**Pope Francis’ US Visit Leaves Rich Teaching**

**World Meeting of Families Inspires, Challenges**

**by NCC Staff**

Pope Francis concluded his United States visit with hundreds of thousands of people packing the 33 acres of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia to celebrate the Mass of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Holy Father explained that the choice to enter into family life is in this age often a courageous and always a prophetic choice.

"Anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil – a family which shows that the Spirit is alive and at work – will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation," he said.

The week long World Meeting of Families brought together thousands of delegates from different parts of the world who represented families in their countries. In his homily, Pope Francis encouraged families to build their lives on love, reminding them also that God’s love is for everyone, and warning against narrowing God’s love and (see Pope Francis’ US Visit, p. 8)

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**This is Not Compassion**

**California Places Vulnerable at Risk with Assisted Suicide**

[Editor's note: The secular media and this paper over the last year or so have covered the issue of assisted suicide in some detail. The Xs and Os of how this all transpired are at this point irrelevant. What is important is that Gov. Brown and the Legislature’s majority have yet again failed to “promote the general welfare.” Therefore, rather than rehash the details that are readily available to all online or the local library, we present you with the bishops’ statement on this tragedy for an authentically and official Catholic take on the subject.]

The bishops of California, have issued the following statement after Governor Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Jr., signed ABx2-15 (Eggman, D-Stockton) legalizing assisted suicide: The physician-assisted suicide legislation (ABx2-15) signed by Governor Brown makes it legal to prescribe a lethal dose of drugs to assist terminally ill patients to take their own life. This law stands in direct contradiction to providing compassionate, quality care for those facing a terminal illness. (see Not Compassion, p. 3)

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**Helping with the Valley Fire Recovery**

Catholic Charities and the diocese are grateful so many want to help people impacted by the Valley Fire. However, clothing, food and other in-kind donations are NOT being accepted. Financial assistance is desperately needed, however, and greatly welcomed. Make checks payable to “The American Red Cross” or to “Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa Disaster Fund” and send them to Catholic Charities, 987 Airway Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.
We stand at that liturgical crossroads, the end of the old year and beginning of the new. The celebration of the Feast of Christ the King (which falls this year on November 22) will mark the end of the liturgical year. On this feast we celebrate in anticipation the ultimate resolution of all the world’s trials and tribulations, questions, and concerns.

The Lord promised He will come again, and the celebration of Christ the King reminds us that for some, He might personally come for us before He comes for us all.

The weather’s heralding winter and the end of the liturgical year coincide with the message that the world as we know it is passing away. Thus this feast challenges us to make sure our priorities are in sync with these eternal realities.

What things will really matter when Christ comes again?

A great saint, out hoeing in a garden of beans, was asked, “What would you do if you knew the world would end today?” His calm, considered reply: “I suppose I would finish hoeing this row of beans.”

This saint’s reply speaks to the need for a proper and anticipated preparation for the end times. It points to a pressing need for greater preparedness. The celebration of Christ the King reminds us we “know not the day nor the hour” (Matt 25:13).

This same theme of preparation is carried into the following four weeks, though with a different slant and purpose. As every beginning has an end, so every end implies and expects a new beginning. Thus in the liturgical year, the end gives way to a new Advent and a new time of preparation for a new birth. There are only four Sundays in Advent, each ideally preceding a week of Advent spiritual work, so be prepared. Do not put off your spiritual preparation for Christmas until the last week. Once that fourth Sunday begins, the days of preparation are over.

Indeed, each Advent proves to us that Our Lord’s words have particular application: “The Son of Man will come at a time you least expect, on a day you do not know.” If we do not prepare well when we know precisely when the celebration (Christmas) will take place, how can we claim to be prepared for that which we do not know and cannot foresee?

When we come to Christmas, we will take up another very important work, the work of praise, the work of coming to the manger, the work of following a star. For this we must also be prepared, and the four weeks of Advent are provided for this spiritual preparation. (These weeks are not—despite what the radio, TV, and advertisers tell us—the Christmas season. That lasts from December 25-January 6)

If we come to this celebration and there remember that we have not yet been reconciled with our neighbor, we are encouraged to leave our gift and seek reconciliation (cf. Matt 23:23-24). This is the work which precedes the work of worship. This is the work of Advent, which precedes the joy of Christmas. Take heed, however, for that last week is a short one. Be prepared.

I pray your Advent work of preparation for Christmas produces for you many wonderful spiritual fruits that will bring you abundant joy and blessings at Christmas.

**From the Bishop**

Bishop Robert F. Vasa is the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

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**New York City (Catholic New Yorker) — The formal opening for the cause of the canonization of Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, the founder of the Society of the Atonement, took place at the New York Catholic Center in Manhattan September 22.

Fr. Wattson was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1886. When he met St. Lurana White, an Episcopal nun, the two were determined to begin an order that lived out the life of St. Francis of Assisi. They began the Franciscan Society of the Atonement, comprised of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement, in 1889 at Graymoor in Garrison.

He became a Catholic in 1909 and brought the whole Society with him, the first time a religious community was received corporately into the Catholic Church since the Reformation. He received holy orders as a Catholic priest in 1910 and died in 1940.

Fr. Wattson established the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which runs from the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter until the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, January 18-25.

His cause for canonization was endorsed on November 11, 2014, by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at their meeting in Baltimore.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Fr. Patrick Peries, SJ
November 3, 1993

Fr. Emerick Kish
November 4, 1987

Fr. John Rogers
November 8, 1995

Fr. William J. Tierney
November 9, 1965

Msgr. Alphonso O’Connor, OFM
November 11, 1967

Msgr. Andre Tournier
November 11, 2007

Fr. Vincent O’Neill
November 12, 1998

Fr. Joseph Vallooran
November 15, 2004

Msgr. Erwin J. Becker
November 16, 1989

Fr. Robert Grainger, OCD
November 21, 1971

Fr. John S. Roberts
November 24, 1968

Fr. Vincent Radvina
November 30, 1995

Fr. William Finn
November 30, 2000

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**Cause of Atonement Society Founder Opens in Year of Consecrated Life**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.
Catholic Healthcare System Being Sued Over Abortion

Detroit (CNA/EWTN News)—Trinity Health Corporations, one of the largest Catholic health care operations in America, is seeking the dismissal of a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union over its refusal to provide women with abortion services at its medical facilities.

"This case has no merit. A federal court already dismissed a similar ACLU claim, and we will seek dismissal of this suit for the same reason," stated Eve Pidgeon, the manager of public relations at Trinity Health Corporations.

Trinity Health Corporations is a multi-facility operation headquartered in Livonia, a Detroit suburb, with more than 80 other hospital locations across America.

The health group adheres to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' ethical and religious protocol for medical practice, which includes the refusal to perform abortions and tubal ligations within their hospitals.

These directives for Catholic health services from the USCCB have been consistently followed by Trinity Health Corporations, which also cover various other medical issues from palliative care to birth control.

The ACLU and the ACLU of Michigan are suing Trinity Health over allegations that pregnant women are being denied "emergency health care"—specifically abortions—when they seek care at their hospitals. The ACLU is also underscoring Trinity Health's refusal to perform operations such as tubal ligations on pregnant women because of the medical directives they follow.

The ACLU maintains that Trinity Health Corporations is in violation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA). According to the ACLU, failing to offer pregnant women abortion services because of religious directives breaches this federal law.

However, when a similar case was brought against the USCCB in 2013, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, bishops' conference president, called the lawsuit "baseless," saying their medical directives "urge respectful and compassionate care for both mothers and their children, both during and after pregnancy."

That lawsuit was dismissed in June by a federal district court. The ACLU filed an appeal the following month.

Trinity Health also refuted the current allegations from the ACLU, upholding their ethical and medical procedures as coherent with best practices for women's health.

"The Ethical and Religious Directives are entirely consistent with high-quality health care, and our clinicians continue to provide superb care throughout the communities we serve," Pidgeon asserted, defending the USCCB regulations the group follows.

"We are proud that more than 25,000 licensed physicians work directly with our health system and share our commitment to people-centered care," Pidgeon continued, maintaining Trinity Health's standard of practice.

The lawsuit against Trinity was announced October 1 at a US district court in Detroit.

The ACLU has long opposed Catholic hospitals operating according to Catholic teaching. The ACLU and the group the MergerWatch Project co-authored a 2013 report that claimed the growth of Catholic hospitals was a "miscarriage of medicine."

The report says the ACLU's work in this area is supported by the "generous support" of two anonymous donors as well as the Arcus Foundation, the Herb Block Foundation, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Scherman Foundation.

Pope Francis Establishes New Dorm for Rome’s Homeless Men

Vatican City (CNA)—Pope Francis and his brother Jesuits in Rome have converted an old travel agency building into a new homeless shelter for men, just in time for the cold winter months.

The new dormitory is called "Gift of Mercy," because mercy is "love's second name," Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the apostolic almoner, told Vatican Radio.

He added the initiative is a response to Pope Francis’ call to the faithful to care for the poor and the homeless. Earlier this year Pope Francis established shelters, bathrooms and a barber shop inside the Vatican to serve the homeless population.

The new shelter, just around the corner from the Vatican in Via dei Penitenzieri, is furnished by the Papal Office of Charities and donations, and is run by sisters from Bl. Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

With enough space to house 34 men, the shelter brings the Vatican's total capacity for housing the homeless up to 84.

Besides the "Gift of Mercy" house, the Missionaries of Charity also run the "Gift of Mary" home in the Vatican, a homeless shelter for women established by Pope St. John Paul II and Mother Teresa in the late 1980s.

Residents in the new "Gift of Mercy" house are welcome to stay for up to 30 consecutive days, and a schedule set by the sisters helps keep things running smoothly.

The sisters register each guest as they arrive between 6-7 pm. Soon after, it's lights out, with a wake-up call at 6:15 am. After time for bed-making and personal hygiene, it's 8 am. Soon after, it's lights out, with a wake-up call at 6:15 am. After time for bed-making and personal hygiene, the dorm closes at 8 am to give the sisters a chance to clean before the next night.

The dorm was inaugurated last week in a private ceremony with a blessing and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Krajewski, with the dorm's first guests and volunteers in attendance.

[Note: A theological term, applied uniquely to humans, which denotes the relation between God and humanity. The term has its roots in Genesis 1:27: “God created man in His own image. . .”]

Bl. Teresa Manganiello: November 4

All 48 Catholic hospitals in California provide excellent palliative care services as all medical facilities for terminally ill patients should but often do not. As Catholic Bishops in California we join hands with the disability rights groups, physicians, other health care professionals, and advocates for the elderly in opposing physician-assisted suicide as the wrong approach to advance the human dignity for those facing a terminal illness.

Pope Francis has warned us about our “throw away culture.” Have we become so callous in protecting the sacredness of life that we easily approve of a physician handing over a lethal dose of drugs to someone to end their life at their most vulnerable moment when they must most need to be cared for with love and attention?

We are particularly disappointed that the very real concerns and risks posed to our brothers and sisters in vulnerable communities of the disabled and elderly have been consistently ignored by our state’s elected officials. In a health care system grappling with constantly escalating costs, the elderly and disabled are in great peril now that assisted suicide has become legal. Application of such a law elsewhere shows that the option to offer the low-cost alternative of lethal drugs instead of proper medical care is a temptation not long resisted.

For vulnerable people, this isn't compassion. There's nothing in this law that supports or promotes the common good. This bill does nothing to validate the lives of the vulnerable. If anything, this bill says just the opposite and only serves to increase their emotional burden. And it facilitates subtle but potent pressures on the elderly and the disabled to end their lives rather than become a financial or emotional burden on their children.

Nothing illustrates what is wrong with this bill more than how it got to Governor Brown's desk having failed to even get out of committee in the normal legislative process. In a special legislative session called to help fix a $1 billion gap in Medi-Cal funding and other health-financing issues, the Legislature and Governor did not address the problems nor offer ways to bring down the cost of healthcare. Millions of people on Medi-Cal are still not eligible for palliative or other ‘end-of-life care.' Instead, lawmakers' solution to bringing down health care costs is to allow physicians to end a person's life. This will adversely affect the poor, as those with resources will always have access to palliative care. This is not compassion.

The California Catholic Conference has been very proud to work with Californians Against Assisted Suicide and its partners from the disability-rights community, advocates for the elderly, physicians' groups and other health care professionals during the debate on physician-assisted suicide. We thank all these members and the thousands of Californics throughout the state who expressed their opposition for their outstanding work and we will continue to stand with them in efforts to protect the most vulnerable Californians.

The new "Gift of Mercy" house in Rome provides another example of how the Church is responding to the needs of society in a way that is consistent with high-quality health care and our commitment to people-centered care. This is not compassion.
Once we were in, it was time to find my friends from Buffalo. Only they were across the street behind impassable barricades. We pushed through an unmoving mass of humanity to find a way to them, only to discover that our best bet was to go by where we had come in. So we had to push and shake our way back through the same unmoving mass. One woman: “Let me through. I’m going to the barricade!” A child: “I want my Daddy!” One woman: “I can’t walk. Please. Let me through!”

Me, who was in danger of losing my daughter and frantically feared the prospect, “Eilis! Push through to daddy. Keep close!” As I’m frantically grasping for her arm, which I can’t quite reach, she was pushing between us not caring, seeing only as an obstacle to get through. Another woman next to us wearing a “Volunteer” T-shirt, “No, don’t push. We don’t need any pushing.” Which, with my daughter about to be sucked into the vortex of humanity that threatened to rip us apart, was not music to my ears. Another woman: “I grabbed Eilis, and although my back was killing me, I wrenched her forward past the uncaring woman, and we were united yet again. But there was no hope of crossing the avenue to see my friends from Buffalo. Police wouldn’t let us.

At this point we chanced upon other people with the “Golden Tickets.” These tickets went to area Catholics so they could sit closer to the papal altar. “Closer” is an extremely relative term when you have upwards of 1 million people around you.

We began to follow them. But a volunteer told these people, “Oh, that ticket won’t do you any good now. You may have as we do and find some place comfortable to stay and settle in there.”

I had not waited in line for nearly three hours with the anticipation of being close to give up to close us this easily. These other people indeed decided to peel off and go find some place to sit. A group of women from New Jersey, the Irish family, and a lot of area residents can man woman from Green Bay, Wisconsin, an Indian family from New Jersey, the Irish family, and a lot of area residents with very thick Mid-Atlantic accents surrounded us: “Payce pe be wyt, hun.” “Dew ya thank the Poh-pe’s gona com this WY ahlader the Mass i don? I hoh-pe he will”

The Mass readings were in spoken Spanish, Vietnamese, and Bahasa Indonesia. But the parts of the Mass were in Latin and were done in Gregorian chant (they passed out Mass booklets to everyone so folks could follow along). As he did elsewhere, the Pope gave his homily in Spanish, with English subtitles accompanying his words on the jumbotrons, people clapping at the jumbotrons as though he could see them. But where we were, it was impossible to see everything he said. Too many heads and trees in the way. “Tenderness … hope … mercy … joy … life … the poor … the sick … the unborn … the aged … salvation … Jesus Christ.” If you looked for it, you got the essence.

