Pope Opines on Divorce

"By No Means Excommunicated," but Divorce and Civil Remarriage Contradict the Sacrament

Vatican City (National Catholic Register)—Echoing his predecessors on the need to care for divorced and civilly remarried persons, Pope Francis said Christians should help these persons integrate into the community rather than treating them as though they are excommunicated.

"The Church well knows that such a situation contradicts the Christian sacrament," the Pope said in his August 5 general audience in St. Peter's Square. Nonetheless, he added, "the Church should always approach such situations with a mother attentive to all, always disposed to listen in encounters," he added.

The community is to welcome persons who have divorced and entered into new unions, the Pope said, so "they may live and develop their adherence to Christ and the Church with prayer, listening to God's word, frequenting the liturgy, the Christian education of their children, charity, service to the poor, and a commitment to justice and peace."

Pope Francis made these remarks in his first General Audience since his summer break, picking up where he left off in his ongoing series of catecheses about the family. Since last autumn, the Holy Father has been centering his Wednesday catecheses on this theme as part of the lead-up to the upcoming Ordinary Synod on the Family.

Diocese Bids Sad “So Long” to Long-Serving Sister

The chancery’s halls are a little emptier these days since a long familiar presence no more walks them.

On July 29, 2015, after 27 years of dedicated service to the Diocese of Santa Rosa in California as advocate and auditor of the Tribunal, as well as secretary to the Priests Council and the Diocesan Review Board, Sr. Rose Mary Kuklok, OSB, retired and returned to her religious community in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Before coming to California back in the 1980s to study at the University of California, Berkeley, Sr. Rose Mary had never lived in a community of less than 100 Sisters. And coming to California was not something she was sure she wanted to do. Indeed the prospect initially unsettled her and made her worry about being alone. She told her prioress, “Now if I ask to come back because I’m lonely, you won’t think less of me, will you?”

During her time at Berkeley she volunteered with some Sisters who ran a pro bono law office in Oakland.

After Berkeley, an opening came up in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Monterey. She recalls, "I didn't even know what a tribunal was. She didn't know where Mon-" (see Long Serving Sister, p. 9)

Pope Establishes Day for Creation

Vatican City (Rome Reports)—Pope Francis has established the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.”

Its celebration will fall each year on September 1.

He made the announcement in a letter to the heads of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

“I have decided to set up also in the Catholic Church, the ‘World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation’ which, beginning this year, will be celebrated on the first of September, as the Orthodox Church has done for some time now…” (see Day of Creation, p. 3)
There are some who think there has been too much talk about the recent Supreme Court of the United States’ Obergefell decision redefining marriage. There are some who think there has been too little. For my part, I think it is most important for us as Catholic Christians to spend a great deal of time reflecting on and praying over the meaning of these events.

These are events of monumental proportions. They demand that we struggle with them and understand them. They are the direct result of ideas, and the underlying ideas need to be understood and, in this case, challenged.

We find the idea underlying both of these events in the Supreme Court’s 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey decision. It declared, “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”

This language now is enshrined in our nation’s highest court. The question arises, though: “Is it true?”

It is presumed to be true as it is applied to a woman’s “right” to determine whether her unborn child is a human being or not. It is presumed to be true as it is applied to same-sex attracted individuals who desire to establish a “right” to determine whether her unborn child is a human being or not. It is presumed to be true as Planned Parenthood defines its own concept of how the human remains of aborted children are to be managed. It is presumed to be true in the arguments favoring assisted suicide and a host of other modern aberrations.

The problem with the language—especially for Christians—is that it positively excludes God. It is language Satan could have used in the Garden of Eden to convince Adam and Eve to forsake their relationship with God and to make their own path.

Consider these paragraphs from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (the italicized words are my emphasis):

396 - God created man in his image and established him in His friendship. A spiritual creature, man can live this friendship only in free submission to God. The prohibition against eating “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” spells this out: “for in the day that you eat of it, you shall die.” The “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” symbolically evokes the insurmountable limits that man, being a creature, must freely recognize and respect with trust. Man is dependent on His Creator, and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom.

397 - Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God’s command. This is what man’s first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in His goodness.

498 - In that sin man preferred himself to God and by that very act scorned Him. He chose himself over and against God, against the requirements of his creaturely status and therefore against his own good. Constituted in a state of holiness, man was destined to be fully “divinized” by God in glory. Seduced by the devil, he wanted to “be like God” but “without God, before God, and not in accordance with God.”

Thus in the Catechism we do not find: “At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.” Rather this is found in the “catechism” of the Supreme Court, and it is wrong.

But is It True?
SANTA ROSA
OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Most Rev. Robert F. Vasa, bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa in California, wishes to make the following announcements:

Fr. John Boettcher: Chaplain to the Newman Center apostolate at Sonoma State University, with residence at the Newman Center House, Penngrove, while continuing present duties as diocesan director of Evangelization and Spirituality, effective Monday, August 10, 2015.


Fr. Moses Brown: Director of the Religion department and chaplain at Cardinal Newman High School, Santa Rosa, effective Monday, July 6, 2015, with residence at St. Rose Church, Santa Rosa.

Fr. Abel Mena: Residence at St. John the Baptist Church, Healdsburg, effective Monday, July 6, 2015.


Our Lady of Sorrows: September 15

Target Removes Gender Specific Signs

Minneapolis (CNN)—Responding to customer feedback that slammed the retailer for distinguishing toys for girls and boys, Target announced it will start phasing out gender-based signage in some of its departments, Fortune reported. The retailer has seen a backlash on social media this summer after a woman posted on Twitter her dissatisfaction with a Target sign that referred “building sets” and “girl building sets.”

Target planned to begin adding signs in its kids’ bedding section to address children as a group instead of featuring suggestions by gender. It even plans to remove references to gender, like the use of pink, blue, yellow or green paper that are currently on the back walls of shelves in its children’s sections. The retailer said in a statement Friday the changes will be happening in the next couple of months.

“This change is a step toward removing gender limitations in childhood, but when one of the world’s largest retailers does this, the ripple effect will be significant,” author Melissa Atkins Wardy said in her blog, Pigtail Pals & Balcap Buddies, which promotes gender-neutral toys, apparel and other products for children, CNN reported.

The children’s clothing section will continue to feature gender labels because of sizing and fit differences, Fortune reported.

A few commenters on Target’s statement criticized the retailer for giving in to pressure that included promoting politically correct fads and homogenizing the genders, but many other customers were pleased with Target’s decision.

“Kids pick up cues about what society thinks of gender from so many places, and I’m glad that the Target toy aisle is no longer going to be one of the places they’re bombarded with ideas about what’s appropriate for kids of any gender to play with,” said Abi Bechtel, who had posted the picture on Twitter that sparked the debate in June, CNN reported.

A New Catholic Health Care Alternative: The Christ Medicus Foundation’s CURO Ministry

by Michael O’Dea

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, aka, Obamacare), the Act’s enabling of public funding of abortion, and the enactment of the HHS contraceptive mandate which has threatened the religious liberty of pro-life employers, many Catholic faithful have looked for a health care alternative that protects their right of conscience.

In October 2014, the Catholic 501(c)(3) Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) launched the CMF CURO Catholic health care ministry which provides an affordable Catholic health care alternative.

Working with the Protestant non-profit Samaritan Ministries International (SMI) and its 47,000 member households, CMF CURO empowers Catholic individuals and families to engage in health care sharing with other Christian families nationwide that is exempt from the Individual and HHS Mandates.

CMF CURO members participate in sharing their medical costs with SMI’s households nationwide that now share $11 million in medical costs per month. Members of CMF CURO are provided with a first-of-its-kind CMF CURO membership debit card, which adds great efficiency to the sharing process.

The organization also uniquely provides reference-based pricing that empowers members to negotiate their medical costs with health care providers earlier in the health sharing process. Additionally, members are given access to online health and wellness tools that assist them in being good stewards of the gift of life God has provided.

Instead of paying a monthly health insurance premium payment to an insurance company, members of CMF CURO pay a monthly “share payment” directly to another member-in-need of health care. The amount of the monthly share payment is usually the same every month. A member-in-need will receive checks from numerous members of the ministry and will then use those checks to directly pay their medical costs. A member-in-need will receive up to $250,000 from the members of the ministry to pay the medical costs of any one health care need.

Through Samaritan Ministries International and the Christ Medicus Foundation, CMF CURO members have access to additional layers of financial support that help pay for a medical need that exceeds $250,000.

CMF CURO members have their right of conscience protected because they are not required to subsidize abortions, sterilizations, contraceptives or other services that violate Catholic teaching. Additionally, the costs of CMF CURO are significantly lower than health insurance plans.

Bishop Robert F. Vasa has been on the CMF Advisory Board since its inception in 1998. For more information, please contact Kate Allwein by email at kateallwein@christmedicus.org or at 614-940-4652.

Second Collection for September

(September 12-13) – Diocesan seminarians.
Catholic All-Stars, cont. from page 1)

presence here, it's amazing, really.

Another main theme that emerged was essentially the need for courage in the face of a culture that desperately needs the gospel but which often is hostile to that message. That is not easy

But as Lila Rose, founder of the pro-life group Live Action, told NCC, "I think part of the New Evangelization is to be uncomfortable. And if we're living in comfort, if our practicing our religion makes us uncomfortable, we're probably practicing it wrong. Jesus was not comfortable. What He had His disciples do was certainly not comfortable."

Columnist and NBC News commentator George Weigel, giving one of the Servant of God Dorothy Day's favorite quotations, noted, "Let us thank God that He makes us to live among the present problems. It is no longer permitted for anyone to be mediocre. All men have the imperative duty to remember that they have a mission to fulfill, that of doing the impossible.

Attendees heard about many paths to the New Evangelization. For instance, the Vatican Museums Fr. Mark Haydu, LC spoke about the special role played by beauty. "Each of us needs to be evangelized," he told NCC. "Each Catholic Christian, we're the first who need to be evangelized. But the way to do it is through beauty."

He spoke of how beauty 'shocks' and pulls us in. That experience, he said, "plays into evangelization. We want people to say, 'Wow! What is that? That's amazing. That's beautiful!"

He also addressed what he termed "the ugliness of the cross."

"There's a strength in our [faith's] beauty that isn't destroyed by ugliness but overcomes it and incorporates it. That Jesus [up] on the cross isn't ugly, it's a symbol of unbounded love. You feel loved by the cross, because then there's the Resurrection behind it, and that [death] is not the last word — That's a power of our evangelization." (To read the whole interview, go to http://tinyurl.com/ojomepb)

Marriage as a model

Dr. Ted Sri, known for A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Symbols, and other study programs, gave astonishing insights into just how blessed the first husband and wife were in the Garden of Eden.

Quoting Genesis, he said Adam and Eve originally were "naked without shame," as it says in Genesis, which Sri said meant they were "in total trust and confidence with one another." But then after the Fall, when shame sets in, "Adam was most the important day of his life, the day when he became a missionary disciple, the day when became a friend of Jesus Christ by the outpouring of water and the Holy Spirit."}

Other talks

Perhaps one of the most fascinating talks came from Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, OFM of Vienna, who told participants the story behind the creation of the Catholic Church (CCC), for which he served as general editor.

At the outset, he and the drafting committee didn't know whether they could pull all of the Church's teachings into one book. Ultimately it worked, however, because "we believe not only in one faith but we trust in the ability of expressing one faith together throughout the world."

He detailed other challenges and told listeners about the Synod, which he said was most the important day of his life, the day when he became a missionary disciple, the day when became a friend of Jesus Christ by the outpouring of water and the Holy Spirit.

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And "I will never forget this short note we received via the Vatican Secretary of State coming from the Holy Father directly. And it was very simple. He said, 'Do not say 'The Church teaches: Jesus is risen.' Say, 'Jesus is risen.'"

"You see the difference. It's a confession. It's not an informative statement, it's a confession: 'Jesus is risen.'"

The family and the Synod

Diocesan native Dr. Pia de Solenni gave a compelling talk on the role of women in the Church, the Body of Christ. She quoted a college classmate of hers, a man, who was asked who were better, men or women. Without missing a beat, he said, "Women." Not expecting this man's answer, she asked him, "Why?"

He replied, "Because God created everything from least perfect to most perfect, and women were the last thing He created."

Then she noted how St. Thomas Aquinas observed that God did not draw woman from Adam's "head to rule over man, nor from the foot to be under him, but from his side so they would rule together."

Indeed, she said that to have a better understanding of the role of women in the Body of Christ we will "take a better understanding of the role of men in the Body of Christ—because women and men were created together...

"[But] even more so, it's going to take the healing of marriage. Here's the thing: If we heal marriage, it makes it much easier to understand the Body of Christ because the language of marriage is the same as the language of the Mystical Body of Christ and the marriage between Christ and the Church. What's the language of marriage? The two become one. The Mystical Body of Christ is the Church united with its head, with Christ, in one body.... Forget talking about that type of union if we don't understand what it means to have a beautiful husband and wife, a deep, committed personal union."

During a panel discussion featuring the Cardinal and Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver, each spoke about the family and the upcoming Synod.

His Eminence said, "What I expect from the Synod is a clear word to parents all over the world: 'Have mercy on your children....' What I hope is that the Synod gives a strong encouragement against divorce. I know the Synod cannot stop the fact, the reality of divorce, and there are situations where separation is better for the good of the family, the children. But to be encouraged to be merciful.

... Pope Francis had this beautiful, this simple catechesis recently. Three words that keep a couple together.... Thank you, please, pardon me. I hope that the Synod is not stuck only on the problem of divorce but is mainly encouraging fidelity, marital fidelity."

