise your business, event, organization, or group in the North Coast Catholic!

SHARE YOUR MESSAGE WITH PEOPLE WHO LISTEN!

ADVERTISING SPACE IS LIMITED

Web placement on the Diocesan website included in all packages – link to the Catholic community in your region and make connections in business, and faith!

Call or email now, we are taking reservations for our next issue!

All pricing is flexible based on YOUR budget -really!

media@srdiocese.org
THE BEST OF
BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

◆ **My Uncle Fulton Sheen**
  Joan Sheen Cunningham and Janel Rodriguez
  A touching, personal memoir by the niece of Bishop Sheen who moved to New York to be under his close guidance while attending a private school. He became a second father, a role model, and a lifelong friend to Joan, who warmly describes many formative experiences with Sheen. She fondly recollects how her uncle helped raise and educate her, guided her courtship, found her an apartment, baptized their children, and much more. *Includes rare photos.*
  MUFSP . . . Sewn Softcover, $15.95

◆ **Go To Heaven**
  Sheen breathes new meaning into truths about heaven and hell, faith and suffering, life and death. And shows us how to get to heaven. A must read!
  GTHP . . . Sewn Softcover, $17.95

◆ **The World’s First Love**
  With his characteristic brilliance, Sheen presents a moving portrayal of the Blessed Virgin Mary that combines deep spirituality with history, philosophy and theology. Sheen’s personal favorite book of all his works.
  WFL2P . . . Sewn Softcover, $17.95

◆ **Life Is Worth Living**
  This book contains the full-length scripts of forty-four most popular episodes of Sheen’s hit television series of the same name that covers a wide variety of important topics for living well.
  LWLP . . . Sewn Softcover, $17.95

◆ **Remade for Happiness**
  In this classic work Sheen explains the secret of authentic happiness: being spiritually remade through Christ, and how to make that happen.
  RMFHP . . . Sewn Softcover, $16.95

◆ **Through the Year with Fulton Sheen**
  Sheen offers inspirational words of encouragement, counsel, direction and practical advice for each day of the year!
  TYFSP . . . Sewn Softcover, $16.95

◆ **The Priest Is Not His Own**
  The beloved Archbishop presents a profound and deeply spiritual look at the meaning of the priesthood and relationship of the priest with Christ as an “alter Christus”. A book every priest should read!
  PNHOP . . . Sewn Softcover, $17.95

◆ **Servant of All**
  Archbishop Fulton Sheen
  This special double DVD includes an acclaimed new film, Servant of All, along with five episodes of his famous Life is Worth Living television series. Servant of All introduces the beloved Archbishop to a new generation that greatly needs his inspiring example of love for God and neighbor, and as a powerful evangelist.
  SOAM . . . 2 discs, 200 min, $24.95

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!

NEW!