Then it came time for Communion. Priests processed down the streets holding ciboriums, with local Catholics holding umbrellas in the colors of the Vatican flag over the ciboriums, like mini-baldacchini accompanying a eucharistic procession, which, in a very real way, it was. The priests came to the barricades and distributed the Body of Christ. I didn’t try to notice this, but being stuck in place and, after having said my prayers, having nothing to do, I couldn’t help but notice how people received the Hosts. I don’t recall a single person but my daughter and me receiving on the tongue. What was until the time I was 10 or 11. The only way to receive—had now fallen so completely into disuse that no matter the nationality, people received Our Lord into their hands.

In any event, our priests ran out of hosts and left to return to purify the sacred vessels. And yet dozens of people, several rows deep had not received the Eucharist. This was terrible. All of a sudden many of us started crying for priests who also were making their way back. “Father! Do you still have Hosts?! Please! People here need Our Lord!” To the people, “Don’t give up hope! Please come forward, but be quick. They must return soon! They only have 20 minutes to distribute! Who else needs to receive?! Kings and Queens can wait, but here, it’s now or never!”

And so it was for a few frantic minutes. It was chaotic, but it was utterly gorgeous chaos. People so determined to receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope these people can see this here. Sir! Do you need to receive? Ah, then, over here!"

And so it was a few frantically chaotic minutes. It was chaos, but it was utterly gorgeous chaos. People so determined to receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope these people can see this here. Sir! Do you need to receive? Ah, then, over here!"

Along the way, we passed the graveyard of some Irish friars and priests for their service as we passed them. Justin Cardinal Rigali, the most recent past-archbishop of Philadelphia, was caught on the street beside the cathedral. I often feared the prospect, “Eilis! Push through to daddy. Keep close!” as I’m frantically grasping for her arm, which I can’t quite reach, she was pushing between us not caring, seeing only as an obstacle to get through. Another woman next to us wearing a “Volunteer” T-shirt, “No, don’t push. We don’t need any pushing.” Which, with my daughter about to be sucked into the vortex of humanity that threatened to rip us apart, was not music to my ears. Another woman: “I grabbed Eilis, and although my back was killing me, I wrenched her forward past the uncaring woman, and we were united yet again. But there was no hope of crossing the avenue to see my friends from Buffalo. Police wouldn’t let us.

At this point we chanced upon other people with the “Golden Tickets.” These tickets went to area Catholics so they could sit closer to the papal altar. “Closer” is an extremely relative term when you have upwards of 1 million people around you.

When the train was not empty, it certainly wasn’t that crowded it could be.

As we squeezed into the 30th Street station and exited into the open air to begin our walk to the security checkpoints, the bucksters were in full force. Papal Christmas ornaments (“He lights up with the light of Christ!” although the light is really just your Christmas tree’s light bulbs). T-shirts for $1. “One dollar papal flutes: Better than a hotdog at Costco!” shouted one lady vying for everyone’s attention.

The streets were utterly deserted. There’s something so liberating and even joyful about marching down what are ordinarily car-crammed streets, and it’s just you. Well, you and hundreds of thousands of your closest friends, in this instance, but you get the idea.

Eilis and I joined in with a band of Neocatechumenal Way members. Literally. They had bongos and guitars and flutes and kazoos, and they were making the most joyful sound for the Lord. It was infectious. Indeed everywhere on our 20 blocks back to the train station on streets deserted except for other pilgrims. We were both very happy, some-
Ask IPS:

After cheating, can my marriage be saved?

by William McKenna, MS

Q: After 25 years of marriage I found out last week that my spouse has cheating on me for years. I simply don't know what to do. I can't sleep, I'm always angry, and I feel numb all the time. What's happening to me? Is it possible to rebuild our marriage?

A: I wish I could tell you what you are suffering is rare in America today. However research and experience indicates you are far from alone. All too often, spouses either come alone or together to seek counsel and talk about the emotional fallout from their spouse's affair. This is never an easy situation to navigate, and it is no wonder that you are having difficulty understanding how to approach the topic.

The wound of infidelity can be called an attachment injury. While attachment injuries can simply happen when you perceive that your spouse is emotionally unavailable to you, attachment injuries stemming from affairs (both emotional and physical) tend to affect us more for two reasons. First, an affair upends everything thought you knew about marriage and commitment, or at least during the last 25 years that you have been married. Such a challenge to a fundamental belief leaves us feeling like we are falling in outer space.

Second, adultery is a deep violation of both natural and divine law. Whenever we sin in such a grave manner, those who we offend tend to react in a manner that captures the gravity of our disordered actions. In all, you can understand your symptoms with the following statement: You are suffering from trauma that is akin to posttraumatic stress disorder stemming from a deeply disordered action by your spouse. While your suffering and experience present a tough hurdle to overcome, it is possible to heal from an affair. Better still, you can save your marriage.

You will need to find the support to begin the path of healing and reconciling the relationship. There will have to be a commitment to overcome the past hurts. Seeking counseling is a step of commitment. This will most likely be both difficult and helpful all at once. There may be days that you do not want to come back to continue because it can be quite painful. I urge you to stick it out. You will ultimately find healing, in part, through your courage to continue.

Additionally—not a popular thought, but vital for success in these cases—you need to be willing (at the right time) to explore with your spouse how you both got your marriage to this point. The blame game will get you no where, but taking personal responsibility for the current state of your marriage will bring about true freedom, and true healing.

For those who question this final point I hark back to a quote President John F. Kennedy used after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion: “Victory has 100 fathers, and failure is an orphan.” No one likes admitting their part in failure, but it is the only way that we can really grow.

In all, understand your hurt is really normal and understandable, but also understand you and your spouse are a team, and you will either succeed in marriage together or come up short together.

As always, be assured of my prayers for you both.

Mr. McKenna is clinical extern at the IPS Center for Psychological Services. Have a practical question related to psychology and faith? Write to askips@ipsciences.edu

China Replaces One-Child Policy with Two-Child Policy

Beijing (CNA/EWTN News)—The Chinese government has moved its cap on the number of children per family from one to two, the State's news agency reported on Thursday. But one women's rights activist says the change is not enough.

Mrs. Reggie Littlejohn, president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, said she is not surprised by the change, "given the demographic disaster China now faces as a result of its One Child Policy."

“However, instituting a two-child policy will not end forced abortion, gendercide or family planning regulations in China,” she said in a statement.

The one-child policy has been mandated since the 1970s in an effort to limit the country's population growth. Recent numbers, however, show an aging demographic that could pose fiscal problems for the country's future, according to Reuters.
This really is goodbye ("Won't that guy ever leave?"). I have edited the paper on a freelance basis the last two months. My better qualified successor Chris Lyford now picks up the reins.

Yet again, I sought for something about which to write. Then the other day, reading comments from Planned Parenthood officials, I found myself in a fevered pique. So I did a U-turn and began to chew about them. Instead, it suffices to ask: What must it be like to get up every day and know your job is to lie?

That's a strong statement, but consider this:

PP claims abortions only amount to 3 percent of their total business (and they are a money making, for profit business, make no mistake, and yet they get $500 million in taxpayer funds each year; talk about corporate welfare).

What often happens is that a woman will come in for an abortion, of which PP is the nation's largest single provider, over 300,000 annually. In fact, what PP doesn't tell you is that abortion provides 86 percent of its non-governmental income. Furthermore it has had $765 million in "excess revenue" in the past 10 plus years. Killing is their business, and business is good.

In any event, PP minions will ask the expectant mother whether she needs this additional service, that additional procedure, this additional test. These all sound good. Many are taxpayer funded or covered by insurance.

It is not a lie per se, but it is wholly disingenuous.

Then there is their claim that the Center for Medical Progress' undercover videos were doctored and manipulated. This stands in total contradiction to the forensic investigation provided by Coalfire Systems, Inc., the nation's largest independent IT firm. Its clients include 3M, Amazon, and Big 5.

It reported, "Coalfire's analysis of the recorded media files contained on the flash drive indicates that the video recordings are authentic and show no evidence of manipulation or editing."

As Catholic commentator Kathryn Jean Lopez put it, "It is a complete and absolute contrast with what Planned Parenthood argues. Who is to be believed?"

I got over my conniption and moved on to a stance of incredulous bemusement upon learning it, "But that is in absolute contrast with what Planned Parenthood or editing."

This really is goodbye ("Won't that guy ever leave?"). I know it isn't easy for a young man of 18 to envision life in the future by anywhere from five to twenty years. But you have been going with a girl who, if I'm right in presuming her being manipulative, boy, she is going to run your life. Frankly this is one of several problems with starting to date exclusively at age 16. I realize teens have many reasons for doing this, but there are even better reasons not to. I wonder how many different girls you know and how many other young ladies you have dated. Now that you are away at college, why not date other girls and find out what they are like? In the process, you'll learn more about yourself and what you really want from a spouse. You'll learn whether your girlfriend is really right for you.

More importantly, though, I hope you discover what growing up you need to do to become the best, most self-sacrificing, loving husband you need to be. Because marriage and fatherhood is the toughest job you ever have. It's not 50-50. It's 100-0.

In any event, what do you have to lose? If you and your beloved part for a season, it is only a season, as long as you both keep chaste (something you should be doing anyway per Christ's, Scripture's, and the Church's teaching on fornication and thus premarital sex), what have you lost? And if you are not meant for each other, what have you lost?

Now I keep saying, "If she is being manipulative." I say this because there is an alternative: You are not the good guy I imagine. If her mom really does mistreat her, and you resent her complaining, what kind of boyfriend are you? You say you love her? Baldorish. Did she really lose her job because you didn't try to comfort her? Or was listening to her a chore for you because now the pain of real life outside of high school was intruding on what had been a relationship of fun and laughs? That doesn't mean you should leave college and rush to her side. It does mean you aren't mature enough for a serious relationship.

I also wonder what your parents think of all this. Have you told them you're thinking of dropping out of school? If they're paying for your tuition, ought you not in good conscience to mention this to them? Finally and most important, what has God told you about this? If you haven't taken this to Him in prayer, do so. Ask Our Lady for her intercession. While you are at it, ask St. Joseph to pray for you to follow God's will as he did (cf. Matt 1:2-2). Ask him to help you become all the man God wants you to be. No man could ask for anything more or better than that.

I hope that helps. Please be assured of my prayers, and please pray for me, as well.

Brian O'Neil is the former Communications director for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California

Letters Policy
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Name, hometown, and daytime phone number for verification required. Short letters only, no more than 150 words. Letters may be edited for clarity or space.

NOTE: Views of correspondents do not necessarily reflect those of this publication.

Dear Aunt Bea

I am 18 and have been in college just one semester. The girl whom I've dated since we were 16 e-mails or calls or texts just about every minute it seems, and it's always a new crisis. Her mom is mistreating her. She lost her job. She misses me and wants me to come home. I don't want to quit college, but what can I do? I love her, and if I don't do this, she'll start seeing someone else. I just know it.

- Heartick and Confused

Dear Heartick:

Boy, buddy, I don't envy you. That's a tough situation you're in. You obviously want to do the right thing. You obviously can't know all the facts from what you write here, but here are some thoughts.

You seem like a good guy who isn't overly self-centered. Maybe you suspect these crises are a form of manipulation? If that's the case, wish her goodbye and good luck. It will be tough to do. After all, you are in love. But if she is being manipulative, then this is a sad sign of things to come. Just think of what it would be like if you were married.

What makes you think she will change (you obviously don't like it)? The dumbest thing men or women do is thinking their mate will change. It's understandable. When we're in love, we see everything through a certain lens. However only prayer and God's grace can change some-one's nature or personality, and it has happened very, very few times in recorded history. The husband of Bl. Elisa-betta Canori Mora changed following a married lifetime of adversity and partying. However that was only when, after a night in his lover's arms, he came home to find his wife dead of natural causes.

I know it isn't easy for a young man of 18 to envision just what married life is going to be like, given that it is in the future by anywhere from five to twenty years. But you have been going with a girl who, if I'm right in presuming her being manipulative, boy, she is going to run your life.

Frankly this is one of several problems with starting to date exclusively at age 16. I realize teens have many reasons for doing this, but there are even better reasons not to. I wonder how many different girls you know and how many other young ladies you have dated. Now that you are away at college, why not date other girls and find out what they are like? In the process, you'll learn more about yourself and what you really want from a spouse. You'll learn whether your girlfriend is really right for you.

More importantly, though, I hope you discover what growing up you need to do to become the best, most self-sacrificing, loving husband you need to be. Because marriage and fatherhood is the toughest job you ever have. It's not 50-50. It's 100-0.

In any event, what do you have to lose? If you and your beloved part for a season, it is only a season, as long as you both keep chaste (something you should be doing anyway per Christ's, Scripture's, and the Church's teaching on fornication and thus premarital sex), what have you lost? And if you are not meant for each other, what have you lost?

Now I keep saying, "If she is being manipulative." I say this because there is an alternative: You are not the good guy I imagine. If her mom really does mistreat her, and you resent her complaining, what kind of boyfriend are you? You say you love her? Baldorish. Did she really lose her job because you didn't try to comfort her? Or was listening to her a chore for you because now the pain of real life outside of high school was intruding on what had been a relationship of fun and laughs? That doesn't mean you should leave college and rush to her side. It does mean you aren't mature enough for a serious relationship.

I also wonder what your parents think of all this. Have you told them you're thinking of dropping out of school? If they're paying for your tuition, ought you not in good conscience to mention this to them? Finally and most important, what has God told you about this? If you haven't taken this to Him in prayer, do so. Ask Our Lady for her intercession. While you are at it, ask St. Joseph to pray for you to follow God's will as he did (cf. Matt 1:2-2). Ask him to help you become all the man God wants you to be. No man could ask for anything more or better than that.

I hope that helps. Please be assured of my prayers, and please pray for me, as well.

Brian O'Neil is the former Communications director for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California
November 5
Extend Your Healthy Years of Life!
11:30 a.m.
Cost: $15
Presentation by Anna Lackner, The Buck Institute, speaker and docent
Lunch by Peter Hardy, SOV’s chef, serving boeuf bourguignon, green salad with bleu cheese dressing, lemon-thyme cornbread with greyerche cheese, and dessert
Location: Star of the Valley Church
Msgr. Fahey Parish Center, 545 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa, California
Make checks payable to the SOV Women’s Club.
To reserve a seat, place your payment in the Women’s Club box at the Msgr. Fahey Parish Center no later than November 2.

November 7
Italian Catholic Federation Branch S2 Polenta Dinner
5:45pm
Cost: Members $15, non-members $18, children 6-12 $5, children under 5 free.
Prepared by Scott Cavallo & Co.
Please note: There will be a children’s table.
Kids will eat at 6pm, with games and movies to follow in the small hall.
Location: St. John the Baptist School Gym
208 Matheson Street, Healdsburg, California
For more information, call Mary Madden at 707-433-0438 or Mary Del Monte at 707-433-4821

November 8
Diocesan Young Adult Retreat
1:30-5:00pm
Theme: Vocation – How are you fully living out Christ’s call of your life?
Location: St. Joseph Church
150 St Joseph Way, Cotati, California
For more information, contact Santa Rosa Diocese Youth Ministry, 707-541-7504 or e-mail doryouthmin@gmail.com or visit www.santarosacatholic.com/youth_ministry.