He concluded by noting "mercy without truth is wobbly, Truth without mercy is harsh.... [What] we need in the Synod is the message of the healing power of God's mercy, how to translate that into practice. That will be the big challenge for the Synod."

Archbishop Aquila said he hopes "the Synod will speak not only to the truth and the goodness and beauty of marriage, but also that they will speak to marriage prepa-

...
OFM, great artist and man of profound holiness

Q: I had an abortion some years ago. While I’ve been to therapy and looked to Project Rachel* for help, with all of the media hype about Planned Parenthood, I’ve had nightmares, flashbacks and am just angry all the time. Will I ever find healing? I’m beginning to think it’s hopeless.

A: I admire your courage in reaching out. It isn’t an easy—or simple—journey recovering from a very difficult experience. Indeed I have always told my patients that they are some of the bravest people that I have ever met.

You are suffering from trauma. That is why you are experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, and a great amount of anger. While many people think that only those exposed to warfare can experience PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), research shows a variety of experiences can lead to warfare can experience PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).

You mentioned the effects of recent news headlines. These stories are producing something called a trigger. A trigger can be a variety of things, persons, or events that remind us of a past experience, usually negative. Something within the news reporting is bringing you back to the experience of the abortion. This in turn produces your traumatic symptoms.

I would be lying if I told you that there was a magic formula for you to find healing. What I can tell you is to consider your healing process with the idea that it will take time, courage, and a great amount of patience. Understanding what is triggering your symptoms and learning to cope with triggers is important. Continuing to rely on outside support through this time is essential. Therapy can focus on making you feel safe and should allow you to openly talk about and process this experience so you can eventually make sense of the trauma and ultimately how it fits with your wider life narrative.

Above all, rest in the certainty that Christ can bring forgiveness, mercy, and thus peace to your life, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

*Project Rachel is a Church-sponsored post-abortion healing ministry. To learn more, go to http://hopeafterabortion.com/.

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

William Cardinal Baum

Longest Serving American Cardinal Dies


His death prompted outpourings of thanksgiving for his life and a special telegram from Pope Francis.

“As we grieve our loss, we also thank God for his ministry,” Donald Cardinal Wuerl of Washington said July 24. “Cardinal Baum was a joy-filled priest with a firm personal commitment to serve the Lord, which he did faithfully for 64 years of ordained life.”

Pope Francis in a July 25 telegram to Cardinal Wuerl commented the cardinal’s soul to “God the Father of mercies.”

“I offer my heartfelt condolences, together with the assurance of my prayers, to you and to all the faithful of the Archdiocese,” the pope said.

Cardinal Baum served as Archbishop of Washington from 1973 to 1980 and as a cardinal for 39 years.

The future cardinal was born in Dallas, November 21, 1926 to a Presbyterian father and a Catholic mother. His family moved to Kansas City, where he began to serve as an altar boy at age ten. He took the last name of his Jewish stepfather, who died when he was twelve, the Washington Post reports.

He studied at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, and became a priest in May 1951. He served in Kansas City-area parishes and taught at several high schools and colleges. He studied in Rome at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas, earning a licentiate and a doctorate in sacred theology.

Pope St. John XXIII named him a monsignor in 1961. During the Second Vatican Council, he served as an advisor to Kansas City Bishop Charles Helmsing. The Holy See later named him a peritus (an expert) for the Council. In that role he served under the Secretariat for Christian Unity. He participated in the drafting process of Unitatis Redintegratio, Vatican II’s "Decree on Ecumenism."

In February 1970, BL. Pope Paul VI chose Msgr. Baum to become bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, a Missouri diocese. He chose as his episcopal motto, “Ministry of Reconciliation.” In March 1973, the Pope named him Archbishop of Washington.

He had several leadership roles in the United States bishops’ conference. He was chancellor for the Catholic University of America and a delegate to the Synod of Bishops in 1971.

Made cardinal by BL. Paul VI in 1976, His Eminence served in three papal conclaves and in several Vatican congregations.

Cardinal Baum served as prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education and was Major Penitentary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican department which oversees issues involving the forgiveness of sins. He was on the commission that drafted the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

At the recently concluded Napa Institute, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, general editor of the Catechism, spoke fondly of His Eminence.
Nothing New Under the Sun

Ancient Israel's King Solomon wrote, "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl 1:9).

This thought recently came to mind during recent trips I have made to San Francisco's archdiocesan newspaper archives in Menlo Park.

Partly this has been done in service of our relatively new column, "This Month in History …" If you haven't perused it this month's installment is on page 22. I think you'll enjoy it.

That's not the point.

The point is this: With most of the articles, I could simply insert them into this month's issue, and you, dear reader, wouldn't know you were reading 45-year-old news.

Celibacy for priests, women's ordination, a Synod on the Family, concerns about retaining teens and young adults, concerns about vocations, peace, social justice, the environment, abortion, divorce, contraception: It is all there.

Some items are dated. A poll of St. Louis Catholics showed 71 percent were against receiving Communion in the hand. Today sacramental prep instructors in many places teach our children that Communion in the hand is the way to receive, the way they should receive. Verry interesting, as one entertainer at the time would have said.

I wonder if youth—largely among young adults in their 20s … "Same sex" marriages barred in Minnesota, court rules. This marks my last full issue as full-time editor of North Coast Catholic newspaper. While I have loved it here in this diocese, and this job has been an utter gift, I was never able to move my family out here. It is hard to be a good parent and not in any physical or emotional danger, you have ascertained that your grandchild is at least well cared for and not in any physical or emotional danger, then not having contact for a while might be the way to go. Use this time apart to pray for your son and to deepen your union with Christ on the cross. Do an examination of conscience to discover your own sins. Offer novenas to St. Jude for him. Fast if you are able to do so. Offer up your heartache (cf. Col 1:24). Pray to Mary and St. Joseph. Beg St. Monica for her intercession. Ultimately this is not a family issue, it's a battle for souls.

Dear Aunt Bea

My 20-year-old son has little use for me unless he needs something. He was a rebellious teen. I set limits, but he never really straightened out. Now he can't keep a job, and he naturally blames me for his problems. He lives with his girlfriend and they cut off all communication with me over the smallest disagreements. When I try to contact him, mostly so I can see my grandchild, no response. It can go on this way for months. It hurts so much. Also, I've had it with walking on eggshells to keep him happy.

Dear Tearful

I hear you. One of the toughest things about being a parent—and a good Catholic parent whose first concern is that our children get to heaven—is standing firm and having our kids "hate" us for it. I don't know what your boy's issues were when he was a teenager, but assuming there's not more to the story and given continued his rebellion and behavior, I would say he never matured. This is not your fault. Rather, it's his choice.

Jesus tells us that to be His followers, we have to carry a cross. Right now, your son and the way he is treating you is your cross.

As a fellow parent, I know how painful this must be for you. The teen years are brutal for parents, and not just because of the rebellion. We expect that. What no one expects is the moral vacuum—six years after the Second Vatican Council would be almost amusing if it wasn't so tragic. Then as now, the pollsters attributed "the fall-off … to youth—largely among young adults in their 20s …"

Still, in an era where 24-42 percent attend weekly Mass, what a parent wouldn't love to have 60 percent attendance? If you know post-Vatican II Church history, none of this will likely surprise.

What might surprise is this November 4, 1971, headline: "Same sex marriages barred in Minnesota, court rules." Say what? I worked in the state Legislature when the big push was for "domestic partnerships." This started around the turn of the century: Fifteen years ago. I had never heard of any previous, serious attempts at legalizing same sex unions.

Minnesota has always been reliably liberal and Demo-ocrat. It sent former Vice Presidents Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale to the United States Senate. Today its very liberal senators are Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar.

So it's hard to imagine any Minnesota Supreme Court justice ruling now as the entire Court did back then.

"Justice [C. Douglas] Peterson described marriage as a 'union of man and woman uniquely involving the procre-ation and rearing of children within a family,' an institution he called 'as old as the Book of Genesis.'"

"This historic institution manifests itself more deeply founded than the asserted concept of marriage … for which [the plaintiffs] contend," he said.

And here's where it gets really interesting, since the cur-rent Supreme Court of the United States' majority opinion reached the exact opposite conclusion: "… the court could not find support in any US Supreme Court decisions for the argument that forbidding same-sex marriage violated the 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection of the law…. "

"In a … cited case, the US Supreme Court threw out a Virginia law barring interracial marriage."

That case, Justice Peterson said, showed that some state restrictions on the right to marry are covered by the 14th Amendment. But, he said, 'there is a clear distinction between a marital restriction based merely upon race and one based upon the fundamental difference in sex.'

It is strange that the Minnesota Court's arguments worked nearly 45 years ago, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, even just a few years ago. They certainly worked for millennia of recorded human history, when even those societies most accepting of homosexual activity would never countenance same sex "marriage."

But it doesn't work today. This is new. Maybe Solomon was wrong?

★★★

The upcoming World Meeting of Meeting takes place at the end of this month in the very week we normally go to press. The editorial board has made the decision, therefore, to not delay the paper's printing but to carry news from the Meeting in the November issue.

Furthermore although there would be plenty of time to get in an article about October's Synod on the Family, it was decided to a) not crowd too much into one issue and b) to let thing settle before writing about it. After last year's Synod, the most prescient observations about the gathering came weeks and even months after the fact. In any event, Synod coverage will be in December's issue.

Brian O'Neel is Communications director for the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California
**Penn. Paper Silences Same Sex Unions Dissent**

Harrsburg (The Daily Caller)—The editorial board of The Patriot-News in Harrsburg, Pennsylvania, has taken a hardline stance against those who disagree with the Supreme Court of the United States’ Obergefell decision to legalize gay marriage.

“As a result of the ruling, [we] will no longer accept, nor will [we] print, op-eds, and letters to the editor in opposition to same-sex marriage,” they declared.

After receiving strong pushback, the newspaper’s editorial board, which is overseen by editorial page editor John Micek, quickly revised its policy. Freedom of speech will be allowed—but only for a “limited” period of time.

Micek explained on Twitter: “Clarification: We will not foreclose discussion of the high court’s decision, but arguments that gay marriage is wrong/unnatural are out.”

He later compared those who oppose same sex unions to racists and anti-Semites.

Writing for the Obergefell majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy had assured those who dissent from the ruling would still have the right to hold and express their beliefs, the same beliefs every society has had since recorded history began. ♦

**Los Angeles Receives Three New Bishops**

Los Angeles (CNA/EWTN News)—Known for his online videos which tackle everything from the saints, to the “new atheism,” to the latest blockbuster film, Fr. Robert Barron will have a new responsibility: auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles.

Said the Chicago-native in a statement, “I am grateful to Pope Francis for his confidence in me and to Archbishop [Jose] Gomez for his willingness to allow me to minister in this beautiful, richly diverse, and spiritually vibrant Church.”

Most of Bishop-elect Barron’s priesthood has been served under the leadership of Francis Cardinal George, who passed away earlier this year after having been archbishop of Chicago from 1997-2014.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1986 for Chicago’s archdiocese, Fr. Barron said it was his “mentor,” the late Cardinal George, who taught him “the central importance of evangelizing the culture, bringing the power of Christ to the arenas of politics, law, the arts, higher education, the media, and entertainment.”

Since 2012, Fr. Barron has served as the rector of the Chicago archdiocese’s Mundelein seminary.

However, he is perhaps best known as the founder of Word On Fire Catholic Ministries, as well as the producer of the documentary series Catholicism.

The July 21 announcement also named two others as auxiliary bishops, LA priests Msgr. David O’Connell and Msgr. Joseph Brennan.

Native of County Cork, Ireland, Bishop-elect O’Connell, ordained 1979, has worked to end inner-city violence in LA, and is a member of the archdiocese’s pastoral committee on immigration.

Bishop-elect Brennan, ordained in 1980, has been serving as moderator of the Curia for the LA archdiocese.

NCC recently learned that Archbishop Gomez had placed his request to have Fr. Barron as one of his auxiliaries two years ago. ♦
to the World Meeting of Families in September and the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family in October. In stressing the complexity of the pastoral care of those who have entered unions without having received an annulment of their first marriage, His Holiness turned to his immediate predecessors, Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, both of whom addressed this problem.

Pope Francis stressed how, in recent decades, under the guidance of his predecessors, the Church has come to an increased awareness of the need for “fraternal and attentive welcome,” in those who have entered a new union following the failure of their marriage.

For instance, the Pope cited Benedict XVI, who addressed the issue during the 2012 World Meeting of Families. During a question-and-answer period, Benedict said, “As regards these people … the Church loves them, but it is important that they should see and feel His presence.”

“I see here a great task for a parish, a Catholic community, to do whatever is possible to help them to feel loved and accepted, to feel that they are not ‘excluded’ even though they cannot receive absolution or the Eucharist. They should see that—in this state, too—they are fully a part of the Church. Perhaps, even if it is not possible to receive absolution in confession, they can nevertheless have ongoing contact with a priest, with a spiritual guide. This is very important, so that they see that they are accompanied and guided.

“Then it is also very important that they truly realize they are participating in the Eucharist if they enter into a real communion with the Body of Christ. Even without ‘corporal’ [i.e., actual, physical] reception of the sacrament, they can be spiritually united to Christ in His Body. Bringing them to understand this is important so that they find a way to live the life of faith based upon the Word of God and the communion of the Church, and that they come to see their suffering as a gift to the Church because it helps others by defending the stability of love and marriage.