November 8-7
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Craft, White Elephant, and Baked Goods Fair
Saturday, 9:00-6:30pm
Sunday, 9-12pm
They will also raffle several themed baskets and two hand-made quilts. The raffle drawings will take place at the end of the fair. You do not need to be present to win. Bring your family and friends. There is something for everyone!
Location: St. Elizabeth Seton Church
Parish Hall, 4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park, CA

November 9
Diocesan Y outh Adult Retreat
1:30-5:00pm
Theme: Vocation – How are you fully living out Christ’s call of your life?
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For more information, contact Santa Rosa Diocese Youth Ministry, 707-541-7504 or e-mail doryouthmin@gmail.com or visit www.santarosacatholic.com/youth_ministry.

November 15
Diocesan Young Adult Retreat
1:30-5:00pm
Theme: Vocation – How are you fully living out Christ’s call of your life?
Location: St. Joseph Church
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For more information, contact Santa Rosa Diocese Youth Ministry, 707-541-7504 or e-mail doryouthmin@gmail.com or visit www.santarosacatholic.com/youth_ministry.

November 19
Diocesan Young Adult Retreat
1:30-5:00pm
Theme: Vocation – How are you fully living out Christ’s call of your life?
Location: St. Joseph Church
150 St Joseph Way, Cotati, California
For more information, contact Santa Rosa Diocese Youth Ministry, 707-541-7504 or e-mail doryouthmin@gmail.com or visit www.santarosacatholic.com/youth_ministry.

November 20
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1:30-5:00pm
Theme: Vocation – How are you fully living out Christ’s call of your life?
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150 St Joseph Way, Cotati, California
For more information, contact Santa Rosa Diocese Youth Ministry, 707-541-7504 or e-mail doryouthmin@gmail.com or visit www.santarosacatholic.com/youth_ministry.

November 21
Italian Catholic Federation Branch 18 Charity Polenta Dinner Dance
No Host Bar: 6pm
Dinner: 7pm
Cost: $20
NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR
Menu includes Polenta, stew, salad, dessert, and fine wines. There will be a live band, “Showcase.”
Location: Scottish Rite Center
600 Acacia Lane, Santa Rosa, California
For tickets and to RSVP, call Doreen at 707-525-0295

November 22
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Location: Vallylumbra Center
250 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Scripture says married men and women “shall live as one.” How often, though, do you and your spouse find yourselves living as two? The Marriage Encounter weekend can help you get married back to basics in this complicated day and age. Space is limited. For more information, log onto www.sanfranciscowwe.org or call Paul or Yvonne at 650-366-7093.

December 8
Italian Catholic Federation Branch 52 Family Christmas Party
Details to follow.
Location: Healdsburg, California

Upcoming Catholic Cursillo dates:
For more information, call Debbie Simonson at 707-763-7165.

Founding Members of the Gold Star Club
by Julie Sparacio
Each parish, school, and diocesan agency has to have one person who is assigned as its Safe Environment coordinator (SEC). This person has a serious and difficult job. They must make sure all employees and any volunteers who work with children have completed background checks and the required diocesan training. They have to determine who has and hasn’t complied, chase down those who haven’t, and make sure that person isn’t working or volunteering until they are cleared.

It is a thankless task, often frustrating, rarely rewarding. So this year I want to acknowledge these individuals by listing each month those who have become Gold Star Club members!!

Carol Clymo—Christ the King Church, McKinleyville
Judith Mattingly—Holy Spirit Church, Santa Rosa
Jill McClure—Our Lady of the Redwoods Church, Garberville
Marietta Coyle—St. Anthony Church, Mendocino
Fr. Luis Penalzoa—St. Elizabeth Church, Guerneville
Char Mayclln—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Rohnert Park
Sandy Hood—St. Joseph Church, Mid-dletown
Pat Heavilin—St. Mary Church, Arcata
Esmeralda Rangel—St. Peter Church, Cloverdale
Don. Tino Vera—St. Sebastian Church, Sebastopol
Sharon Charlton—Star of the Valley Church, Santa Rosa
Kathy Lydon—Cardinal Newman High School, Santa Rosa
St. Francis Solano School Dad’s Club Italian Dinner Dance
Cocktails and appetizers begin at 6pm
Cost: $45
Live music provided by J&D Company
Location: St. Francis Solano Church
Fr. Roberts Hall, 469 3rd Street W, Sonoma, California
For more information call Larry Dimare 415-310-4636

November 8
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Craft, White Elephant, and Baked Goods Fair
Saturday, 9:00-6:30pm
Sunday, 9-12pm
They will also raffle several themed baskets and two hand-made quilts. The raffle drawings will take place at the end of the fair. You do not need to be present to win. Bring your family and friends. There is something for everyone!
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December 8
Italian Catholic Federation Branch 52 Family Christmas Party
Details to follow.
Location: Healdsburg, California

Upcoming Catholic Cursillo dates:
For more information, call Debbie Simonson at 707-763-7165.

Guarding the Vulnerable
Julie Sparacio is diocesan director of Child and Youth Protection.

but died a saintly death ❖ 11/8 Bl. Elisabeth Catez (aka, Elizabeth of the Trinity): She was given to frightening rages as she grew up, but was cured by the Lord when she was 12. She spent her life as a missionary in Nubia.—k 4/9 Bl. Christina Bruzo: November 6

NORTH COAST CATHOLIC / NOVEMBER 2015 / www.srdiocese.org 7
Peter Cardinal Turkson, Dr. Juan Francisco and Mrs. Dr. Gregory and Mrs. Lisa Popcak, Prof. Helen Alvaré, asking Moran asked Moran

"It is a human right, and if a government official is a person does not allow others to be a conscientious objector, he denies a right. Conscientious objection must enter into every juridical structure because it is a right, a human right. Otherwise we would end up in a situation where we select what is a right, saying 'this right that has merit, this one does not.' (Conscientious objection) is a human right."

"Would that include government officials as well?"

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The event in Philadelphia was the largest World Meeting of Families Congress yet. The lineup of speakers included Bishop Robert Barron, Robert Cardinal Sarah, Dr. Gregory and Mrs. Lisa Popcak, Prof. Helen Alvaré, Peter Cardinal Turkson, Dr. Juan Francisco and Mrs. Gabriella, Dr. Scott Hahn, Luis Cardinal Tagle, Ms. Janice Benton, Seán Patrick Cardinal O’Malley, OFM Cap, Pastor Rick Warren, and Archbishop José Gómez of Los Angeles. [Editor's note: You can see the link to the videos of these presentations at the end of this article.]

Held every three years by the Holy See’s Pontifical Council for the Family, the World Meeting of Families is the world’s largest Catholic gathering of families. Each World Meeting of Families has a theme that energizes and enlivens the event while adding great depth of meaning to our understanding of families. The theme of the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 is “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive,” emphasizing the impact of the love and life of families on our society. The Holy Father’s words offered a handful of themes as his rather brief pilgrimage to the US advanced. He has given us many passing words, but timeless words, each anchored in Scripture and Tradition. He spoke of dialogue, the ecology, collegiality, and a new word to many of us, parishes, which means boldness, the kind of boldness that can only happen in an atmosphere of charity. Too often our differences are met with human defensiveness, where listening to the other side lacks true empathy and a willingness to trust; fear of getting hurt can keep us from sharing the gift of the Gospel, which alone can free us from our isolation. Pope Francis exemplifies this boldness in his personal witness in everything from the fits he gives the Swiss Guards when he diverts from the ‘plan,’ to how he risks criticism from all sides as he seeks to bring them into a conversation with Jesus Christ to those on the very fringes of the world.

From his address to the American bishops in Washing- ton, DC, on September 23:

"The path ahead, then, is dialogue among yourselves, dialogue to your presbyters, dialogue with lay persons, dialogue with families, dialogue with society. I cannot ever tire of encouraging you to dialogue fearlessly. The richer the heritage which you are called to share with parishes ("boldness"), the more eloquent should be the humility with which you should offer it. Do not be afraid to set out on that ‘exodus’ which is necessary for all authentic dialogue. Otherwise, we fail to understand the thinking of others, or to realize deep down that the brother or sister we wish to reach and redeem, with the power and the closeness of love, counts more than their positions, distant as they may be from what we hold as true and certain. Harsh and divisive language does not befit the tongue of a pastor, it has no place in his heart; although it may momentarily seem to win the day, only the enduring allure of goodness and love remains truly convincing."

In his homily, on Sunday Pope Francis exhorted the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims gathered together to focus on the call to prophetic witness, which is made universal through Baptism, and the work of which begins in the family.

"The presence of so many thousands of families from all around the world, each something prophetic, a kind of miracle in today’s world.”

He then expressed the hope that everyone could be a prophet and that that all of us could be open to miracles of love for the sake of all the families of the world, “and thus overcome the scandal of a narrow, petty love, closed in on itself, impotent of others. “How beautiful it would be if everywhere, even beyond our borders, we could appreciate and encourage this prophecy and this miracle,” he said. “We renew our faith in the word of the Lord which invites faithful families to this openness. It invites all those who want to share the prophecy of the covenant of man and woman, which generates life and reveals God.”

The Holy Father pointed out that the choice to enter into family life is in this age often a courageous and always a prophetic choice.

"Anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil—a family which shows that the Spirit is alive and at work—will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation,” he said.

“A family living a fully engaged sacramental life, humbly striving to embrace the fullness of God’s plan for marriage, is indeed more and more a prophetic reality in these times. Yet the ideal is not a façade of perfection, but the face of authentic humility as it strives to place all trust in the Divine Mercy.

As the Pope has mentioned before, he sees the Church as a “field hospital for the sick.” We the faithful are the sick. We need the Good News of the gospel every day as we pray humbly for our “daily bread.” The “Francis Effect” is largely a result of the entire world seeing the face of a father who looks at each one of us with unconditional love. As families, if our faces are turned toward God, we can’t help reflect charity, faith, and hope.

In 1979, just over a year into his pontificate, Pope St. John Paul II told us:

“Trappist Martyrs

Trappist Martyrs of the Spanish Civil War Beatified

Santander, Spain (Catholic News) — Eighteen Trappist monks murdered by communists out of hatred for the faith in 1936 during Spain’s Civil War were beatified as martyrs in Santander, Spain, on October 3.

Angelo Cardinal Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided at the Mass of beatification. "Pío Heredia and 17 comrades of the Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance and San Bernardo [were] killed for their faith during the Spanish Civil War and religious persecutions of the 1930s," Pope Francis said following his October 4 Angelus address. "We praise the Lord for their brave witness and their intercession, and we call on Him to free the world from the scourge of war.”

St. Cathubert Mayne: November 30

Second Collection for November

November 14-15
National Catholic Communications Campaign and Catholic University of America
Kidnapped Syrian Priest Escapes from ISIS

Fr. Jacques Mourad

Homs, Syria (CNA/EWTN News)—A Syrian priest captured by ISIS militants in May though he would die for his faith. Now he credits the Virgin Mary and the help of a Muslim friend for his escape.

“This is the miracle the Good Lord gave me. While I was a prisoner I was waiting for the day I would die, but with a great inner peace. I had no problem dying for the name of Our Lord; I wouldn’t be the first or the last, just one of the thousands of the martyrs for Christ,” the Syriac Catholic priest Fr. Jacques Mourad told Italian TV 2000.

“I want to thank all those who prayed for my liberation. It’s truly a miracle that a priest has been freed from the hands of the Islamic State, a miracle that the Virgin Mary worked for me.”

Fr. Mourad was prior of the Monastery of Mar Elian in the Syrian town of Al Qaryatayn, about 60 miles southeast of Homs.

He said he was captured with another young man on May 21 after the militants arrived at the monastery.

“The first four days we were in the mountains, locked up in the monastery’s car we were captured in,” he said. “On August 11 we were taken to near Palmyra, where there are 250 other Christian prisoners from the city of Al Qaryatayn.

The Islamic State had captured Al Qaryatayn August 6. Only around 30 Christians were able to escape the town for Homs after it was captured.

Fr. Mourad that his captors regularly asked him to declare his faith.

‘Almost every day there was someone who came to my prison and asked, ‘What are you?’

‘I would answer: ‘I’m a Nazarene, in other words, a Christian.’

“So you’re an infidel,’ they shouted. ‘Since you’re a Christian, if you don’t convert we’ll slit your throat with a knife.’

Despite the threats, the priest refused to renounce Christ.

Fr. Mourad said he wore a disguise in order to escape.

“I escaped on a motorbike with the help of a Muslim friend. But now I’m working with an Orthodox priest and other Bedouin friends and a Muslim friend to free the 200 other Christians who are still imprisoned,” he said.

According to the priest, 40 other Christians were able to escape the same day as his interview with Italian television.

❖

Texas Cuts off Medicaid Funding to Planned Parenthood, Raids Abortion Provider’s Offices

Austin—Texas announced Monday that it was cutting off Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood clinics follow- ing undercover videos of officials discussing fetal tissue, potentially triggering a legal fight like the one unfolding in neighboring Louisiana.

Planned Parenthood affiliates statewide were told in a letter that their enrollment in the joint state-federal Med- icaid program was in the process of being terminated because they were potentially “liable, directly or by affili- ation, for a series of serious Medicaid program violations.”

The move comes after undercover videos released by the pro-life group Center for Medical Progress, which alleges the videos show that Planned Parenthood illegally sold fetal tissue for profit. Planned Parenthood denies the allegation and said the videos were misleading.

Three days later on October 23, Texas health investiga- tors on Thursday served orders for hundreds of documents at Planned Parenthood offices across the state, including patient records and employee addresses.

Planned Parenthood representative Sarah Wheat told the Austin American-Statesman. “Today’s visits were clearly politically motivated. We’re all pretty surprised by how far the [state] is willing to go to try to shut down Planned Parenthood health centers.”

In the notice of Medicaid termination that the Texas inspector general said the videos showed people posing as buyers of fetal tissue, in violation of medical standards. In addition they said the videos showed people posing as buyers of fetal tissue being allowed to handle bloody tissue wearing only gloves, in violation of infection-control standards.

The notices cited two reasons for that decision: First, they said the videos showed that the organization had a policy of altering its abortion procedures to better procure fetal tissue, in violation of medical standards. In addition they said the videos showed people posing as buyers of fetal tissue being allowed to handle bloody tissue wearing only gloves, in violation of infection-control standards.

The notices also said that the state had found a pattern of illegal billing practices that amounted to Medicaid fraud.

The inspector general said termination of Medicaid for Planned Parenthood would not affect access to care in Texas because there were thousands of alternative providers.

The New York Times and FoxNews.com were the sources for this report.

❖

John Paul I’s Beatification Cause Has a Special Friend

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)—On his path to beatifi- cation, as it did in the case of John Paul I, he could count on a very special supporter: Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, the former Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.

D- 11/10 St. Andrew
Centuries-Old Church Emerges From Reservoir as Water Levels Drop

Quechula, Mexico (The Huffington Post)—A drought in southern Mexico has caused water levels to fall so much, the remains of a long-abandoned, sixteenth-century church are visible above the waterline. The Temple (Templo) de Santiago normally rests under nearly 100 feet of water since the completion of a dam in 1966 created the Nezahualcoyotl reservoir in Chiapas. But after a plague devastated the area from 1773 to 1776, the church was abandoned.

The Huffington Post reports local fishermen are taking people on tours of the church via boat. Men and women who had left the area as children returned as grandparents, arriving by canoe and celebrating the re-emergence with music, dancing, and prayers, according to the Mexico City News. “The water wiped out everything,” said Don “Gilito” Vasquez, a 100-year-old former resident who had returned. “Now the monastery is time’s only witness.”

The Associated Press reports the church is 183’ long and 42’ wide, with a bell tower that rises 48’ above the ground. Quechula was evangelized in the mid-1500s by the Dominican friar Antonio de Pamplona, OP. Initially a simple visita, Santiago Quechula later became a mission in its own right, subject only to the grand Dominican priory at Tepcán. The church was built in 1564 with the expectation that the surrounding area would see a surge in population, the news agency reported.

“It was a church built thinking that this could be a great population center, but it never achieved that,” architect Carlos Navarretes told AP. “It probably never even had a dedicated priest, only receiving visits from those from Tepcán.”

After a plague devastated the area from 1773 to 1776, the church was abandoned.

Dissolve yeast in warm water in large bowl. Stir in milk sugar, butter, salt, egg, and 2 cups flour. Beat until smooth. Mix in enough remaining flour to make dough easy to handle. Turn onto lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, turn greased side up. Cover and let rise in warm place until double, about 1 ½ hours.

Cinnamon Filling
2-3 tbsp. butter, softened
1/4 c. brown sugar
2 tbsp. cinnamon

Roll dough into large rectangle. Spread butter over dough, sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon. Roll up dough tightly along lengthier side. Pinch edge of dough to seal well. Cut the roll in half lengthwise. Starting at the top, cross over the strands in an X, repeat crossover to twist the two lengths together into long braid. Wind braided strand into a circle keeping cinnamon slits facing upward. Fan open as needed to create rose/flower petal look.

Place on bottom of greased springform pan. Add springform pan sides. Let rise until double (30-40 minutes). Bake in 375 degree oven 20-25 minutes.

Additional idea: Make two, one to keep and one to share, in the spirit of Christian charity of St. Elizabeth.

This article originally appeared at http://bit.ly/1P0xuYX.
Assumption Parishioner Marks 75 Years of Service

Ferndale—The Catholic Bazaar in Ferndale that took place October 16 was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the annual event.

In 1935, the local Catholic church needed funds for its school. Parishioner and local dress shop owner Rose Scott Mullady and parochial vicar Fr. Jeremiah Boland were put to the task of organizing a fall bazaar. The event was a success and has been held annually with the exception of the five World War II years (1942-1946). The event has since been dubbed The Bazaar, and there have been many families and people who have been involved since the year it started.

Mary Ellen (née Giacomini) Laffranchi is one of those people.

Mary Ellen was 10 years old, when she attended the first Bazaar in 1935 held at the old Ferndale Firemen’s Hall. Living in Alton, she sold tickets for the event and won the prize for most tickets sold, $5 all to herself, or so she thought.

The deal was if she wanted to go to the Bazaar she had to share her winnings with her eight siblings. And so she did, and off they all went to the Bazaar.

It featured many activities such as an apron booth and bean bag toss, plus sandwiches and dessert to purchase. There were also the old favorites such as bingo, the fancy work booth, which featured beautiful embroidery and crochet, the Country Store, and the cake booth.

Among the entertainment at many other Bazaars were circus themes, staged fights, Swiss yodeling, dancing, and turtle racing. Prizes such as a pedigree bull calf donated by John Coppini were awarded. There were contests including the most popular lady, the most “hen-pecked” man, and the best old Irish jig.

Mary Ellen recalled the many people who have helped over the years including Henry Giacomini, who would show off the pillow cases at the Fancy Work Booth, Antone Regli who would sell soft drinks, Ann MacIntosh, Mary Martin, Mary Coppini, Agnes Guglielmina, Rose Giacomini, Ruth Toste, and Francis Christen, along with many others.

Mary Ellen was in charge of the Dime Booth for many years until she passed it on to her daughter Annette (née Laffranchi) Adams. Now she spends time behind the scene making hundreds of items each year for the Dime Booth.

We are so thankful for all Mary Ellen and her family has done to keep the Bazaar going.

This year’s Bazaar went through October 17. It featured a spaghetti dinner, games, and a silent auction.

Mary Ellen Laffranchi

Ferndale Holds First Annual Parish Picnic

by Irene Bryant

Ferndale—Something remarkable and unique happened on September 20. All of Fr. Mario (aka, Fr. Jo) Laguros’ parishes had their first annual parish picnic at Fireman’s Park in Ferndale, joining together in unity, prayer, and fellowship. The parishes that took part were Our Lady of the Redwoods, Garberville; St. Patrick, Scotia; Assumption, Ferndale; St. Patrick Mission, Petrolia.

It was a beautiful Humboldt sunny day. The chicken was barbequed to perfection by a crew of young men from Assumption. Decorations, food, music, bocce games, and hospitality were all first-rate.

Ferndale’s BBQ chefs: John Vevoda, Todd Renner, Robert Vevoda, Fr. Jo, and Gary Belli

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Polish Priest Who Came “Out” Called Out by His Prelate

by Kathy Schiffer

Vatican City (Pathos.com)—The Polish priest who declared his homosexuality on the eve of the Synod on the Family, Fr. Krzysztof Charamsa, has been removed from ministry. On October 21, Bishop Ryzard Kasyno of Pelplin, Poland, sent a letter to Fr. Charamsa notifying him he may no longer celebrate Mass, administer other sacraments, or wear clerical garb.

Inasmuch as the sacrament of Holy Orders imparts a permanent mark upon the soul of the person who receives the sacramental graces, Charamsa is a priest forever. Inasmuch as the action against Fr. Charamsa comes as no surprise, considering the priest’s carefully executed attack on the Church he formerly served, Charamsa, who held a press conference October 2 with his boyfriend and announced their love relationship, had apparently been planning to disrupt the Synod with his “coming out.” He presented a 10-point “liberation manifesto” against “institutionalized homophobia in the Church” and announced the upcoming publication of a book detailing his 12 years at the heart of the Vatican bureaucracy.

He was immediately fired by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, where he had worked as a senior official. It took just a little longer, however, to complete the investigation that resulted in his removal from priestly service.

While no longer permitted to exercise his priestly ministry, Charamsa remains an ordained Catholic priest.

The action against Fr. Charamsa comes as no surprise, considering the priest’s carefully executed attack on the Church he formerly served. Charamsa, who held a press conference October 2 with his boyfriend and announced their love relationship, had apparently been planning to disrupt the Synod with his “coming out.” He presented a 10-point “liberation manifesto” against “institutionalized homophobia in the Church” and announced the upcoming publication of a book detailing his 12 years at the heart of the Vatican bureaucracy.

He was immediately fired by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, where he had worked as a senior official. It took just a little longer, however, to complete the investigation that resulted in his removal from priestly service.

While no longer permitted to exercise his priestly ministry, Charamsa remains an ordained Catholic priest.
Democratic Consultant and Commentator Converts

New York City (Christianity Today)—Kirsten Powers, a Democrat political consultant, USA Today columnist, and Fox News contributor made an announcement recently on a live broadcast of The Five.

“Tomorrow night at 7 o’clock, I’m becoming Catholic!” she told viewers.

Powers, who grew up in the Episcopal Church, became an evangelical about 9 years ago, after attending Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. Listening to Tim Keller preach opened the door for her to believe in God.

“I came to realize that even if Christianity wasn’t the real thing, neither was atheism,” she wrote in a 2013 testimony for CT. “I began to read the Bible. My boyfriend would pray with me for God to reveal Himself to me.”

For a while, Powers felt no connection to God. That changed during an overseas trip, where Powers said Jesus spoke to her. Eventually she joined a Bible study, an experience that changed her life.

“I’ll never forget standing outside that apartment on the Upper East Side and saying to myself, ‘It’s true. It’s completely true,’” she wrote in 2013. “The world looked entirely different, like a veil had been lifted off it. I had not an iota of doubt. I was filled with indescribable joy.”

Powers gave few details about her decision to become Catholic. She did thank Fr. Jonathan Morris, pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in the Bronx, on Twitter.

More than 100,000 adults a year join the Catholic Church, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Seven percent of Catholics and 11 percent of Mass attenders are converts, according to CARA, and those converts are among the most active Catholics.

Overall, about half of Americans say they have a “close connection” to the Catholic Church, according to a September 2015 Pew Research Report. One in 10 US citizens are former Catholics. 

Washington, DC—As a Catholic Charities director, I was invited along with my wife Pat to attend the reception for Pope Francis by President Barack Obama on the White House lawn and to be present at the canonization Mass of St. Junípero Serra celebrated outside the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. What a great opportunity! Pope Francis lives and professes the joy of the gospel, proclaiming the message of Jesus to offer love and mercy to the least of our brethren. His message was a powerful reminder of the fundamental call that drives the work of all of us at Catholic Charities.

The Mass was full of diverse music, sights, and sounds. We were treated to an array of melodious languages, including Latin, English, Spanish, Igbo (Nigerian), Tagalog, native American, sign, Korean, Vietnamese, and Creole. People were wearing suits and ties, fashionable dresses, shorts and T-shirts, spike heels, sandals, and a wide spectrum of religious attire. That brought home the wonderful diversity of this country, where we are so enriched by cultures of the world.

At Communion an army of priests and deacons appeared with assistants carrying bright umbrellas striped with the yellow and white colors of the Vatican. They dispersed throughout the crowd, being sure everyone was served.

Being present at the Mass was incredible. Despite the fact that more than 25,000 people attended, Pope Francis made it an intimate, spiritual experience. His homily focused on the joy of the gospel. Many in this world only seek personal comfort and security, leading to “numb hearts.” He urged us to react to injustice and poverty, and “Rejoice!” when we live the teachings of Jesus, as we are His agents of mercy to those who are disadvantaged or in need.

What a message for Catholic Charities as we strive to fulfill that call. 

Mr. Mirabella serves as executive director of Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa.

Samaritan,” she was named “the greatest Silesian woman of the nineteenth century”

- 11/15 St. Joseph Pignatelli, helped

JUSTIN-SIENA is a Catholic day and boarding high school in the Lasallian tradition offering a college preparatory program serving 650 young men and women in grades 9–12. Founded in 1906 by the De La Salle Christian Brothers and the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, the school is located on forty acres in the City of Napa.

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OPEN HOUSE 2015

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
1-3 PM
Obituaries

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Sr. Martha Marie Linhares, CSJ
Sr. Martha Marie Linhares, CSJ, former head of this diocese’s Detention Ministry, passed away in September.
Born in St. Louis, Linhares was the second of seven children. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange in 1961. Sr. Martha Marie spent 19 years in health-care, primarily in St. Joseph Hospital, Orange. Later in life, Sr. Martha Marie discovered a real passion working with inmates in detention ministry. She ministered in a women’s jail in Santa Ana and in Sonoma County jails for 16 years.

Two years ago she spoke at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles’ religious congress about what it was like to be a religious for 51 years.

Her funeral Mass took place at her order’s Motherhouse Chapel on Saturday, September 19, 2015. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in Sr. Martha Marie’s name to 480 S. Batavia Street, Orange, California 92868, for the support of the Sisters’ ongoing ministries.

Robert James “Jim” Titus
Jim Titus passed away suddenly on August 19, 2015, at the age of 83. Born on December 26, 1931, he lived his entire life in Ferndale with the exception of four years spent in the service during the Korean War. He was very proud of his service in that conflict and of the lifelong friendships he made with those with whom he served.

Jim spent more than 40 years working in the creamery industry for Foremost Foods, and after that he served at Humboldt Creamery. He retired in 1993, and enjoyed almost 22 years of retirement. He was a long-time member of many organizations including the Assumption Church, Native Sons of the Golden West, Jolly Time Dance Club, Portuguese Hall Association, Ferndale High Booster Band, and UPEC/PFSA Portuguese Lodges. He was also an avid Ferndale Wildcat sports fan. With most of these organizations he was not only a member but a leader and tireless worker.

Jim had many varied interests including dairying, vegetable gardening, flower gardening (especially dahlias, roses, and begonias), and dancing. In his retirement he had become an avid quilter and pie maker. He loved sharing the “fruits” of these interests with those that he loved. His true passions in life were his faith, family and friends.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 59 years Cecilia Titus. He was so proud of and loved by his three children and their spouses: Tony and Libby Titus, Ron and Shari Titus, and Angela and Kim Jorgensen. He was equally as proud of and loved by his grandchil-
dren and their spouses.

He was “over the moon” for his great-grandchildren. Jim was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Mabel Titus and his parents-in-law, Cedric and Agnes Enos.


The family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Assumption Church Maintenance Fund, P.O. Box 1097, Ferndale, CA 95536; Ferndale High School Athletics, 1231 Main Street, Ferndale, CA 95536; Special Olympics–North Coast Chapter, or a charity of your choice.

St. Eugene Cathedral, Santa Rosa
John E. Sill: died September 18, 2015, age 95; funeral service September 25, 2015

St. Francis Solano Church, Sonoma
Geraldine Tacchini: died September 4, 2015, age 88

St. John the Baptist Church, Napa
Robert A. Sweet: died September 22, 2015, age 70; memorial Mass September 29, 2015
Ana (née Gonzalez) Hammaker: died September 30, 2015, age 63; memorial Mass October 30, 2015

St. Mary Church, Arcata
Guy Bush: died October 14, 2015, age 94; services pending at this writing.

When would you like to memorialize your recently deceased loved one in the pages of North Coast Catholic? Doing so is free. Merely send in the format used above the name of the parish they attended, name and maiden name (if applicable), date of death, age, and date of interment, and whether it was a funeral or memorial Mass or service or graveside service to dioceseofsantarosa@yahoo.com or mail them to NCC Obituaries, PO Box 1297, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

Obituaries by Carole N. Duncan

St. Junípero Serra

One of the first things Pope Francis did on his recent trip to the United States was to canonize St. Junípero Serra, OFM. Many people know nothing about our newest saint and the founder of California as we know it. Here is a short biography of Fr. Serra.