Indeed, Benedict said, “They need to realize that this suffering is not just a physical or psychological pain, but something that is experienced within the Church community and that feeds this great value of our faith. I am convinced that their suffering, if truly accepted from within, is a gift to the Church. They need to know this, to realize that this is their way of serving the Church, that they are in the heart of the Church.”

Pope Francis also cited St. John Paul’s 1981 apostolic exhortation on the family Familiaris Consortio, calling on pastors to “exercise careful discernment of situations” in caring for couples who have attempted to remarry without having obtained an annulment—giving the example of the difference between someone who caused the separation and someone who has obtained an annulment—giving the example of the difference between someone who caused the separation and someone who has obtained an annulment.

Children’s Needs

One area of particular concern, the Pope said, pertains to the children affected by such complex family situations, for they suffer the most.

“If we, then, look at these unions with the eyes of the small children,” Francis said, “we see the even more urgency for developing within our communities a real welcoming of persons who live in these situations.”

“How can we do all we can, so that their parents do everything to educate their children in the Christian life, to give them the example of a virtuous life? If we keep them at a distance from the life of the community as if they were excommunicated?”

“These persons are by no means excommunicated,” the Holy Father stressed, “and they should absolutely not be treated as such: They are always part of the Church.”

Excommunication is a medicinal penalty, and an excommunicated person cannot have a ministerial participation in worship; celebrate or receive the sacraments; or exercise ecclesiastical offices, ministries, or functions.

The divorced and remarried cannot, however, be admitted to the sacrament of Communion because “their state and condition of life objectively contradict that union of love between Christ and the Church, which is signified and effected by the Eucharist,” St. John Paul II taught in Familiaris Consortio.

Pope Francis said that in caring for people who are divorced and remarried, Christians should take their example from the Good Shepherd, an image which, he said, summarizes Christ’s mission to “give His life for His sheep.”

“This attitude is also a model for the Church, which welcomes sons as a mother who gives her life for them.”

His Holiness stressed “all Christians are called to imitate the Good Shepherd.”

“Christian families can collaborate with Him in taking care of wounded families, accompanying in the community’s life of faith. Each must do his part to assume the attitude of the Good Shepherd, who knows every one of His sheep and excludes no one from His infinite love.” [To read the Pope’s words for yourself, go to http://tinyurl.com/jy7ja77.]

This Year’s Synod

This year’s Synod, to be held October 4-25, will be the second and larger of two such gatherings to take place in the course of a year. Like its 2014 precursor, the 2015 Synod of Bishops’ focus will be the family, this time with the theme, “The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Modern World.”

The 2014 meeting became the subject of widespread media attention, largely owing to proposals by a small number of bishops to rethink the Church’s practice regarding the admission to Holy Communion for divorced persons who remarried without having had their first marriage recognized as null.

General Audiences

On the same day the Pope gave the above remarks, his secretary Archbishop Georg Gänswein, prefect of the Pontifical Household, made a special announcement. He told Vatican Radio preparations are underway to organize an extra General Audience each month—possibly on a Saturday—during the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy.

As of his audience on August 26, His Holiness had given 100 such talks. Furthermore since the beginning of Francis’ pontificate in March 2013, 15 million people have been present for his General Audiences, Angelus addresses, and special audiences in the Vatican.

The Miracle of Hiroshima: Jesuits Credit Rosary for Surviving Atomic Bomb

Hiroshima, Japan (CNA/EWTN News)—Seventy years ago, the only wartime use of nuclear weapons took place in the United States’ August 6 attack on Hiroshima and its August 9 attack on Nagasaki by the.

The Hiroshima attack killed around 80,000 people instantly and may have caused about 130,000 deaths, mostly civilians. The attack on the port city of Nagasaki killed around 40,000 instantly and destroyed a third of the city.

Four Jesuits were near the hypocenter of the attack on Hiroshima, but they survived the catastrophe. Furthermore the radiation that killed thousands in the months following had no effect on them.

The Jesuits priests Hugo Lassalle, Hubert Schiffer, Wilhelm Kleinseorge, and Hubert Cieslik were at the rectory of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, one of the few buildings that resisted the bomb blast.

Fr. Cieslik wrote in his diary that they only sustained minor injuries from the broken windows but nothing resulting from the atomic energy that was unleashed.

The doctors who took care of them afterwards warned the radiation they received would produce serious lesions, as well as illness and premature death.

The diagnosis never materialized. No disorders ever devel-

This 100-year-old priest’s still important task? Fighting Satan

Madrid (CNA/EWTN News)—On August 1, the oldest priest in the Diocese of Malaga, Spain, turned 100. After a century of life, Father Francisco Acevedo says he still has important work to do.

“St. Peter says: ‘Be sober and keep watch, because the devil is a roaring lion walks about, seeking whom he may devour’” (1 Pet 5:8), said Fr. Acevedo in an interview published by the bishop of Malaga.

“I still have to resist the devil, but it’s not easy. The devil does not want there to be holy priests, and it’s dangerous to not take this seriously,” he said when asked about his ongoing task.

Now living at San Patricio Church’s rectory, the priest says he has led a normal life and does not have any “tricks” to such a long life.

Having spent most of the last century as a priest, Fr. Acevedo offered some advice to seminarians and young priests: “Seek God alone.”

He also stressed the importance of prayer, saying it “is everything” to him and is “a permanent guard.”

Fr. Acevedo tries to be faithful in prayer and highlighted Mary’s faithfulness in always praying for her children.

Those who see prayer time as taking away from other activities “do not know what it means to be Christian,” he continued. “They might have heard something about Him, but they do not know Jesus. If they knew Him, they would seek.”

Hiroshima opened, and in 1976, Fr. Schiffer attended the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia and told his story. He confirmed the other Jesuits were still alive and without any ailments.

Dozens of doctors examined them some 200 times over the course of the following years, without any trace of the radiation being found in their bodies.

The four religious never doubted they had been blessed with protection by God and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“We were living the message of Fatima, and we prayed the Rosary every day,” they explained.
But what will poor people do if Planned Parenthood is defunded?

by Simcha Fisher

New Hampshire’s Legislature recently voted to withdraw nearly $650,000 of state funding from Planned Parenthood. Even the pro-choice Legislature of our state has long chafed against funding the top-heavy, corrupt, inefficient monolith of Planned Parenthood—not because we love babies, but because we hate wasting money.

Naturally people concerned about the poor are upset about the vote to defund, because Planned Parenthood is like the classic abusive boyfriend: They’ve got us convinced we need them, we’re going to be lost without them, we’re no good without them, we’ll never make it on our own.

Yes, well.

New Hampshire is actually a pretty good state to be a poor woman in (it’s rated seventh in the nation for the quality of its healthcare). I should know, having been a poor woman in New Hampshire for the last 40 years, give or take a few sojourns north and south. I have always gotten free, excellent prenatal care and postpartum care, free breast exams, free STD testing, and—all well, I’ve been offered free birth control, if by “offered” you mean bombarded with endless, wall-to-wall, relentless harangues about how important it is for me to get my free birth control now now now—wrestling with a woman’s internal reproductive organ for the actual doctor’s address on it) for mammograms.

I have gotten all of these things for free. And I have never set foot in a Planned Parenthood.

But what would we do without Planned Parenthood?

New Hampshire has offered free medical care to children, pregnant women, and disabled for years, and it recently expanded Medicaid to cover all poor people. It includes preventative care, including regular wellness check-ups, and all prenatal care, including nurse midwife services, pregnancy related services, services for conditions that might complicate pregnancy, lab work, birthing centers, family planning, medically necessary hysterectomy, prescription drugs, and a myriad of programs to help you have a healthy pregnancy. They literally pay you to take care of your baby, offering cash incentives for well-child check-ups.

But what would we do without Planned Parenthood?

New Hampshire will take the $650,000+ they were going to give to Planned Parenthood and instead will distribute it among the Concord Feminist Health Center, the Joan G. Lovering Health Center on the Seacoast, and Weeks Medical Center in the North Country.

But what would we do without Planned Parenthood?

New Hampshire’s Let No Woman Be Overlooked Breast and Cervical Cancer Program offers “women’s health exams, mammograms, pap test, and pelvic exams to women age 21-64 who have no health insurance or have insurance that does not pay for screening tests and with family incomes at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.”

But what would we do without Planned Parenthood?

Uninsured people can get STD testing, pregnancy tests, counselling, and ultrasounds at these clinics around the state. My daughter volunteered at one of these clinics. It’s a few blocks away from Planned Parenthood, and unlike Planned Parenthood, but like many of the other clinics around the state, it also offers things like free diapers and baby clothes, car seats and strollers, parenting classes, and help navigating social services.

Without $650,000 from the state.

But what would we do without Planned Parenthood?

In New Hampshire, we have nearly 9,000 places where women can get mammograms. Planned Parenthood is not one of them. Not one. Because they don’t offer mammograms, but only referrals (i.e. a piece of paper with an actual doctor’s address on it) for mammograms.

But what would we do without Planned Parenthood?

The truth is, most of what Planned Parenthood offers is abortion. That’s their cash cow. The reason they say it’s only 3 percent of their business is because they count everything that goes along with abortion as an individual service: You go in because you’re pregnant, and they give you a pregnancy test, and an STD test, and an abortion, maybe some antibiotics, and a box of birth control pills. Guess what? Planned Parenthood just provided five services—and abortion was a mere 20 percent. Now mix in a bunch of teenagers who stop by to get free condoms, and it’s pretty easy to get that number down to 3 percent.

It’s a stupid game, but it works. And, it makes people think.

What would we do without Planned Parenthood?

We would do fine.

This originally appeared in the National Catholic Register.
FDA: Essure Birth Control Risky

Denver (CNA/EWTN News)—After receiving thousands of complaints about the adverse effects of the birth control implant Essure, the FDA announced on June 24 it has updated the list of risks and complications associated with the device, and it would hold a public hearing September 24 to evaluate the product.

The FDA scheduled the meeting at the same time when most media will focus their attention on Pope Francis’ history-making address to the United States Congress.

Essure is a permanent form of birth control. Tiny metal coils get inserted into women’s Fallopian tubes. After implantation, the coils are supposed to stay in place, where they create a chronic infection that eventually causes scar tissue to form around the coils, thus closing the tubes and rendering the woman sterile.

Until recently, possible side effects of Essure listed on the product’s website included “mild to moderate pain and/or cramping, vaginal bleeding, and pelvic or back discomfort for a few days. Some women experienced nausea and/or vomiting or fainting. In rare instances, an Essure insert may be expelled from the body.”

Angela Desa-Lynch, an administrator for the Facebook group “Essure Problems,” which protests the device, told CNA that the thousands of women in the group had experienced these problems to the extreme.

“Whatever they’ve put on the label, multiply it by 200,” she told CNA.

At least five deaths of women and five deaths of fetuses in women who have been implanted with Essure have been reported. Other side effects many women have experienced include perforated organs, coils lodged in colons, fetal disfigurement due to nickel poisoning, chronic pain, exhaustion, depression, and suicidal thoughts.

The group, which grew from about 14,000 to over 18,000 just since February, seeks to inform and save every woman they can from getting Essure implants. In a statement on its website, the group said it feels encouraged by the FDA’s announcement.

“We feel like the FDA … is taking some steps in the (see Birth Control, p. 25)

KoC Pledge “More of Everything” for Mideast Christians in Major Campaign

Philadelphia (National Catholic Register)—The Knights of Columbus (KoC) unveiled a major expansion of their campaign to aid the Middle East’s embattled Christians, calling on its members to recall the same spirit that inspired them to assist Mexico’s persecuted Catholics and refugees during the Cristero War in the 1920s.

Carl Anderson, the KoC’s supreme knight, announced the massive push to raise money for the Christian Refugee Relief Fund at August 4 news conference during the 2015 Supreme Convention in Philadelphia. The campaign will support the Middle East’s Churches and Christians weathering the persecution and unrest that has gripped much of the Middle East following Islamic State militants’ takeover of much of Syria and Iraq.

The plan for the Knights consists of two parts: action at the national level partnered with action at the local level. Overall, 15,000 local Knights councils are raising awareness, educating people and fundraising at the local level. The national organization will support by providing olive-wood crosses crafted in Bethlehem, Palestine, which councils may sell at parish fundraisers, in addition to their other efforts.

A national television ad campaign will be ongoing. The Knights have also produced a new site called ChristiansatRisk.org, which provides current information on the crisis and how to donate. They are also promoting social-media activism using the hashtag #ChristiansatRisk to generate awareness about the threats to the Middle East’s Christians.

The Knights will cover all of the program’s administrative costs involved.

“One hundred percent of the money raised will go directly to aiding those in need and to raising awareness on their behalf, so that even more people can assist them,” Anderson added.

A Great Need Today

Christians in the Middle East region who have suffered violence or persecution are facing both short-term and long-term needs. Michael La Civita, Communications director for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), told the Register that besides food, water and clothing needs, many Christian refugees suffer from untreated post-traumatic stress disorder and need emotional and spiritual care.

La Civita said they also need economic support, as utter desperation puts many of them in danger of human trafficking.

“We know religious women are working with Catholic women who have been forced into prostitution,” he said. “The crisis is not over, and the long-term needs have not been addressed yet,” he said. “But Americans are very generous, and we’ve all seen an increase in the interest, care and solicitation for their Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East.”

Archbishop Bashar Warda of the Chaldean Catholic Archeparchy of Erbil in Iraq’s Kurdistan region explained that the assistance they have received has allowed the Church to put all of the refugees from ISIS’ persecution into permanent dwellings.

More than 125,000 Christians fled Mosul and the Nineveh Plain for Kurdistan in the wake of ISIS’s takeover in June 2014, when Christians were told that they could convert, die, or leave, taking none of their possessions, and many were forced to live in tents, classrooms, and unfinished buildings for months due to the lack of accommodations.

Archbishop Warda said the assistance of US Catholics helped get displaced Christians into permanent housing within six months.

Archbishop Warda explained the local Church has to pay $300-300 monthly in rent to sustain these families and praised the generosity of the Knights and other Catholic organizations that have helped them provide decent housing for the displaced Christians. He added that they have also been able to build eight schools and two medical clinics through their support.

Syriac Bishop to Receive Beatification on 100th Anniversary of His Martyrdom

Diyarbakir, Turkey (CNA/EWTN News)—Last month Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing the martyrdom of Flavien-Michel Malké, a Syriac Catholic bishop who was killed in 1915 amid the Ottoman Empire’s genocide against its Christian minorities.

The decision was made during an August 8 meeting between Pope Francis and Angelo Cardinal Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Bishop Malké was declared beatified August 29—the one-hundredth anniversary of his martyrdom—during a liturgy celebrated by His Beatitude Ignatius Youssif III Younan, Patriarch of the Syriac Catholic Church, at the convent of Our Lady of Deliverance in Lebanon. Thousands of Syrians and Iraqis displaced by ISIS attended.

Born in 1858 to a Syriac Orthodox family, Bl. Flavien-Michel joined a monastery of that Church and was ordained a deacon, but then converted to the Syriac Catholic Church. He received holy orders at Aleppo in 1883, and became a bishop in the 1890s.

It was during this same period that the Muslim Ottoman Empire’s persecution of Christians began. By its end, 80,000-300,000 Christians had been massacred.

A second round of persecution of Christians in the Ottoman Empire began in April 1915. Known as the Armenian Genocide, it targeted the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek Christian minorities in the empire. This time, 1.5 million lives were lost.

When his friends and acquaintances urged him to withdraw from his See to someplace safer, he replied, “Even my blood I will shed for my sheep.”

Arrested with four priests and a Chaldean-rite bishop and imprisoned for two months, his jailers executed him when he steadfastly refused to convert to Islam.

He was the last Syriac bishop of Gazireh. After his death, the diocese was suppressed, and today the Syriac Catholic Church has no presence in Turkey.

The postulator of Bishop Malké’s cause Fr. Rami al-Kabalan said that exactly 100 years after his death, Bishop Malké serves as a prophetic witness because “we Christians of the East are undergoing the same persecutions, even if in a different way. The image of this martyr gives us courage to defend our faith and to live our faith.”

Bl. Flavien-Michel, pray for us. ♦
How Fr. Serra Saved an Indian from Execution

Los Angeles (CNA/EWTN News) — Bl. Junípero Serra, OFM’s love for the natives of California extended even to those who martyred his friends and fellow missionary Fray Luis Jaime, OFM, said the archbishop of Los Angeles in a summary of an early argument against the death penalty for a native Californian.

“In his appeals, he said some truly remarkable things about human dignity, human rights, and the mercy of God,” Archbishop José Gomez said in Kansas City, Kansas, July 29.

The archbishop reflected on the Franciscan missionary’s actions in the wake of a 1775 attack by California natives and the technologies drawn up a “bill of rights” that called for justice and the promotion of human development.

Fr. Serra argued that “if the Indians were to kill me … they should be forgiven.”

Archbishop Gomez suggested Father was “the first person in the Americas – and maybe in all of the universal Church – to make a theological and moral argument against the death penalty,” adding Bl. Junípero was “a defender and protector of the native peoples,” especially women, from the “systematic violence” of the Spanish military. Though many Europeans denied the natives’ humanity, Padre Serra drew up a “bill of rights” that called for justice and the promotion of human development.

Archbishop Gomez drew a lesson from this, encouraging pro-life Catholic leaders to “follow in the path of the missionaries and saints of the Americas and to proclaim the Gospel of Life, which is the heart of the message of Jesus.”

Holy Father Recognizes Heroic Virtue of Ukrainian Bishop

Rome (Ecumenical News) — Pope Francis has recognized the heroism of Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from 1900-44 in a summary of an early argument against the death penalty for a native Californian.

He was given the name Roman Alexander Maria at baptism, and later took the name Andrey when he entered the Ukrainian monastery of St. Basil the Great in 1891.

He entered the Order of St. Basil, associated with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The order worked for the oppressed and downtrodden. The California natives who joined the missions learned the faith, as well as the technologies and learning of Europe.

Pope Francis will canonize Bl. Junípero during his visit to the United States later this month.

Fr. Serra asked Spanish authorities to spare the lives of the California natives who had attacked the San Diego mission, even though they had killed several people.

In a December 15, 1775, letter to the Viceroy of New Spain Antonio María de Bucareli y Ursúa, the priest wrote, “Let the murderer live so he can be saved, which is the purpose of our coming here and the reason for forgiving him.”

The friar’s letter went to encourage not execution but rather what he characterized as “moderate punishment” to help the killer understand he is being pardoned by a law “which orders us to forgive offenses and to prepare him, not for his death, but for eternal life.”


Fr. Serra said one of the most important things he himself requested was that “if the Indians were to kill me … they should be forgiven.”

Archbishop Gomez suggested Father was “the first person in the Americas – and maybe in all of the universal Church – to make a theological and moral argument against the death penalty,” adding Bl. Junípero was “a defender and protector of the native peoples,” especially women, from the “systematic violence” of the Spanish military. Though many Europeans denied the natives’ humanity, Padre Serra drew up a “bill of rights” that called for justice and the promotion of human development.

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Jewish Man Rescuing Christians from ISIS

London (CNA/EWTN News) — George Weidenfeld was barely 18 when Nazi forces occupied his native Austria in 1938. He may not have lived to see his ninety-fifth birthday — but if he had, he would have celebrated this year — if not for the selfless generosity of Christians during World War II.

Weidenfeld was one of countless other Jewish youths who were evacuated from Nazi-occupied countries and resettled in England through Christian-led initiatives similar to the famous Kindertransport train program. When he arrived in England, Weidenfeld said Christians fed him, clothed him and supported his resettlement.

“Today it seems the tables have turned as Christian persecution across the globe reaches unprecedented levels. And in an effort to repay some of the generosity he received during World War II, Weidenfeld has launched a new program to rescue persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

The Weidenfeld Safe Havens Fund aims to rescue a projected 2,000 Christians from Syria and Iraq over the next two years.

“I had a debt to repay,” Weidenfeld told The Times. “It applies to so many young people who were brought on the Kindertransports. It was the Quakers and other Christian denominations who brought those children to England.”

“It was very (a) very high-minded operation, and we Jews should also be thankful and do something for the endangered Christians.”

The Fund sponsored its first rescue just last week, flying 150 Syrian Christians to Poland on a privately chartered plane.

The new initiative has faced some criticism for its exclusion of other persecuted religious minorities in the Middle East, including Yazidis, Druze, and Shia Muslims. But Weidenfeld has defended his initiative’s narrow focus.

I can’t save the world,” he said. “But there is a very specific capability on the Christian side.”

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Life Changing Bible Study Comes to Diocese

The Knights of Columbus Council at St. Eugene has announced that its annual Bible study for 2015-16 is the Great Adventure Bible Timeline, making it one of two diocesan parishes to use the program this fall. St. Rose Church used an abbreviated version of it last year.

This unique, easy to follow, DVD-based program features well-known EWTN personality and popular speaker Jeff Cavins. His study helps participants understand Scripture by looking at God’s plan for mankind’s salvation, and does so by covering 14 of the Bible’s narrative books (i.e., those that tell a story), going from Genesis through the Book of Acts.

To understand why it would be good to participate in the Great Adventure, NCC recently spoke with Cavins from his home in Minneapolis.

Why do a Bible study such as the “Great Adventure Bible Timeline?”

One reason is that the Bible is the basis of everything we know as Catholics. When I say everything, I’m speaking of the particulars: Mass, the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, the papacy, heaven, hell, mortal sin, venial sin. Everything you can imagine as a Catholic springs from the story of salvation history.

And if people don’t know salvation history, they will not understand the particulars that well, because [the particulars] will be individual ideas without a general [structure].

What we’re facing in the Catholic Church is people don’t want to know more about the sacraments, more about confirmation, more about prayer and the Rosary, and so forth. The reason is that they don’t have a story to apply it to, and that story is salvation history.

A lot of people will study about Our Lady, about prayer, about the sacraments, and so forth. But when you really get to talking with them, they don’t know how all of these apply to our faith, because they don’t know the story which they come from.

So that’s the importance of really learning the story.

So we have a crisis. And that is that the world has a narrative. The world has a story. Dr. Phil has a story. Oprah has a story. And the greatest story in the world, the Bible, Catholics grow up and don’t know anything about it.

What will people get out of this?

Number one, they are going to understand that they can read the Bible. We present the Bible in a way they can understand. We’ve divided up the Bible into 12 color coded periods and chosen 14 of [Scriptures’] 73 books, 14 that are narrative. In other words, [these books] keep the story moving.

Then we explain all of the major characters and all the major events and how it all fits into one story.

One of the problems Catholics face is they think the Bible’s a book, and it’s not a book. It’s a library. It’s a library of 73 books, and you have to know how to read those so that you pick up the story.

[You’ll learn] how to read the Bible, and we visit all the major characters and all the major events of salvation history, but we [also] show you where some of the great truths of the Faith spring from within the story.

We basically teach people to commune with God, to talk with God in His word the rest of their life.

Let’s play devils advocate: Twenty-four weeks. That’s a long time. Why should people invest that much of such a valuable commodity they’ll never get back?

I would say, number one, we’re not people who live 70, 80, 90 years. We are people who live forever. We are eternal beings. You’re going to live either with God or you’re going to live in hell forever. Once you experience forever, once you experience eternity, once a week for 24 weeks will be like a simple vapor of smoke, just for a brief instant.

People are desperately searching for answers in their life. Twenty-four weeks is not a long time in light of understanding the greatest story ever, the key to universe, the key to life, the key to happiness.

And the idea you won’t get it back? Oh, you’ll get it back. You’ll get it back, because if you enter the story and apply it in your life? You’ll get that back many, many fold, over and over.

What will they get for $48, and why so expensive?

For 24 weeks? Number one, it’s not expensive. Forty eight dollars is very cheap if you think about it. You have $48 and 24 sessions: That’s $2 per week for teaching and materials.

So I just help people understand. Starbucks is $4 for a cup of coffee and the Bible Timeline is $2 a week. You know: $4/day for coffee or cigarettes or fill in the blank versus $2/week for the Bible Timeline. It’s up to you.

Ukiah Church Gets Gift from Buddhists

In the 1890s in Ukiah, the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose opened and ran a combination boarding school, orphanage, and school for children from abusive families. Its former wards talk lovingly about how truly kind and wonderful the Sisters were to the boys and girls. Until the 1960s, it was called the Albertinum after St. Albert the Great, a Dominican Doctor of the Church and the teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas.

However after the Second Vatican Council, lack of funds and declining vocations meant the Sisters could no longer operate the facility, and it was shuttered in 1969.

Then starting in 1970, it was owned briefly for a time by the Greek Orthodox Church and subsequently, starting in the 1980s, the property was used to serve troubled youth as the Trinity School until it closed in 2009.

The Albertinum stood fallow until Dharma Realm Buddhist University recently purchased the property. Its leaders decided to donate to St. Mary of the Angels Church in Ukiah the old crucifix and cross that hung on the wall of the school’s chapel.

Parish pastor Fr. Alvin Villaruel said he is unsure where the church will place the cross and corpus, but “We will surely find a place for it.”

Jeff Cavins

Exaltación y Triunfo de la Santísima Cruz St. Guy of (Guido de) Anderlecht, layman, sacristan, farmer, investor, pilgrim, patron of
A Women’s Magazine You Don’t Have to Hide from Your Daughter

Anyone checking out at a supermarket or drugstore in the last 40 years has grown accustomed to seeing the headlines blaring and grasping for our attention from magazines such as Cosmopolitan and Glamour.

Perhaps Cosmo is the most egregious offender in terms of its level of vulgarity and promotion of things the Church stands against. A review of the journal's website found that for the roughly 60 stories posted for August 11, 28 of them had to do with promoting abortion, sex outside of marriage, or the unhealthy obsession so many young women have with their bodies and which has led to eating disorders and other maladies.

How many of us have tried to shield our daughters' (and sons') eyes from these salacious magazines in grocery store checkout lines? It has gotten so bad that some stores place boards over the magazines so that only the title is revealed. After all, readers know what they will get if they buy an issue. They don't need to see the headlines.

Now, though, there is a healthy Catholic alternative. Radiant magazine is the brainchild of Rose Rea. Like its secular counterparts, it is geared for ladies who are teenagers and young adults. It contains articles on fashion, makeup, and dating.

But unlike non-sectarian alternatives, it also features articles such as "Top 10 Reasons to Love Youth Ministry." Furthermore, it has a decidedly countercultural message.

For instance there is an article by well-known pro-lifer Lila Rose showing the negative side of artificial, chemical, hormonal contraceptives. Readers will also learn about God's plan for our bodies and sexuality in articles such as "Theology of the Body: Myths vs. Facts."