St. Junípero Serra was born November 24, 1713, on the island of Majorca, Spain, and was christened Miguel Joseph Serra. He was ordained in 1731, and earned a doctorate in philosophy and theology. In 1749, Serra left the life of a university professor to become a missionary in the New World. In the spirit of St. Francis, Fr. Serra made the trip by foot, a practice he continued until his death. On the way to Mexico City, as on all his journeys, he took no food to eat, trusting in heaven to give them whatever they needed. Along the way, an insect bit his foot, and it became badly swollen. This injury never fully healed and caused him pain and suffering as long as he lived. He walked the rest of his life with a limp.

Upon arrival at Mexico City, Serra asked to repeat his novitiate year as an act of humility during intensive missionary preparation. Although denied, he performed many humble acts for his fellow Franciscans. He took little time to sleep, fasted frequently, and practiced private self-mortification.

From 1750-58, Serra served as prefect of Franciscan missions in Mexico’s Sierra Gorda, and from 1759-67, he went about as itinerant missionary in central and southern Mexico.

In 1769, when Serra was 56 years old, a time when most of us are thinking about retirement, the order was given to move into Alta (Upper) California. He worked out the plan for Alta California with José Galvez, visitor general to the Spanish King and Capt. Gaspar Portola, military head of the expedition.

Serra’s leg injury almost prevented this trip, but Serra was not to be stopped from realizing his lifelong dream. He asked a muleteer to make a poultice for his infected leg. The next morning all the swelling was gone, and Serra continued the journey.

Mr. James Patrick Kinney, well known Serra aficionado, once wrote, “Fr. Serra and the Franciscan missionaries did not come to California for gold, land, or honor for themselves. They came to save souls. They believed that they were bringing to the gentle California Indians the precious gift of the Christian Faith. All of Serra’s writings and actions reflect this preoccupation. He came to convert Indians and evidence indicates that his method was one of compassion and concern, not coercion.”

Serra lived for 15 years in California and personally founded 9 missions. It was a land that had no cities except Indian villages, no roads except Indian trails, no industry except the things the Indians made for daily living. He had few Europeans to help him, only a few Spanish soldiers and padres and few Indians who came with him from Mexico.

During these years he saw the missions become centers of life for many hundreds of Indians. He saw the presidios started by soldiers at Monterey, San Diego, and Santa Bar-
bara, and he saw towns that began to grow around them. He saw new towns at San Jose and Los Angeles as well. In California he was known as a simple man. He did not live in a large comfortable house. He slept and worked with simple furniture. He was known by people as a great leader, but he never thought of himself that way.

Rare indeed is the man who can leave his mark on his-
tory as Serra left his mark on California. From San Diego to San Francisco there is no denying the deep Catholic heritage. This is probably something that today’s secular world cannot comprehend and consequently we hear of murmurs that are not based on historical fact. The picture that is sometimes painted today of Fr. Serra as a cruel oppressor and beater of Indians is simply not based on fact. Some very notable historians in California at USC, CSU, Dominguez Hills, and various prominent museums all agree there is no evidence Serra ever instituted any physical punishment. He never lifted his hand against any Indian. According to Mr. Kinney evidence actually shows “Serra was a civil rights leader for the Indians, and that he frequently fought with Spanish civil and military authori-
ties to get better treatment for the Indians.”

Mr. Kinney says the account of Serra’s death is ample proof of how Serra felt about the Indians and how they felt about him as provided by the eyewitness account of his close friend Fr. Francisco Palou: “As the great missionary lay dying, many of the 700 mission Indians as could, crowded into his tiny cell, praying weeping and chanting as they saw life ebbing from his tired, old body. They walked with him to the chapel as he went to receive Holy Communion, physi-

cally supporting him, for he considered himself too humble a creature that the Viaticum be brought to him.”

According to Mr. Kinney, when his death finally was announced by Fr. Palou there was a great outpouring of grief and loss from the Indians which surprised even the Spanish military who were there also in attendance. This is not the way that wronged people grieve the death of a tyrant or an oppressor. Those present, Indian and Spanish alike, seemed to realize that they were witnessing the death of a holy man.
News Briefs

Diocesan

Humboldt/Del Norte deanery has new head
When Fr. Michael Cloney retired, it left open the position of dean for the Humboldt/Del Norte Deanery. In accord with the statutes of the Priests Council, an incardinated priest who holds the office of pastor or parochial administrator in the said deanery is eligible for election to the office of dean. An election was held during the summer to determine three nominees. From those three nominees, the bishop appointed the dean who serves for a five-year term and is ex officio a member of the Priests Council and the College of Consultants.

After the election took place at the end of August 2015 and three nominees were determined. Bishop Robert F. Vasa appointed Fr. Balaswamy Govindu, pastor of St. Mary Church in Arcata and Christ the King Church in McKinleyville as the dean for Humboldt/Del Norte deanery.

All Youth Welcome
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Windsor wants to remind area teens that its youth group meets on Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm. Anyone interested in participating should visit the Facebook page. www.facebook.com/opesvindsory

Calling all Humboldt County disciples of Christ
In his epistle, St. James tells us faith without works is dead. Here is a good chance to show your faith is alive. Parishioners at all Humboldt County parishes and missions are asked to bring non-perishable goods to help resupply the Catholic Worker's Soup Kitchen in McKinleyville, which is perilously close to empty. They desperately need pasta, rice, and canned vegetables (especially green beans and tomatoes). They serve up to 400 lunches per day so please be as generous as possible.

Wine Country Tea
The Women’s Club at Star of the Valley Church’s reports its Fashion Show on September 16 was a huge success. The final numbers are not calculated just yet, but the raffle alone brought in $950.

The Men’s Club played an active role. They made the day wonderful by serving the tables, escorting the models, and helping clean up after the event.

Patricia Moran made the beautiful decorations and centerpieces and continues to amaze all who benefit from her talent and continued support.

The helpers were Nicki Backer, Gail Barrett, Dorothy Beardsworth, Roslie Bulach, Sherry Busterna, Rebecca Curto, Diane D’Ambrosio, Judith Fleshman, Mardi Hart, Michele Hillberg, Sue Lanahan, Mimi May, Connie Pearson, Cheryl Shuster, Margaret Ana Storey, and Karen Zahasky.

The models were Joyce Alexander, Mary Brainerd, Jane Gyorgy, Judy Hill, Eva McGinn, Connie Pearson, and Karen Zahasky.

Sorry. You didn’t answer in the form of a question
Assumption Church in Ferndale’s CCD program started its new religious education year on Sept. 27 celebrating Pope Francis’ visit to the United States by playing Catholic Jeopardy and learning facts about the Pope and his teachings, Church hierarchy, and liturgical colors. Students shown in the picture with CCD director Susan Regli also made Pope Francis with the Liberty Bell from www.CatholicIcing.com

California

The Carmelites are in Some “Jam”
The Carmelites of San Rafael announce their annual fall jam sale. It started October 15 and goes through February 2. This year, the monastery celebrates the fifteenth anniversary of their foundation. Proceeds from the jam sale (apricot, peach, strawberry, plum-pear, and bumbleberry jam, plus pear-apple sauce) pay the stipends to the priests who celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the Sisters in their chapel each day. For more information, contact the Carmelite Monastery at 415-497-6872 or visit their website at http://www.motherofgodcarmel.org.

National

Planned Parenthood: no longer sell baby body parts
Washington, DC (FoxNews)—Relegated abortion provider Planned Parenthood recently announced it would no longer accept money from researchers for aborted baby parts, citing a desire to defang “an anti-abortion political agenda” in the wake of a series of undercover videos that appear to show the organization profited from fetal organ sales.

Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards revealed the policy shift in a letter to Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. Planned Parenthood has maintained it only recoups its own expenses for harvesting and donating fetal tissue, the actual sale of which is barred by federal law.

While it is legal for clinics to be reimbursed for any expenses incurred during the donation process, a series of undercover videos produced by an anti-abortion activist group have suggested that Planned Parenthood may actually profit from the sale of body parts, which would be illegal.

The project lead of the Center for Medical Progress, the group behind the undercover videos that shed light on the organ harvesting, called Richards’ letter “an admission of guilt” in a statement to FoxNews.com.

“This proves what CMP has been saying all along – Planned Parenthood incurs no actual costs, and the payments for harvested fetal parts have always been an extra profit margin,” David Daleiden said in the statement.

Coulter: Eager to Offend?
Apparently eager to demonstrate that anti-Catholicism is not the domain of one side of the political spectrum and that she is an equal opportunity offender of people’s sensibilities, conservative pundit Ann Coulter said some derogatory things about Pope Francis and Catholics in the days leading up to His Holiness’ visit to the United States. In a series of Tweets, she said:

• The Catholic Church was “largely built by pedophiles.”
• I’m an American and this is why our founders (not “immigrants!”) distrusted Catholics & wouldn’t make them citizens.
• Catholics were not accepted until they became more prosperous is not proof of sin.”

AMERICAN Catholic less ROMAN Catholic.
• Referring to the signers of the Declaration of Independence: “Yes, 55 Protestants & 1 Catholic. Can we admit immigrants in that wildly diverse proportion?”
• In response to a Doug Mataconis’ Tweet that, “Last week she was attacking Jews. This week she’s attacking Catholics,” she responded, “No, I’m attacking the Pope. So did Martin Luther. So did America’s settlers. So did Demos when it was John Paul II.
• A John Schindler Tweeted a photo and caption, “Catholic chaplain leading US Army’s Irish Brigade (here 69th NY) in prayer, 1863, to which Coulter retorted, “Yes & American Catholics, now one of richest, most successful demos in U.S. by becoming American Catholics, not RCs [i.e., Roman Catholics].”
• THIS Pope’s philosophy of worshiping the poor, blaming the rich leads to Latin American poverty. American Catholicism leads to success.
• To someone who wrote, “Because money is the most important thing about spirituality. Duh,” Coulter replied, “No, but poverty is not proof of virtue and prosperity is not proof of sin.”

Equally shocking was the number of people who both “favorited” and retweeted her comments.

PP pays protesters to toss Trojans at Fiorina
Des Moines—Planned Parenthood paid some of its supporters who threw condoms at GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina and at her supporters during an University of Iowa Hawkeye tailgate on September 18.

The payments were briefly mentioned in a story by The New York Times: “On Saturday, women wearing pink, some of whom were paid by Planned Parenthood, protest- ed Mrs. Fiorina at a campaign appearance in Iowa, throwing condoms and chanting, “Women are watching, and we vote.”

Planned Parenthood supporters and the mainstream media have challenged Fiorina’s statements at the second GOP presidential debate about an undercover video created by the Center for Medical Progress that showed a fully-formed fetus, heart beating and legs kicking, being kept alive in order for Planned Parenthood officials to be reimbursed for any expenses incurred during the donation process, a series of undercover videos produced by an anti-abortion activist group have suggested that Planned Parenthood may actually profit from the sale of body parts, which would be illegal.

The project lead of the Center for Medical Progress, the group behind the undercover videos that shed light on the organ harvesting, called Richards’ letter “an admission of guilt” in a statement to FoxNews.com.

“This proves what CMP has been saying all along – Planned Parenthood incurs no actual costs, and the payments for harvested fetal parts have always been an extra profit margin,” David Daleiden said in the statement.

Archbishop releases Communion reception norms
Newark—In late September, Archbishop John Myers of Newark released pastoral norms for reception of Communion in his See. While these would have been taken for granted in years past, they caused a great degree of controversy from the media and even some of his priests, several of whom took the occasion to announce they identify as homosexual.

Here is the letter:

Principles to Aid in Preserving and Protecting the Catholic Faith in the Midst of an Increasingly Secular Culture I. The Church will continue to cherish and welcome her members and invite them to participate in her life to the degree that their personal situation permits them honestly to do so. Catholics must be in a marriage recognized as valid by the Church to receive Holy Communion or the other sacraments. Non-Catholics and any Catholics who publicly reject Church teaching or discipline, either by public statements or by joining or supporting organizations which do so, are not to
receive the sacraments. They are asked to be honest to themselves and to the Church community.

II. Parishes and other institutions of the Archdioce
ces should allow use of facilities only to persons and organizations which agree with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and its canonical legislation or, at least, not oppose them.

III. Catholics, especially ministers and others who represent the Church, should not participate in or be present at public religious events or events intended to endorse or support those who reject or ignore Church teaching and canon law.

State Department refusing to help Christians
When President Barack Obama greeted Pope Francis on the White House lawn during His Holiness’ recent visit here, he said, “Here in the United States, we cherish our religious liberty, but around the world, at this very moment, children of God, including Christians, are targeted and even killed because of their faith. Believers are prevented from gathering at their places of worship. The faithful are imprisoned, and churches are destroyed. So we stand with you in defense of religious freedom and interfaith dialogue, knowing that people everywhere must be able to live out their faith free from fear and free from intimidation.”

Now the Manchester, New Hampshire, Union Leader reports, “Despite [ISIS’] targeting of Christian and reli-
gious minorities, the State Department refuses to grant these communities expedited and preferential treatment in the processing of visa requests. In the last year, the State
Department granted nearly 1,000 visas to Syrians, only 28
of whom were Christians. In Iraq, only one out of every seven visas being granted is to Christians.”

To read more, go to: http://tinyurl.com/qm7grjr

International

Pope emeritus’ parents met through classified ad
(chroniclepop.com)—Back in 2006, then-Pope Benedict
XVI and his brother, Fr. Georg Ratzinger, 82, were sur-
priised to learn that their parents, Joseph and Maria,
meth through a singles ad their father had placed in local Catholic weekly, Liebfraubote.

The July 1920 ad was found in the Bavarian state
archives by a researcher for the tabloid Bild. According
to the report, the Father and Mother
“Middle-ranking civil servant, single, Catholic, 43,
immaculate past, from the country, is looking for a good Catholic,
pure girl who can cook well, tackle all house-
hold chores, with a talent for sewing and homemaking
with a view to
marriage
as soon as possible. Fortune desirable but not a precondi-
tion.”

Maria Peintner, 36, an illegitimate baker’s daughter and
a trained cook, replied. She did not have a fortune, but
they married four months later.

That’s one way to find a spouse, right?

Cardinal Burke named member of curial congregation
Vatican City (Catholic World News)—Pope Francis has
named Carlo Cardinal Cafrarra and Raymond Cardinal
Burke as members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The two prelates retain their respective positions as archbishop of Bologna and patron
of the Sovereign Mili-
tary Order of Malta. As members of the Congregation, they will
cast votes related to
candidates for beatification and canonization, including
decrees on heroic virtue, miracles, and martyrdoms.

Half-naked Argentine protesters assault cathedral
Mar del Plata, Argentina (CNA)—A mob of violent
abortion supporters attempted to desecrate an Argen-
tine cathedral and threw stones and bottles at Catholics
praying the Rosary in front of the church on October 11.

The feminist activists bared their chests, on which they had
painted phrases such as “I had an abortion” and
“[I] choose.” They approached the cathedral in Mar del Plata October 11 shouting “the Church is a piece of
trash, you’re a dictatorship.”

The activists were among the tens of thousands of par-
ticipants in the thirtieth National Meeting of Women.
They were pushed back by local police. Authorities had
set up a railing around the church and stationed police there in anticipation of an attack.