Another article details the sartorial tastes of Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, who lived in the early twentieth century and may have been the most handsome saint ever. Musician Danielle Rose—who is related to Lila—is interviewed about spending time with Chinese orphans and her new album.

One writer shares the letters she wrote her husband-to-be … before they were even dating. They are touchingly romantic and beautiful, a young woman sharing her heart with the man who will win it forever, even though she doesn't yet know him. Another article talks about growing in our walk with God.

And it has the quizzes you expect in Glamour, but Radiant's have titles such as, "Quiz Putting Your Virtue to the Test," by young adult and teen speaker Sarah Swafford.

The best part about this gorgeously designed and beautiful to look at periodical is its price: Just $10 per year. Sadly it is such a small venture that for now, it only publishes annually. Rea says they hope to eventually make it into a quarterly, but for now the goal is to keep it going.

To learn more or to order a copy, go to www.be-radiant.com.

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A Catholic High School in the Lasallian Tradition

St. Matthew: September 21
Dutch Euthanasia Expert: Children May Be Pressured to Die by Assisted Suicide

Amsterdam (National Right to Life)— _The Dutch News_ reported July 3 that Professor Theo Boer, a Dutch euthanasia expert, is concerned that the Netherlands Pediatric Association (NVK) is extending euthanasia to children under the age of 12, and that children will be pressured by family members.

According to the publication, “Last month … NVK called for the minimum age of 12 to be scrapped, arguing that some terminally ill children of 10 and 11 are capable of deciding that they want to die.”

Boer explained, “Around one in five patients who choose euthanasia in the Netherlands acts under pressure from family members.”

He based the estimate on his experience as a member of a euthanasia review committee for nine years where he reviewed 4,000 euthanasia deaths.

Boer told _The Dutch News_, “Sometimes it’s the family who goes to the doctor. Other times it’s the patient saying they don’t want their family to suffer. And you hear anecdotaly of families saying [to ailing parents], ‘Mom, there’s no point in suffering anymore.’”

Since 20 percent of those who die by assisted suicide are pressured by family members, therefore children who die by this method are also likely to be pressured by family members.

Boer is also concerned by the overall growth of euthanasia in the Netherlands.

Euthanasia “and assisted suicide… has tripled from around 1,800 in the early years to 4,829 in 2013,” he says. Although the vast majority of requests still come from terminally ill cancer patients, the parameters have gradually widened to take in growing numbers of people with conditions such as Alzheimer’s and psychiatric illness.

Boer is further concerned because, “The debate has changed. Euthanasia is no longer a last resort. It was originally seen as a law that gave doctors rights rather than patients. But we very frequently hear it discussed in terms of a patient’s right to euthanasia.”

Boer also argues that the reasons for euthanasia have changed. He has been critical of phenomena such as “dual euthanasia,” where the partner of a terminally ill patient asks to die with them because he or she believes they cannot face life alone.

Doctors are also feeling pressured by euthanasia. According to a study that was published by the Dutch Medical Association last December, “70 percent of doctors had experienced pressure, while 64 percent felt it had increased in recent years. The survey did not ask where the pressure came from.”

Boer believes the Dutch euthanasia law should be tightened. “We made a number of serious mistakes when we drew up the law,” says Boer. “The problem with being the first country is that you have no precedent. It’s good on some points, such as transparency and evaluation, but in general it’s nothing for us to be proud of. I worry that if death is seen too quickly as the solution, the value of life is reduced.”

Last November, Boer urged the Dutch government to reform the euthanasia law. He said people who had months, even years to live were dying by euthanasia.

The Bible: God Speaks to Us

Each time we open the Bible, we “dial God’s number.” We can select any other book from a library shelf, read it, and learn valuable information. All the while, however, the book’s author is not aware of what we are doing. But when we pick up the Bible, God says “Hello.” As everyone who’s opened the Bible knows, it can be hard to understand.

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Child & Youth Protection

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**Julie Sparacio, Director**
Child and Youth Protection
707-566-3309
jsparacio@srdicoese.org

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Bishop Disaffiliates Diocese from Boy Scouts

Bismarck, North Dakota (CNA/EWTN News)—Former Boy Scout and current ordinary of Bismarck, North Dakota, Bishop David Kagan, has reluctantly told his diocese to disaffiliate from the Boy Scouts of America due to the legal risks and the moral confusion its new leadership policy could cause for Catholics.

“I’m very disappointed with this whole turn of events. I just can’t express that adequately enough,” Bishop Kagan told CNA August 6.

He said the Boy Scouts’ new policy risks lawsuits for church-sponsored troops that attempt to hold their leaders and volunteers to moral standards.

“I can’t say it’s a probability, but it’s a distinct possibility. It’s a reality we have to face,” he said.

Troops sponsored by a parish or a parish school would have to expect Catholic moral standards of leaders and volunteers. Those who disagree with those standards might object.

“Then we’ll be embroiled again in something else,” the bishop said.

“I had to ask myself, ‘Do I want to put our pastors, our parishes, our schools, or diocese through something like that?’ I don’t think anyone wants that.”

In July the Boy Scouts of America announced it would adopt a non-discrimination policy allowing homosexuals to be leaders and volunteers. While the latest decision promised that churches with objections to homosexual behavior could set their own standards for affiliated organizations, the future of the organization is not clear.

Bishop Kagan said that while the Boy Scouts of America appears to have a religious exemption that each local troop could invoke, in his view that will provide “no protection” for any of the diocese’s parishes and schools that sponsor troops.

News from Catholic Charities

Purchase of the Family Support Center
As of July 31, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa (CCDSR) has acquired ownership of the Family Support Center and buildings surrounding it on A Street in downtown Santa Rosa.

The property was purchased with the help of a donation in the form of a significant price reduction from former owner St. Joseph Memorial Hospital, a community development grant from the City of Santa Rosa, and an anonymous donation. The agency is currently assessing what needs to be done to make these facilities more welcoming for the homeless families who live there, where the average age is 12 years old.

Rural Food Project
The mission of CCDSR is to reach out to those in need, offer hope through service, and build better communities. In service to that mission, the organization has over 22 programs serving seniors, immigrants, and those facing homelessness.

One of the biggest problems that those in poverty face is lack of healthy food and nutrition. Homeless people are three to four times more likely to die prematurely than those in housing. Homeless children are sick four times more often than other children and have higher rates of obesity due to nutritional deficiencies.

CCDSR’s Rural Food Project—in partnership with the Redwood Empire Food Bank and parishes throughout the diocese—aims to close the hunger gap by distributing healthy food to low-income individuals and families.

As an example, parishioners of St. Philip the Apostle and St. Teresa of Avila Churches gather in Occidental to serve the most vulnerable in their community and have been doing so for more than 27 years.

Last year nearly 400,000 pounds of food were distributed in rural Sonoma and Lake Counties. Along with providing food, staff give information and enrollment assistance for CalFresh (food stamps), which offers qualified families up to $700 per month to buy healthy food.

Other food programs that CCDSR provides include Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP), a statewide movement of local, state and national partners collectively working toward improving the health status of low-income children and families through increased fruit and vegetable consumption and daily physical activity.
Obituaries

Christine (née Totin) Haller
Christine Haller, age 89, passed June 4. Christine worked many years for title companies and she was a Grey Lady during World War II. This meant she volunteered at hospitals for the Red Cross. She and her compatriots wore a grey uniform with a white collar and cuffs.

The Grey Ladies acted as hostesses and provided recreational services to patients. Although the Grey Ladies provided non-medical care, they underwent a rigorous training process, provided by medical professionals and the Red Cross, which included hospital organization, ethics, psychiatry, and occupational therapy. During the war, their service reached its peak with almost 50,000 women serving in military and other hospitals throughout the United States.

Christine enjoyed sewing and made all her own clothes. Her international travels included trips to Australia to visit her late husband John’s sisters, and to Hungary to retrace John’s escape from Eastern Europe.

Her memorial Mass took place August 12 at Resurrection Church in Santa Rosa.

Martin Tandecke
At age 100, Martin Tandecke went to his reward on August 8. A member of the Coast Guard during World War II who saw action off of Iwo Jima, he lived in Sonoma County for 78 years and attended St. Rose Church. Area residents might best remember him for the restaurant he and his late wife Paula (née Gibbons) ran, The Beacon Lunch Restaurant at the corner of Santa Rosa Ave. and 3rd St. His family requests that memorial donations go to the restoration fund at St. Rose Church. Make checks to “Professing, Walking, Building,” PO Box 698, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

Assumption Church, Ferndale
Eileen (née Regli) Simpson: died July 9, 2015, age 68; memorial Mass July 20, 2015

Holy Spirit Church, Santa Rosa

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Mission, Asti

St. Bernard Church, Eureka
Rose Marie (née Avila) Judice: died July 18, 2015, age 83; graveside services, July 23, 2015

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Rohnert Park
Julio A. “Dino” Garcia: died August 15, 2015, age 53; funeral services August 21, 2015

St. Eugene Cathedral, Santa Rosa
Tomas de Guzman: died July 15, 2015
Joseph Angel Saludes; died July 22, age 84; funeral Mass July 31, 2015
Aurora Monge: died July 9, 2015, age 62; memorial service September 4, 2015

St. James Church, Petaluma
Giuseppina “Josie” Grossi: died July 14, 2015, age 74; memorial service August 15, 2015
Barbara Jean (née Grimm) Beltrametti: died August 9, 2015, age 77; memorial service August 17, 2015

Mary Ann McGrath: died August 10, 2015, age 83; funeral Mass August 18, 2015

St. John the Baptist Church, Healdsburg
James Rowe: died July 14, 2015, age 83; funeral service July 22, 2015

St. John the Baptist Church, Napa
Guadalupe Ceja: died August 12, 2015, age 90; funeral Mass August 17, 2015 (será enterrado en México)

St. Leo Church, Boyes Hot Springs
Loyce Ann (née Hankins) Haran: died August 10, 2015, age 81; memorial service August 29, 2015

St. Peter Church, Cloverdale
Robert Parks Dailey: died July 6, 2015, age 67
Michael Falleri: died August 3, 2015, age 63; funeral Mass August 14, 2015

St. Sebastian Church, Sebastopol

St. Januarius: September 19

LEGACY of FAITH SERVICES for your PARISH

Catholic Cemeteries is offering, for Parish ministry enhancement, the following workshops:

~ Journey Through Grief: Catholic faith-based bereavement parish ministry.

~ Works of Mercy: Clergy and parish staff development for ministries of consolations rooted in the works of mercy for the dead and grieving.

~ Pastoring People in Time of Tragedy: Clergy and parish staff responses and pastoral care in times of individual, family or community tragedy.

For more information or to discuss workshops specific for your parish call 707-546-6290 or email Deacon Harry Martin at harry.dsrem@sbglobal.net

www.catholiccemeteries-dsr.org * www.facebook.com/catholiccemeteriesSR

Catholic Cemeteries ... A Legacy of Faith
Behold: The old becomes new in Windsor
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Windsor has opened its new chapel, located in the Fr. Angelito Peries, CSSR, Library in the parish hall. The chapel will remain open 8am-5pm weekdays. There is a kneeler in front of the Tabernacle for adoration and the ability to place flowers before Our Lady. Many of the items used to create this chapel were taken from the original chapel in the church, including the altar, cross, Our Lady of Guadalupe picture, holy water font, and sanctuary light. The presider’s chair is the only surviving item from the 1982 fire that destroyed the original mission church. Take a close look and you can see the burn patterns and fire damage on it. Thanks to Ursula Harvey for refining this beautiful legacy.

star of the Valley Library opening “a huge success”
On August 2, Star of the Valley Church in Santa Rosa held an Open House in its new library and it was characterized as “a huge success.”

Faye Ralph, a friend of parishioner Priscilla Naworski, won the drawing for a new copy of the late Henry Trione’s book, Footprints of the Baker Boy.

Office Manager Sharon A. Charlton designed well-crafted signs for each bookshelf and, thanks to another generous parishioner, these rest in beautiful sign holders.

That same day, the SOV Monday Afternoon Group had a sale of some of their handmade treasures. It was highly successful. The cost of the group’s supplies has escalated so the proceeds will go to buying more supplies. What is left over after that will go to the Women’s Club’s charities.

Any unsold quilts, Afghans, and other items were donated to Catholic Charities, The Living Room, and St. Joseph’s. Many should be on wheel-chairs.

Food bank needs volunteers
Want to fulfill our God-given duty to help the poor and do a corporal work of mercy? Redwood Empire Food Bank needs you! Volunteer with your friends and family to help our neighbors in need. Warehouse, Kitchen Collective, Value Market, and Food Connections volunteers are needed. For more information, contact Helen Myers at hmmyers@refb.org or call 707-523-7900, x143.

A party with St. James at St. Mary of the Angels
On July 25, St. Mary of the Angels Church in Ukiah celebrated the First NorCal Patron Santiago [i.e., St. James] Fiesta with Mass and procession that included an image of St. James and masks called tlahualiles that are typical of Sahuyú, Michoacán, Mexico. Equestrian pilgrims who rode their horses from Willits and Redwood Valley led the procession around the parish. The fiesta was preceded by a novena [a nine-day prayer] in honor of the patron of pilgrims, pilgrimages, healing of arthritis, laborers, and many towns around the world.

Cathedral Happenings for Women and Men
St. Eugene Cathedral will be a hub of activity over the next few months.

For instance, women will gather in September at part of the ENO Network. They will take an in-depth look at Pope St. John Paul II’s Letter to Women, which trumpets women’s special place in the family, the church, and the world. The seminar runs between September 7 and October 26 from 7-9pm in the PLC’s Charity room. Those wanting more information should e-mail glopezmi@gmail.com or call 707-253-465-7799. To learn more, visit www.EndowGroups.org.

For their part, the Knights of Columbus Council 4930 will design and build a pro-life memorial on cathedral grounds. The memorial will be built in conjunction with the 50th-remodel of St. Eugene. For more information, please contact Greg De Gennaro at 707-494-5969, or gregoryd@sonic.net.

The Knights will have its annual Bible study starting Monday September 28th. This year’s study is the Great Adventure Bible Timeline covering 14 narrative biblical books (i.e., those that tell a story) from Genesis through the Book of Acts. The study is a great way of learning the Bible while understanding the salvation story.

The study is open to men and women 18 years and older. The cost of the class is essentially $2 per week for all supplies, which is to say $84 per person. RSVP by September 5. For more information, contact Greg De Gennaro. Phone 707-494-5969 or e-mail gregoryd@sonic.net.

Penance, Poverty, and Praise
On Sunday, July 26, at Cardinal Newman High School Chapel, Fr. John Boetcher, OFS, diocesan director of Spirituality led a Franciscan Day of Reflection. It started with a potluck lunch at 12:30pm, followed by the program from 1:30-6:30pm.

A finger lickin’ good time
On August 2, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Fort Bragg held its sixty-first annual Catholic Chicken BBQ fundraiser. Besides music and drinks, it featured fun games and rides and a 24’ rock wall.

Ferndale rummage sale huge success
Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Ferndale recently held its annual rummage sale. Sponsored by the Assumption Church Ladies Guild, it was a success with over 200 people attending. The sale included items such as small appliances, various household items, dish sets and glassware, clothing, books and much more.

The sale is a popular annual fundraising event which has occurred over 25 years. Proceeds from the sale were $2,400 which will go to support CCD program and parish hall maintenance.

Arcata’s St. Mary lauds St. Anthony
On August 29 and 30, the Portuguese Community of Arcata celebrated the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, who was Portuguese. The celebration started on Saturday, August 29 with a dinner that was followed by music, dance, and conversation. On Sunday, August 30, a special devotion of the saint took place during the 11am Mass. After Mass, a lunch of sopas (soup) and alcatra (beef) were served at the Portuguese Hall. More music, more dancing, and an auction followed. The organizing committee reports it was a time of devotion and joy for all.

Soon to be 150 years young
In June 2016, St. Helena Church in St. Helena will celebrate its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. In anticipation of that blessed even, the parish is asking to borrow photos (weddings, christenings, First Communions, receptions, etc.). They also need anecdotes and historical stories about the parish, its staff, its pastors, and so forth. Finally they need helpers. If you would like to take part in the planning and preparation for events surrounding the anniversary, or have photos and/or stories to share, please contact the parish office at 707-963-1228.

California
Sheriff: Church backed proposition contributing to rise in crime
Los Angeles (Associated Press)—Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell said in a July 25 interview that Proposition 47, which the Church strongly backed, has played a significant role in the rising crime rate in Los Angeles County and has taken away the incentive for addicts to seek treatment.

The purpose of Prop. 47 was to relieve overcrowded prisons by reducing penalties for crimes such as shoplifting, petty theft, and possessing small amounts of illegal drugs. Through June, however, the LA County Sheriff’s Department reports a 3.39 percent increase in violent crime and a 6.9 percent increase in property crime.

“We had 10 years of crime reduction, we were at 50-year lows in many areas on crime statistics, and all of a sudden right after November when 47 kicked in, that changed and fairly dramatically, very quickly,” he said. “It would be naive to say that 47 didn’t play a major role in that.”

The sheriff further said the law prevents authorities from leveraging the threat of a felony charge to get addicts into treatment. As a result, county treatment rolls are down 60 percent.

“They are no longer incarcerated, they’re not in treatment, they’re out reoffending on the street,” McDonnell said.

Ironically, Prop. 47’s backers had hoped it would provide savings from reduced jail populations, which would then be plowed into treatment programs. However, with no leverage to get people into programs, coupled with a 2011 law that reduces state prison populations by moving the overflow of inmates into county jails, and with the jails filled with roughly 18,000 criminals, savings have failed to materialize.

Before Prop. 47, the jails were overcrowded and inmates served just 10 to 15 percent of their sentences. Now they’re serving 90 percent of their sentences, McDonnell said, but there’s no money for the treatment services.

Lenore Anderson, an attorney with Californians for Safety and Justice, warned that McDonnell might be drawing an inaccurate conclusion.

“Crime rates are shifting in the cities outside California, locales that have not had recent changes in the law,” she said in a statement. “Voters passed Prop. 47 because the old system was costly and failed to break the cycle of crime.”

In other comments, McDonnell weighed in against marijuana legalization. He said pot is far more potent today. People take it expecting a gentle buzz and find something far more intense that can even produce hallucinations. Furthermore, law enforcement does not know how it would test for intoxication.

Brown signs law removing ‘alien’
Sacramento (Press Democrat)—On August 10, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill into law removing the term “alien” from the labor code to describe foreign-born workers.

Sen. Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) said the legislation was necessary because “alien” is now commonly considered a derogatory term with very negative connotations.

National
IRS: Church’s tax exempt status safe
Washington, DC (CNA/EWTN News) — Following the Supreme Court of the United States decision declaring same-sex civil marriage to be a fundamental right, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) said it has no intention of revoking religious non-profits’ tax status.

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, who made the case for the IRS, to the state’s newspaper for religious freedom in America and for the non-profit charities, churches, and religiously affiliated universities who feared they would be denied tax-exempt status by the IRS because their sincerely held religious beliefs prohibit them from

9/19 Our Lady of / Nuestra Señora de La Salette St. Januarius (Jenaro), patron of Naples; NORTH COAST CATHOLIC / SEPTEMBER 2015 / www.srdiocese.org 17
participating in same-sex marriage.”

He said his office will “trust but verify” the IRS and continue to monitor its actions to ensure Americans aren’t targeted unfairly for exercising their religious beliefs.

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen told the attorney general that it does not view the June 2015 Supreme Court decision Obergefell v. Hodges as “having changed the law applicable to section 501(c)(3) determinations or examinations.”

“The IRS does not intend to change the standards that apply to section 501(c)(3) organizations by reason of the Obergefell decision,” Koskinen said.

States defund Planned Parenthood
Washington, DC (CNA/EWTN News)—On August 6 Alabama became the third state that week to withdraw funding from its local branches of Planned Parenthood following the United States Senate failed to bring to the floor a bill that would have blocked federal funding of the abortion group.

The decision comes in the wake of a series of undercover videos released that show employees of the organization describing the harvesting of body parts from aborted babies at their clinics.

Gov. Robert Bentley wrote to the head of Planned Parenthood Southeast August 6 informing her that his state’s Medicaid agency is terminating existing agreements with Planned Parenthood Southeast. The termination will take effect in 15 days.

Bentley tweeted that “As a doctor and Alabama’s Governor, the issue of human life, from conception to birth and beyond, is extremely important to me” and “I respect human life, and I do not want Alabama to be associated with an organization that does not.”

On August 5, the Executive Council of New Hampshire (the state’s executive body along with its governor) voted 3-2 to deny the state’s contract with Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. The decision will remove $639,000 in state funding of the organization.

The Louisiana Department of Health ended its Medicaid provider contract with Planned Parenthood August 3, though it will take effect in 30 days.

The decision was made according to Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Catholic and Republican presidential candidate, because “Planned Parenthood does not represent the values of the people of Louisiana and shows a fundamental disrespect for human life.” It has become clear that this is not an organization that is worthy of receiving public assistance from the state.”

The recent rise in controversy around Planned Parenthood is related to a series of videos released by the Center for Medical Progress. The videos show Planned Parenthood officials casually discussing prices for harvested body parts, and how abortion procedures may be altered to ensure intact organs.

The bishops of Colorado, as well as Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, have called for penance and prayer in response to the content of the videos. The bishops of Colorado designated August 17 as a day of public penance and prayer, and Archbishop Coakley called on the faithful “to engage in the political process as advocates for the dignity of human life.”

Top Catholic cities
In order, here are the 25 most Catholic cities in America by percentage of population according to the Public Religion Research Institute: Boston, New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Miami, Las Vegas, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Phoenix, St. Louis, Cleveland, Houston, Detroit, Columbus, Cincinnati, Denver, Washington, DC, Dallas, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Orlando, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon.

According to HuffingtonPost.com, “Catholics and the religiously unaffiliated vie for biggest faith-related population in many of these cities, with Protestants coming closely behind.”

Study: Families aren’t praying together (or much at all)
The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University recently released a study found that the spiritual health of Catholic families poor “grades.” Holy Cross Family Ministries, an organization promoting family prayer and well-being around the world funded the study.

According to Our Sunday Visitor, “The study’s finding that only 22 percent of Catholic parents attend Mass weekly is not inconsistent with other research showing about a quarter of Catholics attend Mass faithfully. But what is more concerning is how few weekly Mass-attending families either pray together or engage in any kind of religious formation in the parish or the home.”

“According to the HRCF/CARA data, 36 percent of Catholic parents pray daily, but only 17 percent ever pray as a family. Perhaps most disheartening on the family prayer front is that while 50 percent of Catholic families do eat dinner together daily, only 13 percent of Catholic families regularly say grace before meals.

“Equally troubling are the low rates of family involvement in religious education. Considering the low Mass attendance rates among the general population of Catholic parents, it may be unsurprising that 41 percent of all Catholic parents do not have their children enrolled in any type of formal religious education. More shockingly, however, only 42 percent of weekly Mass attending families have their children enrolled in religious education. For 58 percent of families who attend weekly Mass, the roughly one hour a week they spend in church is the extent of their ongoing faith formation.

“Many believe the low rate of Catholic elementary and high school enrollment (8 percent and 3 percent respectively, according to the HRCF/CARA) is due to high tuition costs, but that is not the case. Only 14 percent of those families in the upper-middle-class bracket (households earning $85,000+/year) have their children enrolled in Catholic schools. These numbers suggest that the low rate of enrollment in Catholic schools may not be a financial crisis, but a spiritual one. Regular Mass attendance and Catholic schools simply do not appear to value Catholic religious education (either Catholic schools or CCD), do not engage in faith formation activities in their home, and do not pray together.

“According to the HRCF/CARA study supports the assertion that most Catholics have been sacramentalized, some have been catechized, but only a tiny minority have been evangelized. It may not be that Catholic parents do not want to live their faith more fully in their homes, but it is clear that they at least don’t know how and it may not even occur to many that they should or could.”

Court: Christian pharmacists must provide birth control
Seattle (CNA)—Owners of a pharmacy in Washington state must provide the morning-after contraceptive pill against their religious beliefs after a federal appeals court upheld a state order to do so.


At issue is a 2005 state law that mandates pharmacies provide the morning-after and week-after contraceptive pills to customers even if they object to doing so. Individual employees may recuse themselves from filling such prescriptions if they have a religious objection, but another employee must be present to fill the prescription.

Pharmacists cannot simply refuse to fill the prescriptions while referring customers to other pharmacists that can do so, as the plaintiffs, owners of Ralph’s Thriftway store, had reportedly done in the past.

The Storman family owns the pharmacy and religiously objects to providing the morning-after and week-after pills, believing that they can induce early abortions.

Goodrich argued the state regulations are unmatched in the burden they lay upon businesses. No state besides Washington makes such a requirement of pharmacies.

The Stormans initially won at the federal district court level in 2012 after a 12-day trial featuring around 800 exhibits and testimonies from persons responsible for drafting and enforcing the law.

The district court found the law violated the First Amendment’s protection of the free exercise of religion and discriminated against religiously-owned and operated businesses by carving out certain other protections for pharmaceutical companies.

For instance, pharmacists did not have to obey the mandate if a patient could not pay for the prescription or if they filled out a fraudulent prescription note. Yet a similar mandate did not apply for those who expressed religious opposition.

The state, along with Planned Parenthood, appealed the case to the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In its decision, the court ruled the law did not violate the First Amendment’s protection of the free exercise of religion.

The law is “neutral and ‘generally applicable’... it doesn’t specifically target the practice of religion... so citizens must obey it regardless of their religious beliefs, the court said, adding that it fulfilled a compelling government interest of ensuring that everyone has access to contraception.”

Wisconsin enacts fetal pain, protection law
Madison, Wisconsin (CNA/EWTN News) — Wisconsin has now banned abortions 20 weeks into pregnancy on the grounds that unborn children feel pain, joining more than 12 states with similar laws.

The bill passed the state Senate by a vote of 19-14, and the Assembly by a vote of 61-34, in an extraordinary session of the Legislature.

 Gov. Scott Walker, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, spoke with reporters after he signed the bill on July 20.

“People, regardless of where they might stand—when an unborn child can feel pain, I think most people feel it’s appropriate to protect that child,” he said.

The bill bars abortions after 20 weeks or more after fertilization except in case of a medical emergency.

“Under the bill, no person can perform or induce an abortion when the unborn child is considered to be capable of experiencing pain,” the governor’s office said.

Those who perform an illegal abortion can face a felony charge punishable by up to three and a half years in prison and $10,000 in fines. Doctors can also be sued for damages.

Fourteen other states have similar restrictions on abortion, though several laws are facing legal challenges, The Associated Press reports.