The abortion supporters knocked down part of the
protective railing and police reacted with tear gas and
rubber bullets. The most violent demonstrators were
arrested but released soon after.

Mobs of abortion activists have tried to desecrate Cath-
olic churches during previous gatherings of the National
Meeting of Women in a number of cities in Argentina.
This year was the first year that saw police involvement.
In November 2013 young men peacefully defended
the cathedral in San Juan de Cuyo against one mob and
prayed the Rosary during its attack. The feminists spat
at the men, physically assaulted them and sprayed them
with aerosol paint.

Shroud of Turin yields new DNA results
Torino, Italy (Huffington Post)—There’s a surprising new
wrinkle in the story of the celebrated Shroud of Turin.
A group of Italian researchers have found that the
14-foot-long garment—believed by some to be the burial
cloth of Jesus Christ, even though science has proven
that’s not the case—contains DNA from plants found all
over Earth.

“The findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports on
October 5, suggest that the cloth may have been manufactured in
India and then was transported from the Middle East to its cur-
rent home in Turin, Italy.”

In 1988, carbon-14 testing performed on the cloth by an
international team of research-
ers, dated shroud fibers back to
between 1260 and 1390. (That’s a bit more than 1,000 years after
the crucifixion, which means, of course, that the shroud wouldn’t
be the relic some Christians claim it to be.)

But a 2005 study by a retired chemist from Los Alamos
National Laboratory dismissed that finding, arguing that
the material tested in 1988 came from a patch applied to
the shroud in medieval times. The 2005 study put the age
of the shroud at 1,300 to 3,000 years.

The St. Andrew Novena

While a novena is normally a nine-day prayer, the term is sometimes used for any prayer that is
repeated over a series of days. The St. Andrew Novena is often called simply the “Christ-
mass Novena,” or the “Christmas Anticipation
Prayer,” because it is prayed 15 times every
day from the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle
(December 30) until Christmas. The First
Sunday of Advent is the Sunday closest to
the Feast of St. Andrew.

The novena is not addressed to St. Andrew
but to God Himself, asking Him to
grant our request in the honor of the birth
of His Son at Christmas. You can say the prayer all
15 times at once; or divide up the recitation as
necessary (perhaps five times at each meal).

Prayed as a family, the St. Andrew Novena is
a very good way to help focus the attention of
your children on the Advent season.

St. Andrew Novena Prayer

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in
which the Son of God was born of the most
pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem,
in piercing cold.

In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear
my prayer and grant my desires, through the
merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His
Blessed Mother. Amen.

The St. Andrew Novena

St. John Berchmans: November 25
Shrewsbury, England (CNA/EWTN News)—The English priest St. John Plessington was among dozens martyred because of an anti-Catholic hoax in the seventeenth century. Now a diocese seeks to confirm whether remains long venerated as a martyr’s relics are his.

Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury praised the saint’s “faithfulness to the point of death” and his witness to priestly life and mission in the diocese.

Bl. Paul VI canonized St. John Plessington in 1970 as one of the forty martyrs of England and Wales. “As one of England’s 40 martyrs he points to the long continuity of our Catholic faith and our unwavering loyalty to the See of Peter,” the bishop told the Shrewsbury Catholic Voice.

“If funds could be found to identify and authenticate his relics it would allow our connection to his heroic ministry and martyrdom to become visible and tangible in a new way for generations to come.”

Born into a recusant family [Editor’s note: They “recused” themselves from attending Protestant services. In other words, they refused to become Protestant], St. John Plessington received ordination abroad in 1662. He returned to England to minister.

In 1679 Titus Oates fabricated evidence of a Catholic conspiracy to kill King Charles II. British authorities believed him and reacted by enforcing strict Elizabethan-era laws that made being a Catholic a priest an offense of high treason.

St. John Plessington was charged with being a priest and executed by being hung, drawn, and quartered. He was among more than 35 Catholics executed as a result of Oates’ fictitious “Popish Plot.”

Before his execution, the saint wrote down his final testament. He said he was a priest and affirmed he was innocent of treason and plotting. He also said he was willing to die for his faith.

Many of the saint’s bodily remains were lost after his execution in Chester, more than 40 miles north of Shrewsbury. In the late nineteenth century bones were discovered hidden in a pub next to St Winefride’s Well in Flintshire, a Welsh county which borders on Chester. The location was a headquarters of Jesuit missionaries, though Plessington was not a Jesuit.

These bones were taken to the Jesuit retreat house of St. Beuno’s and venerated as the relics of an anonymous martyr. Bishop Davies and others hope that DNA testing of the bones can be matched with known relics to prove they are the remains of St. John Plessington.

Forensic scientists who examined the bones and they said they are the skull and the right leg of a priest hanged, drawn and quartered. The skull has a hole punctured by a pike pushed through the head. The bones were found in a garment dated to the period of St. John Plessington’s execution.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is appealing for donors to fund research to confirm the identity of the remains. Anyone who might be able to help to pay for further research should contact Pauline McCulloch at pauline.mcculloch@diocese-seofshrewsbury.org.

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[One-Child Policy, cont. from page 5] only child themselves.

Human rights activists like blind lawyer Chen Guangcheng—who spent four years in prison for fighting the one-child policy—have condemned it as “contemporary genocide” as it has prevented the birth of an estimated 360 to 400 million people since its beginning. They also say it has brought about horrific human rights abuses.

According to Littlejohn, these abuses will likely continue, despite the change in China’s policy.

“Couples who still have to have a birth permit for the first and the second child, or they may be subject to forced abortion,” the women’s rights activist explained.

At the core of the policy is the number of children permitted, but “the fact that the government is setting a limit on children, and enforcing this limit coercively,” she said. “That will not change under a two-child policy.”

Earlier this year, Littlejohn testified before Congress on the conditions surrounding the one-child policy in China. She said that women who become pregnant without permission from the state are forcibly removed from their homes and strapped to a table in a forced abortion procedure. They are often forced to sign a form stating that they consented to the abortion or sterilization, she added.

Paid informants have been known to go to the local authorities and reveal their neighbors are illegally expecting a child. Village leaders have even resorted to violence against those who do not comply with the policy.

Suicide among women has become a major problem in the country, which accounts for over 25 percent of the world’s suicides. Women have a 25 percent higher suicide rate than men in China, a statistic that Littlejohn attributes partly to one-child policy’s negative effects on women and fraying of social bonds among neighbors.

Another consequence of the policy has been couples resorting to abortion or even infanticide if they discover their child is a girl. A strong male-preference exists in China, as boys can keep the family name and run the family business or farm. Consequently China has faced a serious imbalance in their gender ratio.

Ultimately, Littlejohn stressed, the change to a two-child policy is not enough.

“Women will still be forcibly aborted under a universal two child policy,” she said, calling for continued pressure on China until it completely “abandons all coercive population control.”

“The One Child Policy does not need to be modified,” she said. “It needs to be abolished.”

Florida Martyrs Proposed for Beatification

St. Augustine (The St. Augustine Record)—A group of Christian Native Americans and missionary priests—all who died in St. Augustine and near present-day Jacksonville centuries ago while defending their faith—have been proposed for beatification.

In all, 86 Native Americans, priests, religious lay brothers, and men, women and children of early Florida, are listed in the petition. They were killed by enemy forces from 1549-1706, according to research by historians for the Martyrs group. Previous canonization attempts in 1704, the 1940s and the 1980s were stalled by varying circumstances, according to the martyrs group.

The cause for canonization was authorized by Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and the Vatican’s Congregation for Causes of Saints. The Tallahassee-based Martyrs of La Florida Missions, Inc., initiated the petition. The group formed in 2005 after learning of martyrdoms in 1704 in East Tallahassee. The group later expanded its study to all Florida martyrs and began to consider another canonization attempt.

Antonio Cuipa, lead martyr in the petition, was a Native American from Tallahassee—a “husband, father, a cacique [sort of like a chief], a lay leader, a very gentle man, and a good craftsman like St. Joseph, foster father of Our Lord, who did not give up his faith.”

The martyrs group have a fundraising goal of just over $9.17 million for the shrine in East Tallahassee and the canonization efforts. Included is $9 million for the shrine’s land, site development including a museum, and $175,000 for expenses related to the canonization process in the United States and Italy. Phase I’s goal of $1.5 million includes $1 million toward the $3.5 million land purchase and $500,000 toward the renovation of a mansion on site for the museum. A donor has made a $250,000 matching gift toward the mansion’s renovation.

The group has an online fundraising account at foundme.com/FloridaMartyrs. Donations can be mailed to: Martyrs of La Florida Missions, PO Box 12062, Tallahassee FL 32317. For details, call Dee Dee Shea, executive director, at 850-766-9222 or email dshea@martyrofloridamissions.org.

St. Winifred of Wales: November 3

(One-Child Policy, cont. from page 5)
Nos encontramos en la encrucijada litúrgica, el fin del año viejo y el comienzo del nuevo. La celebración de la Fiesta de Cristo Rey (que cae este año el 22 de noviembre) marcará el final del año litúrgico. En esta fiesta se celebra en previsión de la resolución final de todas las dificultades y tribulaciones, preguntas y preocupaciones del mundo.

El Señor prometió que vendrá otra vez, y la celebración de Cristo Rey nos recuerda que para algunos, Él puede venir por nosotros personalmente antes de que Él venga por todos nosotros.

El anunciando del invierno y el final del año litúrgico coinciden con el mensaje de que el mundo como lo conocemos está pasando. Por lo tanto esta fiesta nos reta a asegurarnos que nuestras prioridades están en sintonía con la realidad eterna.

¿Qué cosas realmente importan cuando venga Cristo otra vez?

A un gran santo, en un jardín de frijoles, se le preguntó, “¿Qué harías si supieras que el mundo terminaría hoy?”

Su respuesta, calmada y considerada: “Supongo que me gustaría terminar cavando esta filá de frijoles.”

La respuesta de este santo habla de la necesidad de una preparación adecuada y anticipada de los tiempos finales.

Aunque con una inclinación y propósito diferente. Como todo comienzo tiene un fin, también cada fin implica y espera un nuevo comienzo. Así, en el año litúrgico, al final da paso a un nuevo Adviento y un nuevo momento de la preparación de un nuevo nacimiento. Sólo hay cuatro domingos de Adviento, cada uno idealmente una semana del trabajo espiritual de Adviento, no de Adviento y una preparación espiritual para la última semana que es Navidad. Una vez que comienza ese cuarto Domingo los días de preparación se han terminado.

De hecho, cada Adviento nos demuestra que las palabras de nuestro Señor tienen una aplicación particular: “El Hijo del Hombre vendrá a la hora que menos lo espera, en un día que no sabes.” Si no nos preparamos bien cuando sabemos precisamente cuando la celebración (Navidad) se llevará a cabo, ¿cómo podemos afirmar estar preparados para lo que no sabemos y no podemos predecir?

Cuando llegamos a la Navidad, vamos a tomar otro trabajo muy importante, el trabajo de la alabanza, el trabajo de venir a el pesebre, el trabajo de seguir una estrella. Por esto también debemos estar preparados, y las cuatro semanas de Adviento se proporcionan para esta preparación espiritual. (No son a pesar de lo que la radio, la televisión y los anunciantes nos dicen: la temporada de Navidad. Que dura desde el 25 de diciembre hasta el 6 de enero)

Si llegamos a esta celebración y no estamos de acuerdo con que todavía no hemos sido reconciliados con el prójimo, nos animamos a dejar nuestro don y buscar la reconciliación (cf. Mt 5, 23-24). Esta es la obra que precede a la obra de alabanza. Esta es la obra de Adviento, que precede a la alabanza de la Navidad. Ten cuidado, sin embargo, por que la última semana es corta. Están preparados.

Pido que su trabajo de preparación de Adviento para la Navidad produzca para usted muchos frutos espirituales maravillosos que le trae esa alegría y abundantes bendiciones en Navidad.

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Declaración de la Conferencia Católica de California sobre la firma del Gobernador Brown para el proyecto de ley ABx2-15 que Legaliza el suicidio asistido por un médico

Los Obispados de California han publicado la siguiente declaración después de que el Gobernador Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown el día de hoy, permita que sea legal escribir una dosis mortal de fármacos para asistir a los pacientes con enfermedades terminales a que se quiten la vida. Esta ley va directamente en contra de proveer cuidados compasivos de calidad a las personas que hacen frente a una enfermedad terminal.

Todos los 48 hospitales católicos en California proporcionan excelentes servicios de cuidados paliativos, como deberían hacerlos todos los centros médicos para los pacientes con enfermedades terminales, pero que frecuentemente no hacen. Como Obispados Católicos en California, unimos nuestras manos a las de los grupos de personas que defienden los derechos de los discapacitados, los médicos, otros profesionales sanitarios, y los defensores de las personas de la tercera edad para oponer nos al suicidio asistido por un médico como la manera equivocada para procurar la dignidad humana para las personas que enfrentan una enfermedad terminal.

El Papa Francisco nos ha advertido sobre nuestra “cultura desechable”. ¿Acaso nos hemos convertido en personas tan insensibles cuando se trata de proteger el carácter sagrado de la vida que fácilmente aprobamos el que un médico entregue una dosis mortal de fármacos a alguien para que ponga fin a su vida en su momento más vulnerable, cuando más requiere ser cuidado con amor y atención?

Nos sentimos decepcionados particularmente con el hecho de que los funcionarios públicos de nuestro estado consistentemente han ignorado las preocupacio-

nes y riesgos tan reales que esto representa para nuestros hermanos y hermanas de las comunidades vulnerables de personas discapacitadas. En su sistema de asistencia sanitaria que lucha con costos que aumentan constantemente, las personas de la tercera edad y las personas con discapacidades corren un gran peligro ahora que el suicidio asistido se ha convertido en algo legal. La manera en que se ha aplicado esta ley en otros lugares nos demuestra que la opción de ofrecer la alternativa de fármacos mortales de bajo costo en vez de los cuidados médicos adecuados, es una tentación que no es resistida por mucho tiempo.

Para las personas vulnerables, esto no es compasión. Ningún aspecto de esta ley apoya o promueve el bien común. Este proyecto de ley no hace nada para validar las vidas de las personas vulnerables. Como mínimo, este proyecto de ley afirma exactamente la contrario y solamente sirve para aumentar su angustia emocional. Además, facilita el que las personas de la tercera edad y las personas con discapacidades sean sutil, pero potencialmente presionadas, a terminar con su vida para no convertirse en una carga emocional o económica para sus hijos.

Nada ilustra los defectos de este proyecto de ley mejor que la manera en que éste llegó al escritorio del Gobernador Brown después que ni siquiera consiguiera ser aprobado en un comité durante el proceso legislativo normal. En una sesión legislativa extraordinaria convo cada para ayudar a solucionar la carencia de mil millones en fondos para Medi-Cal y otros asuntos de financiación para los servicios de salud, la Legislatura y el Gobernador no abordaron los problemas ni ofrecieron maneras en que se pueden reducir los costos para los servicios de la salud. Millones de personas que reciben Medi-Cal aún no reciben los requisitos para los cuidados paliativos u otros ‘servicios aptos para el final de la vida. En vez de eso, la solución de los legisladores para reducir los costos de los cuidados de la salud es permitir que los médicos le pongan fin a la vida de una persona. Esto afectará de manera adversa a los pobres, ya que las personas que cuentan con recursos siempre tendrán acceso a los cuidados paliativos. Esto no es compasión.