Kevin Storman of Ralphs Thriftway

Gov. Scott Walker
Pew: Arson Causes Most Church Fires
Washington, DC (CNA)—Fifty-one percent of the reported fire incidents at United States houses of worship between 1996 and 2015 were determined to be caused by arson, according to a recent analysis by the Pew Research Center.

Church fires are investigated and classified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives as accidental, bombing, arson, threat or undetermined. Statistics show that just over half of the approximately 4,700 fires reported at houses of worship between 1996 and 2015 were ruled intentional.

There has been little change in the percentage of church fires caused by arson over the years, Pew says. However, there have been decreases in overall numbers of church fires, as well as numbers of intentional church fires.

"Between 1996 and 2000, an average of 191 intentional fires were reported each year, accounting for 52 percent of all church fires," the Pew analysis reads. "That average dropped to 74 intentional fires per year between 2010 and 2014, or 48 percent of all church fires."

In the first half of this year, 29 out of 79 reported fires at houses of worship have been ruled acts of arson. On August 2, there were two reports of bomb explosions at churches in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

In 1996, a congressional report found that black churches in the South were disproportionately targeted for arson. From 1980 to 1990, there were two reports of bomb explosions at churches in the South were disproportionately targeted for arson.

Baby's picture "too graphic" for fundraising site
Chicago (Yahoo Parenting)—When Jacob Hinks came into the world on June 30, he weighed just one pound, five ounces—barely the size of an adult hand.

Born via emergency C-section 13 weeks early after his mom Christina Hinks was diagnosed with placenta failure, Jacob soon developed serious complications. The most dangerous: kidney failure, which has kept him battling for his life on dialysis at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago.

To help with expenses, a friend set up a crowd-funding page on popular site GoFundMe.

Then a different kind of battle began. "Soon after it went up, my friend's brother-in-law tried to find Jacob's photo, but it wasn't in the site directory," Christina tells Yahoo! Parenting. If the page wasn't in the directory, she says, it would be difficult to find on the site.

A call to GoFundMe clued them into why the company didn't put the page in their directory. Staffers at the site deemed a photo of Jacob too "graphic" and potentially offensive to some viewers.

The Hinks alerted local media to their plight and replaced the photo of Jacob with a different family shot. That resulted in a call from a GoFundMe vice president.

"He apologized up and down and assured us that Jacob's photo was not too graphic," says Christina. To help right the situation, GoFundMe issued an apology—and donated $10,000 to Jacob's fund.

In a statement to Yahoo Parenting, GoFundMe media director Kelsea Little confirmed the Hinks's story and also clarified that the company is currently reviewing its photo policy.

International

No more Catholic ministry in Antarctica
Antarctica (CNA/EWTN News)—The Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand, has operated a ministry at McMurdo Station, the largest community in Antarctica, since November 1957. But a declining numbers of churchgoers has ended the program.

"There is a gradual decrease in religiosity. There is also a decrease in the number of people working at McMurdo Station and the South Pole and budget cuts. So all of these factors have led to the decision that only one chaplain is necessary," Fr. Dan Doyle, who coordinates the diocese's Antarctic ministry, told Radio New Zealand July 26.

McMurdo Station is a United States research center on Ross Island, which the National Science Foundation operates. It has some 1,000 residents during summers.

Peter West, a National Science Foundation spokesman, told the BBC, "There are Catholic chaplains available through the US military, so it's not as if practicing Catholics will not be able to avail themselves of services and a Catholic priest. But this particular program we cannot accommodate any longer."

Other Catholic chapels remain elsewhere in Antarctica. Argentina has several chapels at its bases, including one dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and Maranatha Base.

There are also several Eastern Orthodox chapels located in Antarctica.

New Hungarian ambassador to Holy See descendent of Holy Roman Emperor
Vatican City (Hungary) Today—Hungary's new ambassador to the Holy See is Edward Habsburg-Lothringen, the great-great-grandson of the late Austro-Hungarian Emperor and Hungarian King Franz Josef II (1830-1916), who himself was the grandson of the last Holy Roman Emperor Franz II, 1793-1875) and his wife Queen Elizabeth. Franz Joseph was the second to last Austro-Hungarian Emperor, the last being Bl. Karl I of Austria (1887-1922).

The diplomat, who currently lives in the Austrian capital Vienna, has been studying the Hungarian language intensively for the last year, Valasz.hu reports.

His father-in-law Alfonns M. Kloss currently serves as Austria's ambassador to the Holy See. The diplomat's father, Cardinal Michael Habsburg-Lothringen, is chairman of The [Cardinal] Mindszenty Foundation and a committed friend of Hungary.

A father of five children with his wife Baroness Maria Theresia von Gudenus, Edward has previously been director of Communications for the Diocese of Santo Pölten and a scriptwriter for several television series and the film Mary, Queen of Scots.

Egyptian layman’s beatification cause opened
Cairo (AsiaNews)—On August 8, in a solemn service held at Cairo’s Cathedral of the Resurrection, Patriarch Gregorios III of Antioch and All the East, head of the Melkite Church, officially opened the cause of beatification and canonization of Boutros Cassab, known as “the apostle of Upper Egypt and the young.”

The ceremony took place on the one hundredth and second anniversary of his birth. During the service, His Beatitude underlined Cassab’s charity work in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as well as his leadership in various Catholic youth associations.

Cassab, who was a married father of three, died on 23 March 1986, in Beni Suef, Egypt. During his lifetime, his apostolic work in Alexandria earned him the nickname “Apostle of Upper Egypt and the Delta.”

Procedure Launched to Beatify Slovenian Priest
Murska Sobota, Slovenia—The Vatican has made the first step in the procedure for the beatification of Danijel Halas, a Catholic priest who was executed in northeast eastern region of Prekmurje in 1945.

Early in World War II, the Nazis arrested him as a “communist collaborator” because he would not denounce local communists. He later told his bishop his refusal was based on the pastoral concern that communists would not repent or forgive him whom he might serve as a way back into the Church would avoid him if they thought he would denounce them.

Ironically, it was the communists who killed him for both his pastoral work and for his disuading several teens from joining the partisan—and atheist—communists.

Study: Men harder hit by break ups
London (Independent-UK)—Women are emotionally hit hardest after a break-up, but men suffer more in the long term and may never truly get over it.

That’s according to researchers who found men suffer as the impact of the loss “sinks in” and they have to start “competing” all over again for a significant other.

Cait Morrise, research associate at Binghamton University, says the differences boil down to biology.

“Put simply, women have evolved to invest far more in a relationship than a man,” Morris said.

As a result, the women among the study’s 5,705 participants surveyed across 96 countries reported higher levels of emotional investment and pain when a relationship came to an end than men did.

However that same need to choose a good “mate” also makes women very “selective” about who they date, so they are good at enlisting the support of their friends to pull through and choose someone else.

But men are more “competitive” in their approach, meaning the loss of a woman they see as a good catch could be deeply felt for months or even years.

And because women have more to lose by choosing the wrong partner, they are also more likely to pull the plug on a relationship, with 70 percent of divorces in the United States filed by women.

ISIS kidnaps more Christians, develops price list for females
Homs, Syria (Christian Post)—Dozens of Syrian Christian families have been abducted by fighters from ISIS, according to a new report from Reuters.

About 230 people, “some of whom were taken from a church,” were kidnapped or detained by ISIS when the terrorist group captured the Syrian town of Qaryatain on Friday. Prior to the start of the civil war, about 18,000 people lived in Qaryatain, about 2,000 of them Syriac Catholics and Orthodox Christians, reports The Telegraph.

Following the fighting between ISIS and the Syrian army, at least 1,400 families fled the town to safer areas or took shelter in the government-controlled city of Homs, reports the Assyrian Monitor for Human Rights.

In May, two priests who ran monasteries in the area, went missing from the town.

Earlier this year, ISIS launched surprise attacks on 35 villages in northeastern Syria and took more than 200 Christians captive. Some captives were released in March.

ISIS reportedly demanded a $25 million ransom for the release of 240 Christians, according to World Watch Monitor (WWM).

ISIS also published a price list last fall for female captives, who were traded like cattle or “barrels of petrol,” according to the Daily Mail. The group reportedly executed 19 girls who refused orders to sleep with ISIS fighters.

About 600,000 Syrian Christians have fled the country since the fighting began in 2011, reports The New York (see News Briefs, p. 28)
I Don’t Know if I’m Pro-Choice Anymore

The only thing I hate more than talking about abortion is writing about it. It’s no accident that in 2,000 columns over a quarter-century, I have never—ever—written about abortion. I’ve avoided the topic like a root canal.

But that is getting harder to do with the release of what are now five gruesome, albeit edited, undercover videos by The Center for Medical Progress depicting doctors and other top officials of Planned Parenthood discussing, and even laughing about, the harvesting of baby organs, as casually as some folks talk about the weather.

It’s jarring to see doctors acting as negotiators as they discuss the price of a fetal liver, heart, or brain, and casually as some folks talk about the weather.

That is another name for “wimping out.”

To her, that’s what it means to be a man. 

“Your can’t stand on the sidelines, especially now that you’ve seen these videos,” she told me recently. “… These are babies that are being killed. Millions of them. And you need to use your voice to protect them. That’s what a man does. He protects children—his own children and other children. That’s what it means to be a man.”

I didn’t like the scolding, but I needed to hear it. For those of us who are pro-choice, the Planned Parenthood videos are a game changer. As to whether that means I’ll change my view, I’m not sure. I’m on the bubble.

I express concern, outrage, disgust, or horror over another video—which should come with warnings that they may produce nightmares—some supporter of the organization responds by attacking me and insisting that I was never really pro-choice to begin with. …

After all this, I still consider myself pro-choice, as I have for the last 30 years. I staked out this position during the abortion debate was a tug-of-war between competing rights—those of the mother versus those of an unborn baby. I sided with the mother. And I tried not to think about the baby. …

As I’ve only recently realized lately, to be a man, and to declare yourself pro-choice, is to proclaim your neutrality. And as I’ve only recently been willing to admit, even to myself, that’s another name for “wimping out.”

At least that’s how my wife sees it. She’s pro-life, and so she’s been tearing into me every time a new video is released. She’s not buying my argument that, as a man, I have to defer to women and trust them to make their own choices about what to do with their bodies. To her, that’s ridiculous—and cowardly.

“You can’t stand on the sidelines, especially now that you’ve seen these videos,” she told me recently. “… These are babies that are being killed. Millions of them. And you need to use your voice to protect them. That’s what a man does. He protects children—his own children and other children. That’s what it means to be a man.”

I didn’t like the scolding, but I needed to hear it. For those of us who are pro-choice, the Planned Parenthood videos are a game changer. As to whether that means I’ll change my view, I’m not sure. I’m on the bubble.

Ask me in a few weeks, after the release of more videos. 

This editorial originally appeared in The Daily Beast and was truncated for reasons of space. To read the entire piece, go to tinyurl.com/pwvhbxp.
Papa Francisco explica que es la fiesta en la familia y por qué es un tiempo “sagrado”

Vaticano (ACI) — El Papa Francisco dedicó la catequesis de la audiencia general de este miércoles a reflexionar sobre la importancia de la fiesta en la familia, el trabajo y la oración, centrándose en el primero de estos tres aspectos.

El Santo Padre indicó que “la fiesta no es la pereza de quedarse en el sofá o en la emoción de una tonata evasión… No, la fiesta es en primer lugar una mirada amorosa y grata sobre el trabajo bien hecho; festejamos un trabajo.”

“También ustedes, recién casados, están festeejando el trabajo de un lindo niño de noviazgo; ¡y esto es bello! Es el tiempo para ver a los hijos, o los nietos, que están creciendo, y pensar: ¡qué bello! Es el tiempo para mirar nuestra casa, los amigos que hemos perdido, la comunidad que nos rodea, y pensar: ¡qué buena cosa! Dios ha hecho así cuando ha creado el mundo. Y continuamente hace así, porque Dios crea siempre, También en este momento!”

El Papa resaltó que “el tiempo de la fiesta es sagrado porque Dios habita en modo especial. La Eucaristía domínica lleva a la fiesta toda la gracia de Jesucristo: su presencia, su amor, su sacrificio, su hacerse comunidad, su estar con nosotros… Y es así, como cada realidad recibe su sentido pleno: el trabajo, la familia, las alegrias y los cansancios de cada día, también el sufrimiento y la muerte; todo se trasfigura por la gracia de Cristo.”

“Tras resulta la importancia del sacrificio por amor que muchas veces los padres hacen para que los hijos vivan la fiesta, el Papa dijo que también en el ambiente de trabajo “a veces—sí, falta a los deberes!—nosotros sabemos ‘filtrar’ alguna chispa de fiesta: un cumplido, un matrimonio, un nuevo nacimiento, como también una despedida o una nueva llegada: es importante. Es importante hacer fiesta. Son momentos de familiaridad en el engranaje de la máquina productiva: ¡nos hace bien!”

El Pontifice dijo luego que “nosotros no debemos ser nunca esclavos del trabajo, sino ‘señores’. Hay un mandamiento para esto, un mandamiento que se aplica a todos, ¡a todos!”

“La obesión por el beneficio económico y el eficientísmo nos hace menos capaces de normalizarnos la vida, porque la vida tiene sus ritmos humanos.”

Sobre el tiempo de reposo, especialmente los domingos, el Papa resaltó que “está destinado a nosotros para que podamos gozar de aquello que no se produce y no se consume, no se compra y no se vende. Y por el contrario vemos que la ideología de la ganancia y del consumo quiere devorar también la fiesta: y también ésta a veces se reduce a un ‘hocio’, un modo para ganar dinero y gastarlo.”