La Conferencia Católica de California ha tenido el gran orgullo de colaborar con la organización de Californianos Contra el Suicidio Asistido (Californians Against Assisted Suicide) y sus socios de la comunidad que defiende los derechos de las personas con discapacidades, los defensores de las personas de la tercera edad, los grupos de médicos y otros profesionales sani tarios durante el debate sobre el suicidio asistido por un médico. Les damos las gracias a todos estos miembros y a los miles de católicos de todo el estado que han expresado su oposición por su extraordinaria labor y continuaremos colaborando con ellos en las tentativas para proteger a los californianos más vulnerables.

❖

Pope St. Gelasius: November 21

From the Obispo

Mons. Robert F. Vasa is the sexto obispo de la Diócesis de Santa Rosa en California.
Espiritualidad de los Laicos—29 de Agosto.—Después de nuestra misa de la vigilia dominical, tuvimos la bendición de tener con nosotros a P. Rayan Govindu, quien nos vino a platicar sobre el tema tan importante como es el de la Espiritualidad de la pastoral de los laicos. Es coordinador de la Federación Bíblica Católica del Sur de la India, y tiene experiencia como Coordinador de las Pequeñas Comunidades Cristianas de la India.

Nuestro Salón de Juntas en la parroquia se llenó a su máxima capacidad, con mucho interés por el mensaje sobre el tiempo, el talento y los tesoros. Nos cuestionó sobre la Pastoral de Laicos, el significado de la Pastoral Eclesial de Laicos, su espiritualidad y responsabilidad. Nos insistió sobre la importancia de tener presente la misión triple de Cristo: sacerdote, profeta y rey (Mt 5:48), y como bautizados en Cristo, compartimos en nuestras propias vidas nuestra genuina espiritualidad laica y caminamos hacia Adelante. Como teólogo biblista, nos compartió su entusiasmo para compartir este mensaje: el Verbo de Dios, el Amor y el Servicio, el Espíritu Santo en el Amor por la Iglesia. Con un tiempo limitado para preguntas y respuestas, nos recordó cómo entender y crecer en la espiritualidad de la pastoral para laicos.

Central Energía de la Oración 10 de septiembre, tuvimos nuestra adoración del Santísimo Sacramento. Cada mes P. Balaswamy Govindu, nos compartió su entusiasmo para compartir este mensaje: el Verbo de Dios, el Amor y el Servicio, el Espíritu Santo en el Amor por la Iglesia. Con un tiempo limitado para preguntas y respuestas, nos recordó cómo entender y crecer en la espiritualidad de la pastoral para laicos.

Diá de Campo con Barbacoa Organizado por los Caballeros de Colón 13 de septiembre. Siendo este evento una tradición vernal, este año lo celebrábamos en septiembre, comenzando con la bendición de nuestro párroco P. Balaswamy Govindu. Todas las mesas estaban llenas con más de 130 comensales y disfrutamos la barbacoa guiado por nuestros Caballeros de Colón. El valor agregado de estos alimentos es la oportunidad de que estas personas puedan sentarse a la mesa juntas, algunas veces con extraños y llegar a conocerse más como compañeros parroquianos.

Federación Católica Italiana Rz. 144—Vine a Encender el Fuego 20 de septiembre. La ICEF es una organización orientada hacia la familia, dedicada a reunir a la comunidad, y eso es precisamente lo que experimentamos en este año, enriquecida por el aroma de la polenta y el pollo en salsa de tomate, preparados con las recetas tradicionales, típico casero, dentro de la cocina de la parroquia. Y no hay que olvidar los vinos de California, con bescetti y helados italianos. Todo esto es un evento lleno de bendiciones para los amigos y miembros de la comunidad para compartir la mesa, y hacer nuevas amistades. Todas las ganancias se destinan a becas y actividades parroquiales.

Iglesia colonial en ruinas emerge de las aguas de un río mexicano Quechula, México (ACI)—Un reciente hecho dejó sorprendido a más de un visitante en el estado mexicano de Chiapas. La antigua iglesia de Quechula, conocida como el Templo de Santiago y construida en el siglo XVI, emergió hace unos días en medio del río Grijalva luego que la falta lluvias provocara la disminución del caudal. Esta iglesia quedó sumergida bajo 30 metros de agua en 1966 debido a la construcción de la presa de Malpaso, ubicada en el cauce del río Grijalva. En el año 2002 emergió por primera vez.

Esta es la segunda vez que la construcción colonial emergió. Esto se debe al fenómeno El Niño, que afectó este año a la zona de Chiapas, en el sur de México. El impacto de El Niño provocó un descenso de las aguas, y el agua se redujo el nivel del río. La iglesia de Quechula tiene 61 metros de largo y 14 de ancho. Sus muros tienen diez metros de altura y el campamento de la fachada mide 16 metros. En un texto publicado en el sitio web de Asociación Tikal, un organismo cultural sin fines de lucro, el arquitecto Carlos Navarrete, que realizó un informe sobre estas ruinas para las autoridades mexicanas, describió a la iglesia de Quechula como “una agradable novedad, tanto como ejemplo de edificación evangelizadora, como por ser joya de la arquitectura religiosa mexicana.”

La historia del templo

Según narró Navarrete, el templo fue erigido en 1569 por un grupo de frailes dominicos, dirigidos por Bartolomé de las Casas. Esta orden comenzó a evangelizar la zona a partir de 1545. Carlos Navarrete dijo a Associated Press que “fue una iglesia construida pensando que aquel podría ser un gran centro poblacional, pero nunca llegó a serlo. Probablemente ni siquiera llegó a tener cura de fijo, solo recibía visitas de enviados desde Tecpatán.”

La iglesia de Quechula dependía del convento de la ciudad Tecpatán, fundado en 1564. Incluso el arquitecto considera que habían semejanzas entre ambas construcciones y que su autor fue el mismo. Según las investigaciones históricas, probablemente el arquitecto del templo fue P. Alonso de Villalva.

Debido a la peste que asoló la zona desde 1773 hasta 1776, la iglesia y el poblado que la rodeaban fueron abandoadados. Parlamentarios aprueban invitar al Papa Francisco al Senado de México México, DF (ACI)—El Senado de México aprobó oficialmente el invitar al Papa Francisco en su calidad de jefe de Estado—para que acuda a esta cámara y se le reciba en el marco de una sesión solemne durante su visita al país el próximo año 2016. La prensa mexicana informó que el presidente de la Mesa Directiva del Senado, Roberto Gil Zuazú, fue quien recibió el mandato de efectuar las gestiones necesarias.

“Juntos por México” reunirá a Emmanu el, verástequi, Lianna Rebolledo y 10 mil católicos México D.F (ACI) — Del 16 al 18 octubre, se realizará el Primer Encuentro Nacional de Movimientos llamado “Juntos por México” en el Centro Expansor de Puebla. Este evento congregará a más de 10.000 católicos de 60 movimientos, así como a 40ponentes—entre ellos el actor y productor Eduardo Verástegui—que expondrán la defensa de la vida y la familia, la acción social, los derechos humanos, la sexualidad, entre otros temas.
This Month in History...

50 Years Ago
St. Vincent de Paul High School student Dwaine Ogden attended the Governor’s Conference on Youth for Northern California. He and fellow delegates discussed and recommended ideas for education, personal values, human relations, community action, family, jobs, and the law.

(The following is a letter from His Excellency Bishop Leo T. Maher to his priests, November 25, 1965.)

Rev. and dear Fathers:
As you are aware, His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, has ordained that a Triduum be held in every parish church and religious community so that the entire Catholic world will be united in prayer at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council on December 8.

During the past three years we have exhorted our beloved faithful on the numerous occasions to pray for the Council. Now that the last session of the Council is drawing to a close, it is more important than ever for all to join in this Triduum to beg “for a new Pentecost that will renew, through the Holy Spirit, the face of the spouse of Christ and of the times,” as the Sovereign Pontiff expressed it so beautifully in his apostolic exhortation (Postrema Sessio, second paragraph, November 4, 1965; see http://bit.ly/1WaVXAA, available only in Latin).

Therefore, during these three solemn days of prayer in our diocese, let us first thank God for the successful conclusion of the Council. We should also pray that the Council’s decrees will find a new and widespread resurgence of spiritual life within the Church and in the world. At the same time, we must pray that the People of God will enter ever deeper into the atmosphere of spiritual renewal created by the Council within the Church.

And as we pray, let us remember that the successful results of the Council and its salutary effects on the life of the Church will depend not so much on the rules promulgated as on the thoroughness and zeal of putting into practice the decisions of the Council. Let us begin to pray immediately that old apathies be shaken; that reluctance to adapt to new conditions be overcome; that excessive and misplaced zeal be tempered; that indulgence in personal preferences and experimentations be curbed; and that a spirit of faith and obedience to the Council’s decrees be embraced in love.

Praying every blessing upon you and our devoted flock, I am,
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Leo T. Maher
Bishop of Santa Rosa

Hanna Boys’ Center
A little Western “town” where hundreds of boys have celebrated their sixteenth birthdays itself observed its sixteenth anniversary Sunday, November 28, 1965.

The young citizens of Hanna Boys’ Center, in Sonoma County’s Valley of the Moon held an open house marking the 1949 arrival of the Center’s first 26 boys. As of that 1965 anniversary, more than 1,000 neglected boys had come to Hanna from an area extending from San Diego to Alaska. Since then, it has served an additional 3,000 young men.

Msgr. Walter J. Tappe, then-vicar general of the diocese, was chosen to represent the priests of the world at a Mass concelebrated with Bl. Pope Paul VI on November 18 at the Second Vatican Council.

Bishop Mark J. Hurley of Santa Rosa (far right) chats with John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia (far left) and Bishop Floyd L. Begin of Oakland during the United States bishops’ November 1970 meeting. At the meeting, Their Excellencies adopted a resolution from San Francisco’s Archbishop Joseph McGucken asking the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to approve the effort to canonize Fr. Junípero Serra, OFM. That effort reached its culmination when Pope Francis canonized Fr. Serra on September 23. The bishops also released a statement on abortion calling it a grave evil and calling on society to provide all necessary medical and other assistance to the expectant mother.

30 Years Ago …
Fr. Stephen MacPherson (retired) received ordination to the diaconate from Bishop Mark J. Hurley. At the time he served as editor of Redwood Crozier, this newspaper’s predecessor.

25 Years Ago …
On November 17, Bishop John T. Steinbock dedicated the altar at St. Eugene Cathedral in Santa Rosa. Two days later he celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass at Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa.

10 Years Ago …
North Coast Catholic announced the diocese had regained its financial footing, 10 years after suffering a financial collapse. Diocesan faithful pledged and donated millions of dollars.

5 Years Ago …
On November 9, 2010, Ursuline High School President Julie Carver sent out an e-mail to the parents of all students announcing that due to financial problems, the school would close at the end of the academic year. The following morning, Ursuline students gathered in front of the school, expressing their love for their school.

45 Years Ago …
On November 7, the Italian Catholic Federation of Eureka held a special Mass and dinner in honor of Bishop Mark J. Hurley.

St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

Expressing his own pleasure at the selection of Msgr. Tappe as the only pastor chosen for the diocese, Bishop Maher said, “This is wonderful news. The fact that an American priest has been selected is great for our priests.”

Bishop Maher appointed Msgr. Michael J. Walsh as pastor of St. Sebastian Church in Sebastopol.

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Sr. Cecilia Felciano, O.S.U., received the 1985 Sr. Dorothy Kazel Alleluia Award for her dedicated work for the Ursuline order.

At the time, she served on the staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Windsor.
El Informe 2014 sobre Libertad Religiosa en el Mundo publicado por AIS señala que en el mundo hay 200 miles de personas que son perseguidas a causa de su fe, y 50 millones más que sufren discriminación. También habió una Jornada de adoración eucarística en Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Carlos Khalil, sacerdote de Irak que fue secuestrado por extremistas islámicos.

El Papa agradece a Mons. Chaput por organización de Encuentro Mundial de las Familias en el Vaticano (ACI) - El 30 septiembre el Papa Francisco agradeció a Mons. Charles Chaput, OFM por su empeño, dedicación y entusiasmo a favor de la familia, reflejado en la organización del reciente Encuentro Mundial de las Familias.

En la Audiencia General en la Plaza de San Pedro, el Papa Francisco hizo un repaso por su reciente visita a Cuba y Estados Unidos. Esta última para clausurar el Encuentro Mundial de las Familias.

"Deseo dirigir un fraterno y caluroso agradecimiento a Mons. Chaput, por su compromiso, su piedad, su entusiasmo y su gran amor por la familia en la organización de este evento."

Francisco señaló que "mirando bien no es casualidad, sino providencial, que el mensaje, es más, el testimonio del Encuentro Mundial de las Familias haya tenido lugar en este momento de Estados Unidos de América, es decir, en el país que en el siglo pasado ha alcanzado el máximo desarrollo económico y tecnológico sin renegar de sus raíces religiosas."

"Ahora estas raíces pueden volver a partir de la familia para repensar y cambiar el modelo de desarrollo, para el bien de toda la familia humana," concluyó.

No es la primera vez que el Santo Padre expresa su aprecio y cercanía hacia el Arzobispo de Filadelfia. También se pudo comprobar el pasado 26 de septiembre, día en el que el Prelado cumplió 71 años. Entonces, Francisco le felicitó y le cantó "Cumpleaños Feliz" junto a los seminaristas del Seminario San Carlos Borromeo de la diócesis.

El VIII Encuentro Mundial de las Familias se celebró en Filadelfia (Estados Unidos) del 22 al 27 de septiembre de 2015. El Pontífice viajó hasta el país para clausurarlo. El sábado 26 celebró una Vigilia de oración y el domingo 27 una Misa al término de la que se anunció que el próximo Encuentro Mundial se celebrará en Dublín (Irlanda) en 2018.

Three Same Sex Attracted Catholics Left the Church and Came Back

Philadelphia (CNA)—Dan, Rilene, and Paul knew that once their stories were out, life would not be the same.

"We’ve been advised not to Google ourselves," Rilene said, laughing.

These three are the subjects of a recently released documentary, Desire of the Everlasting Hills, which chronicles their stories of having same-sex attractions, and how they eventually found peace in the Catholic Church.

Its simple style and universal themes of human love and longing make the film a touching and moving experience.

All three said they approached their involvement in the film with some trepidation. They were hesitant about the responses they might get.

"I was very scared to do this movie," Dan told CNA. A professional musician, he was worried what people in the music industry might think. He didn’t want to be seen as "Dan the gay man." Before this film he had never been publicly out and had occasionally dated women.

"But I was thinking about 1 Peter 3:15, where he says ‘Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that lies within you.’ With how good God has been to me, if I can help other people through my story, that’s why I chose to do this." Dan’s passion is especially to help young people who are experiencing same-sex attraction. Although he was Catholic when he was young, his family became Protestant by the time he was in his teenage years. He remembers feeling like there was no one he could talk to about what he was experiencing.

In the film, Dan recounts going to a strip club as an experiment. He ended up talking vegetables with a dancer and still uses some of her gardening tips to this day.

He then decided he still wanted the normalcy of a dating relationship, so he started dating Jason, whom he dated for about a year. But his desires for a family and biological fatherhood were reawakened when he found himself falling in love with Kelly, a woman at work.

When his relationship with Kelly ended, Dan said he found himself tempted to find another relationship with a man.

"But I had reached a threshold where I realized the path to peace … was not going back,” Rilene participated in the film because she felt she owed it to God to be as outspoken about film as she had been about being gay.

In the film, Rilene recalled that at first she wanted to be loved by a man and to have a family. But after a dating dry spell and a woman making a move on her at a party, she started questioning whether or not she might really be attracted to women.

On a business trip, she met a woman, Margo, who was to be her partner for 25 years.

"I think she was a lot like me in many ways. She was professional," Rilene said. "And she wanted me, honestly. And I needed to be wanted."

But even throughout that relationship, Rilene said she felt restless and often alone. After a series of financial downturns and a marriage proposal from Margo, Rilene left the relationship and eventually found her way back into a Catholic parish.

Paul got involved in the gay scene after moving to New York.
An Active Time in Arcata

Because of a local stomach flu outbreak, St. Mary Church in Arcata announced in late September it would temporarily suspend offering the Cup at Communion. Parishioners were also encouraged to not hold hands during the “Our Father” and to not offer a handshake during the “Sign of Peace.” Let us all pray God grants health to Arcata soon if the healing has not already arrived.

In other Arcata news, the parish held its monthly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on September 10. Each month Director of Religious Education Pat Heavlin has scheduled what the church calls its “Powerhouse of Prayer” using different methods. September, for instance, featured no music. Instead one of the participants would occasionally read a few lines of Scripture. Each powerhouse does end, however, with everyone praying vespers occasionally read a few lines of Scripture. Each powerhouse does end, however, with everyone praying vespers.

September 13 saw a traditional summer event, the parish barbeque. It opened with pastor Fr. Balaswamy Govindu giving the blessing. Over 130 attended and enjoyed the plethora of potluck traditional salads and side-dishes and the BBQ prepared by the parish’s Knights of Columbus. The added value of this meal is the annual side-dishes and the BBQ prepared by the parish’s Knights of Columbus. The added value of this meal is the annual side-dishes and the BBQ prepared by the parish’s Knights of Columbus.

Next the parish celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima (October 13) with the Portuguese community holding its traditional meal in honor of the Blessed Virgin.

For two nights parishioners gathered to pray the Rosary at the Portuguese Hall. On Sunday, October 10, there was a 7pm Mass at the church followed by a candlelight procession from the church to the Hall. Upon arriving at the Hall there was the Arraisal (Portuguese for a big party) as well as dancing to Portuguese and American music. On Sunday, October 11, the devotion continued with an 11am Mass, followed by a traditional lunch of sopas and alcatra at the Hall. Arraisal, dancing, and an auction entertained all those who attended.

The Knights of Columbus Council 2947 held an Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 17 in Leavey Hall. All proceeds from this event will be used to purchase wheelchairs for California’s veterans. The menu included sausage, sauerkraut, potato salad, hoochies, pretzels, beverages, and dessert.

Finally on October 18, Magg Meg Hunter gave a special presentation to the parish that was especially directed to the youth and confirmation students. Kilmer describes herself as “a cradle Catholic and a revert, brought back to the fold by a grace-filled confession and the supreme logic of Catholic doctrine.” She has a degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s in systematic theology from the same school. After spending time as a full-time religion teacher and in a convent discerning her call to the religious life, she felt God calling her to evangelize through the speaking gifts He has given her.

Then on September 20, the Italian Catholic Federation hosted un buon pasto (a good meal). The ICF is a family oriented organization dedicated to bringing community together, and that is exactly what it did. It was a time of fellowship enhanced by the aroma of polenta and chicken in tomato sauce prepared with traditional "from scratch" recipes in the parish hall kitchen. There were also fine California wines and biscotti and gelato for la dolce (dessert). All of this was a blessed occasion for friends and community members to sit down at the tables and make new friends. All proceeds went to scholarships and parish activities.

The lights, the way people dressed, the music, the movie stars ... it was exactly like you’ve heard,” he said in the film.

When he wasn’t at the studio or at the gym, Paul spent his time looking for partners. He found himself going through dozens, and then hundreds, and then thousands of lovers.

“I became frantic, and it was never my intention … but I became insensitive to what it means to be with a partner, both body and soul.”

When the AIDS epidemic claimed around 90 percent of his friends, Paul decided to move to San Francisco for a fresh start. He met his partner Jeff there and they moved to a cabin in Sonoma County.

One day while watching TV, Paul came across a strange image and called Jeff into the room to laugh at what they saw.

“I’m laughing mockingly at this nun with a patch over her eye, a distorted face (I didn’t know she had a stroke at the time), and a complete, old-fashioned habit,” he said.

It was Mother Angelica on EWTN.

Jeff and Paul both laughed at “these crazy Christians,” but when Jeff left the room, Paul kept watching.

“I was about to change the channel, when she said something so intelligent and so real and so honest that it really struck me.”

“You see God created you and I to be happy in this life and the next. He cares for you. He watches your every move. There’s no one that loves you (who can do that),” Mother Angelica said.

From then on, Paul was hooked on Mother Angelica. But he hid his new obsession. He would change the channel after watching her so that Jeff or anyone who used the TV wouldn’t see the nun.

He started practicing his faith again.

“I got blowback because I walked up the stairs … of a church called the Catholic Church. I lost clients. I lost friends.”

“People were in shock because I walked up the stairs … of a church called the Catholic Church. I lost clients. I lost friends.”

When asked about what the Church needs to do in order to better serve people, Michael noted that priests and the Church at large need to be better educated about the Church’s position.

Rilene said within the first few years of living with Margo, a priest knocked on her door for a parish survey. When she burst into tears, explaining she was a Catholic but felt unwanted by the Church because she was a lesbian, the priest didn’t know what to say.

“Our priests need the education, they need training. I know priests who I don’t think even know what the Church’s position is on it or are resistant to it.”

“‘gay’ doesn’t define you, and that was one of the most liberating things,” Dan said. “I think the very fact that the Church would avoid the terms gay and lesbian speaks to the truth of the human person, and there’s something vitally important about the Church’s refusal to use that.”

When asked about what the Church needs to do to better serve people with same-sex attraction, the answer was resoundingly that priests and the Church at large need to be better educated about the Church’s position.

San Miniato, Italy (Catholic World News) — Archbishop Pio Alberto del Corona, OP (1837-1912), an Italian Dominican who served as bishop of San Miniato, Italy, was beatified on September 19.

Angelo Cardinal Amato, the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided over the rite, which took place in San Miniato.

Del Corona, who founded the Dominican Sisters of the Holy Spirit, “was a zealous guide and wise teacher of the people entrusted to him,” Pope Francis said after his September 16 General Audience. “May his example and his intercession help the Church to walk in the spirit of the gospel, bearing the fruit of good works.”

Editor’s note: Many thanks to Harriet Burr, who contributed greatly to this report.
The WWJD fad may not totally be over, but few bracelets are worn anymore. The idea still lingers among good deeds done every day: holding the door for someone else or holding a dollar bill out your window for the army vet who offers prayers and a smile in exchange.

We like to “pay-it-forward.”
What would Jesus do? We wonder. He would help those in need. Of course. But what does that look like today? Orchestrating a canned food/blanket/toy/sweater drive at school and then have His form signed off? That would make Jesus a good person, right? After all, He had completed His service hours.

We are all after the sometimes elusive “being good” aren’t we?

This of course drives us to ask WWJD, which in turn drives us toward the “good,” and 99 percent of us want others to consider us “good.” It’s not even a Christian thing. In the Greek pagan Plato’s famous, 2,400-year-old book, The Republic, he contemplates “good.”

The “good” is indeed important. Seeking “the good” has led to amazing things in our world. The Catholic Church is responsible for more healing and teaching, for more “good” than any other organization, ever.

In pursuit of “the good,” however, we risk reducing Jesus’ behaviors to merely the “good,” and therefore losing sight of His truth, which is the ultimate good: He is the “I Am,” the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, our Messiah, our reconciliation to the Father, our Savior. We sometimes see Him as though He was merely an inspirational speaker and best-selling author of 7 Habits of Being Good, focusing our gaze horizontally, within our communities, when we should be looking up.

Christ came to call us to be in relationship with our heavenly Father, not just our neighbor. Being in the Church means more than being a good neighbor. It means taking the opportunity for us to practice, as Christ taught, heaven here on earth.

But we must know Him. We must be in relation with Him.

Therefore we look to Christ Himself to understand how to do this, just as the apostles did when they said, “Teach us how to pray.” Through prayer, we develop relationship with Him. Pray, pray, pray, and then pray some more.

Communication builds relationships, and prayer is our communication with Jesus. It’s the original talk and text plan. Most importantly, prayer creates silent space to listen, ask, say thanks, and apologize. To dialogue.

He modeled this for us. Any time Christ performed a famous healing or teaching, He was up all night praying beforehand (cf. Luke 6:12). Praying to His Father, our Father, our Abba, our “Daddy,” the same Father who is available to us here and now, in prayer.

Next time, before you attempt “the good,” and you ask yourself, “What would Jesus do?” Pray!
Maddalena of the Incarnation), jilted her fiancé

**SCHEDULE**

- **Orientation, Introduction, & Spirituality of Catechesis**
  - Orientation: Chancery Santa Rosa 10am-12pm (BC Only)
  - Chancery Santa Rosa 10am-12pm/1pm-3pm
  - St. John School Napa 6:30pm-9:30pm (BC Only)
  - Cardinal Newman HS Santa Rosa 10am-12pm/1-3pm (BC/MC)
- **The Creed & Christology**
  - Nov 6
- **Holy Spirit, Ecclesiology, Mary & Saints**
  - Dec. 8
- **Liturgical & Sacraments of Initiation**
  - Jan. 8
- **Sacraments of Healing & Service**
  - Feb. 5
- **Principles/Methods/History of Catechesis; Intro to Ecclesial Method**
  - March 4
- **Moral Life in Christ: Foundations**
  - April 1
- **Ten Commandments & Conscience Formation**
  - May 6
- **Catholic Social Teaching**
  - June 3
- **Christian Prayer & Observation**
  - July 2

**MC Program Requirements:**

- 100 hours minimum plus other requisites.

**BC Program Requirements:**

- 40 hours

**Those who wish to attend and are not interested in receiving a California Certificate are welcome, but must register.**

- There will be various books available to purchase. The Class fee does not include all books.

- Those who wish to attend and are not interested in receiving a California Certificate are welcome, but must register.

- Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.

- Complete an Application to begin the Adult Formation or California Catechist Process or to register for class.

- **BC Program Requirements:** 40 hours

- **MC Program Requirements:** 100 hours minimum plus other requisites.

**Sponsored by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education**

To apply & for registrations, contact: Carmen Aanenson
dre@srdiocese.org | (707) 566-3366 | www.santarosacatholic.org

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**Adults Formación de Fey y Certificación 2015-2016**

**PROGRAMA**

- **Orientation, Introducción y Espiritualidad de la catequesis**
  - Oct 2
- **El Credo y Cristología**
  - Nov 6
- **Esquema Santo, Eclesiología, Virgen María y los Santos**
  - dic. 8
- **Liturgia y Sacramentos de Iniciación**
  - enero 8
- **Sacramentos de Sanación y Servicios**
  - feb. 5
- **Principales, Metodología, Historia de la catequesis, Introducción a la Eclesiología**
  - marzo 4
- **La vida moral en Cristo: formación**
  - abr. 1
- **Los Diez Mandamientos y Formación de la Consciencia**
  - mayo 6
- **La doctrina social católica**
  - junio 3
- **La oración cristiana y observaciones**
  - julio 3

**Se anunciar**

- N/A

**Paatrocino por el Departamento de Educación Religiosa**

Para mas información o para registrase, póngase en contacto con Carmen Perez Aanenson
dre@srdiocese.org | (707) 566-3366 | www.santarosacatholic.org

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**Northern California Catholic Men’s Conference**

by George Berg

In October my 17-year-old son and I attended the recent Knights of Columbus-sponsored annual men’s conference held at St. Eugene Cathedral. The featured speaker was Den. Harold Burke-Sivers, known as “The Dynamic Deacon.” The presenters from the diocese included Fr. Gary Sumpter, Coach Tom Bonifigli, Fr. John Boettcher, and Dr. Paul Young. The experience was enlightening, affirming, and humbling.

One thing I learned is that in Genesis, God tells Adam to till and keep the Garden of Eden (cf. Gen 2:15). In Hebrew, abad is the word for “till,” and means a kind of service. Shamar (“keep”) is to guard, protect, and defend. When God made woman from man, the description for her is a “helper who is fit” for Adam. The original Hebrew translates to “helpmate.” This is found as ezer k'negdo. Ezer is a “helper” or even “salvation.” Kinego only appears in Scripture this one time, because a woman “helpmate” is a unique equal to Adam. The “bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh” is from the side, the rib. It was not the lower or upper part of Adam, likening those to being lesser or greater in equality.

A helpmate is also used in the old languages to mean a “battle partner.” So now we have Adam and Eve, made as battle partners in the mission to serve, protect, and defend everything the Lord had entrusted to Adam.

The day challenged me to become a Catholic man. It provided a look into Scripture to rediscover the very purpose for which God created me. The conference also gave me direction on how to fulfill these mandates.

We were all challenged to become Catholic men and deepen our direct relationship with Christ.

For me, the most sobering moment came when I realized that in the end we only have two choices:

1. Become a saint.
2. Go to hell.

Only saints are in heaven, and no saints are in hell. Simply being “good” or “nice guy,” doesn’t cut it. Philanthropy doesn’t cut it. Good works alone won’t get us to heaven. Only sainthood. And how do we get there? As disciples of Christ. Since that day, I’ve asked myself, “Do I serve the Lord to my fullest, or have I simply done the minimum?” He does not call us to simply go to Mass on Sunday for an hour, then do as we will the other 167 hours of the week. I urge you to read B.U.S.Y. in the September issue of NCC. If I put my Lord and Savior above all, then I must do right by everyone else in my life.

Think of the Ten Commandments and Jesus’ final two commandments. If just making it to Mass is the minimum, as Fr. Sumpter put it, “Try promising your wife or your fiancée, ‘Honey, I promise to always give you my minimum,’ and see where that gets you.”

I would love to see you at next year’s conference and will pray that you’ll not only be there, but that we both are brave enough to bring a friend from outside the Church.

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**The Martyrs of Pope St. Clement: November 23**