“La codicia del consumir, que comporta el desperdicio, es un virus feo, que entre otros, nos hace estar más cansados que antes. Perjudica el verdadero trabajo, consume la vida. Los ritmos desregulados de la fiesta causan víctimas, a menudo jóvenes.”

El Santo Padre explicó que “la fiesta es un invento de Dios” y que Él mismo “nos enseña la importancia de dedicar un tiempo a contemplar y a gozar de lo en el que el trabajo ha sido bien hecho. Hable de trabajo, naturalmente, no sólo en el sentido del arte manual y de la profesión, sino en el sentido más amplio: cada acción con la cual nosotros los hombres y mujeres podemos colaborar a la obra creadora de Dios.”

“La fiesta—concluyó el Papa—es un valioso regalo de Dios; un valioso regalo que Dios ha hecho a la familia humana: ¡no lo arruinemos! ¡No!”

Un católico no puede dar culto a la “Santa Muerte”, alertan expertos en México

Un grupo de expertos mexicanos alertó a los fieles sobre los peligros de la “devoción” conocida como la “Santa Muerte” y explicó que esta creencia es incompatible para los católicos porque “no tiene nada que ver con el mensaje cristiano.”

“Nuestra Señora de la Muerte, Señor de Dios y la Muerte, San Esqueleto, Ayucaba, Señor que Todo Lo Puede, San Severo de la Muerte”

Papa Francisco: El demonio te da un poco de diversión pero “al final te deja solo”

VATICANO (ACI) — El Papa Francisco dijo a los jóvenes de todo el mundo que hoy llegaron al Vaticano para reunirse que la principal dificultad que tienen en su Pontificado es “encontrar siempre la paz del Señor” y advirtió sobre los engaños del demonio que ofrece un poco de diversión pero “al final te deja solo.”

En un encuentro con jóvenes de distintos países del Movimiento Eucaristico Juvenil en el Aula Pablo VI del Vaticano, el Pontifice habló de manera improvisada de varios temas, entre ellos de algunas cuestiones personales.

En respuesta a una joven brasileña sobre la principales dificultades que tiene el Papa, Papa tiene que afrontar el demonio que se refirió a “encontrar siempre la paz del Señor, esa paz que solamente Jesús te puede dar. En los trabajos, en los compromisos el desafío es encontrar esa paz que significa que el Señor te acompañe, que el Señor está cerca.”

“El demonio te hace creer que es este el camino y después, al final, te deja solo,” advirtió.

El Obispo de Roma pidió a los jóvenes recordar que “el diablo es un mal pagador, nunca paga bien. ¡Siempre te está! Te hace ver las cosas maquilladas y tú crees que es lo bueno, que te da paz, pero vas ahí y al final no encuentra la felicidad.”

Explicó que el signo de la paz de Jesús “es la alegría, la alegría profunda; el diablo nunca te dará alegría. Te dará un poco de diversión, hará un poco de ‘circo’, te hace feliz un momento pero nunca da esa alegría.” Esa alegría “sólo te la puede dar Jesús dándose el Espíritu Santo.”

Signos reales de alegría en la Iglesia

Otros de los jóvenes preguntaron sobre los signos reales de alegría en la Iglesia en el siglo XXI y sobre los momentos de mayor alegria desde que es Papa.

“Ver a los jóvenes como vosotros que creen que Jesús está aquí, que Jesús está entre nosotros; es un signo real de alegría,” aseguró.

“Ver a los jóvenes como vosotros que creen que Jesús está aquí, el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesús, profundizar en el Misterio Eucarístico,” concluyó el Papa.

Un católico no puede dar culto a la “Santa Muerte”, alertan expertos en México

Un grupo de expertos mexicanos alertó a los fieles sobre los peligros de la “devoción” conocida como la “Santa Muerte” y explicó que esta creencia es incompatible para los católicos porque “no tiene nada que ver con el mensaje cristiano.”

El P. Edgar Valtierra, responsable de la Comisión Eucarística del Arzobispado de México, comentó “este tema es necesario no sólo para los jóvenes sino para todos, aquellos que se consideran católicos.”

Por su parte, el P. Juan José Cedeño, responsable de la Pastoral Juvenil de la arquidiócesis de México, comentó que “este tema es necesario no sólo para los jóvenes sino para todos, aquellos que se consideran católicos.”

Recientemente el Consejo Eucarístico de México dio a conocer un comunicado, al que se hizo referencia en el evento, en el que indica que un católico que da culto a la Santa Muerte en pecado grave porque esta falsa devoción constituye “una degeneración de la religión.”

El culto a la “llamada Santa Muerte” no presenta ni representa elementos cristianos aceptables por ninguna Iglesia cristiana en sus distintas expresiones, agregó el comunicado en el que alientan acompañar a los sacerdotes y ministros de culto a una verdadera evangelización integral, orientando al Pueblo de Dios respecto a estos cultos incompatibles con el mensaje de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo”.

¿Qué es la Santa Muerte?

La Santa Muerte es una devoción difundida en distintos lugares de México y otros países de América Latina. Es representada con una calavera adornada, según el gusto personal de los adeptos.

Narcotraficantes, delincuentes, ex convictos, o secreta dores se acercan a esta controvertida imagen para pedir por el éxito de sus delitos. Este culto blasfemo también es vinculado a prácticas de brujería.

La “Santa Muerte” también es conocida como San La Muerte, Señor de la Buena Muerte, Señor de la Paciencia, San Justo Nuestro Señor de la Buena Muerte, Nuestro Señor de Jesús y la Muerte, San Esqueleto, Ayucaba, Señor que Todo Lo Puede, San Severo de la Muerte, o El Santito.

En 2012, integrantes de la secta asesinaron en Sonora (México) a dos niños de 6 y 7 años, y una mujer de 55. Ambos murieron degollados como ritual de sacrificio dedicado a la “Santa Muerte”.

Divorciados en nueva unión son parte de la iglesia pero no pueden comulgar, dice Cardenal Bogotá (ACI)—El arzobispo de Bogotá (Colombia), Rubén Cardenal Salazar, explicó que los divorciados en nueva unión siguen siendo parte de la Iglesia y no están excomulgados, pero están impedidos de recibir la Comunión eucarística.

Así lo indicó el Prelado en rueda de prensa ante los medios de comunicación locales el 6 de agosto, ante diver-
This Month in History...

60 Years Ago
On September 5, the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Remembering the day they took possession of the property, the late Fr. Edward Leahy, OCD, wrote, “It was towards evening of a hot day … The first shades of dusk were setting peacefully on the quiet hills around the lonely mansion, itself buried in deeper stillness. Weary in body but elated in spirit four of us climbed the small rise of ground to our new monastery, to a new future for our Order and ourselves. We had finally arrived in Northern California, a significant milestone, we reflected, on the road to new horizons of achievement and self-determination.”

Offically known as the Carmelite Monastery of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross, and dedicated on September 25 by San Francisco auxiliary Bishop Merlin Guillfoyle, who later became first bishop of Stockton. The convent started out in 1921 as the Doak Mansion. The monastery served as the Discalced Carmelites’ novitiate until 1981, when the novitate moved to San Jose. Oakville then became a house of prayer and retreat center.

Ursuline High School celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. Founded in 1880 in Santa Rosa by the Ursuline Sisters, it was a private Catholic secondary school committed to excellence in educating young women.

Known in the early years as Ursuline Academy, it first opened its doors at 10th and B Streets in the former Santa Rosa Christian College Building. In 1957, the school relocated to its final location in northern Santa Rosa. The school spawned alumni such as Olympic swimming champion Ann Curtis and actress Valerie Leonard, who were just two examples of the school’s dedication to empowering young women to greatness. It closed in 2011.

45 Years Ago …
The Monitor, newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, announced John W. Carlson, son of Mrs. Frances D. Carlson of Eureka, and a 1961 graduate of St. Bernard High School, had received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame. He capped his distinguished career in academia when he joined the faculty of Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, in 1995. He died in 2012.

St. Helena Church held its annual parish picnic on September 13 at Beringer Brothers Winery. Roast beef and St. Rose Church held its second annual “Bop Till You Drop at Our Hop” on Friday, September 6, at the Vets Memorial Building. The cost was $15 per couple and $10 for a single person ($25.50 and $22 in today’s dollars, respectively). Nine days later, the parish held its thirteenth annual Autumn Festival. Cost: $4.50 for an adult, $2.50 for a child ($9.75 and $5.50 in today’s dollars, respectively).

On September 18, Star of the Valley Church Women’s Club hosted a luncheon at the Sonoma Mission Inn with entertainment by Mrs. Linden Stark of Palo Alto. Price: $17.50 ($38 today).

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women met on September 21 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Calistoga. Speaker Br. George Kohls spoke about the Shroud of Turin, and Mrs. Maureen Shaw, a Catholic Charities director, spoke about respite care. The cost was $5 ($11 today).

On September 22, saw Bishop Mark J. Hurley dedicate the brand new St. Rose School.

The St. Eugene Cathedral Knights of Columbus held its fourth annual Polenta Feed. Tickets were $6.00 for adults ($13 today) and $2.50 for children.

25 Years Ago …
On September 23, 1990, Bishop John T. Steinbock dedicated Christ the King Church in McKinleyville’s parish education center.

10 Years Ago …
Eighth graders at St. John the Baptist School in Napa raised over $2,000 in just one week’s time to help with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Furthermore, the second graders were supposed to have gone on a field trip. Instead they donated the money allocated for that to purchase Safeway cards for displaced families who were temporarily living in Napa.

Bishop Daniel F. Walsh announced that more than 4,800 displaced families who were temporarily living in Napa.

On September 4, 2011, the school closed.

1965 brochure promoting the building of St. John the Baptist Church in Napa with Bishop Leo Maher.

Archaeological find displays ancient maternal love
Beijing—Archaeologists unearthed proof of a mother’s love in Qinghai province, China, when they discovered the 4,000-year-old skeletons of a mother and child locked in an embrace. The two skeletons are frozen in time, preserved in the stance they took in their final moments before an earthquake wiped out China’s “Pompeii of the East” around 2008 BC. The mother’s arms are draped around her son in what archaeologists believe to be both an embrace and an attempt to protect her son as catastrophe hit.

Monumental gate to Goliath’s hometown found
Ramat-Gan, Israel (Archaeology magazine)—The tops of fortification walls dating to the Iron Age and a monumental entrance gate have been discovered in Tel Zafit National Park at the site of a large settlement thought to be the biblical era city of Gath, known as the home of the Philistine warrior Goliath.

“We knew that Gath in the tenth to ninth century BC was a large city, perhaps the largest in the land at that time,” archaeologist Aren Maier of Bar-Ilan University told Live Science.

Buildings, including a Philistine temple and an iron-production facility have also been uncovered. Pottery found near the monumental entrance gate resembles that associated with Philistine culture, but it also shows some influence of Israelite culture.

“This mirrors the intense and multifaceted connections that existed between the Philistines and their neighbors,” Maier added.

First Chinese bishop consecration in three years
Beijing (Vatican Radio) Fr. Joseph Zhang Yinyin, 44, was consecrated as coadjutor bishop of Anyang diocese in Henan province August 4. The ceremony at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Anyang was presided over by 90-year-old Bishop Thomas Zhang Huaxin of Anyang. All consecrants were both Vatican-approved and government recognized. Bishops not recognized by the Vatican were not present at the ordination.

According to the official website of the Henan Catholic Church, the ordination Mass was consecrated by around 100 priests, and attended by about 1,400 people, including 120 nuns, and worshippers included some Chinese who travelled from the United States, Italy, or France for the event. Several news agencies were denied entry to the ceremony.

The Anyang diocese now has two bishops, thirty priests, 120 Sisters, and about 40,000 faithful.

The consecration was the first such ceremony in three years and the first since the Vatican and China restarted their dialogue in June 2014.

Another Vatican-approved candidate for bishop, Fr. Cosmos Ji Chengyi, 54, was also consecrated in Anyang.

According to the official website of the Henan Catholic Church, Pope Francis has not announced the consecration of any new bishop in China since Pope Francis’ visit to Beijing in November 2015.

China’s new bishop consecration
Shanghai’sends in turmoil, when in 2012, Shanghai’s newly installed Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin denounced the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association—the communist agency that controls the Church— during his installation (see News Briefs, p. 24)
On social justice, Francis isn’t rethinking so much as recycling

Boston (Crux)—As Pope Francis prepares for his trip to the United States this month, there’s been a great deal of attention to a recent dip in his US approval ratings, which most observers link to two developments: Laudato Si’, his encyclical letter calling for dramatic action to fight global warming and climate change, and his fiery anti-capitalist comments during a July trip to Latin America.

In that spirit, here’s a quick quiz to test one’s knowledge of traditional papal teaching on both those issues. In each case, there’s a quote followed by a series of multiple choice options as to which pope said it.

1. Quote: “The hiring of labor and the conduct of trade are concentrated in the hands of comparatively few, so that a small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the teeming masses of the laboring poor a yoke little better than that of slavery itself.”
   A. Leo XIII
   B. Pius XII
   C. John Paul II
   D. Francis

2. Quote: “Both Capitalism and Marxism promised to point out the path for the creation of just structures, and they declared that these, once established, would function by themselves. . . . This ideological promise has been proved false. The facts have clearly demonstrated it.”
   A. Pius XI
   B. Paul VI
   C. Benedict XVI
   D. Francis

3. Quote: “We must encourage and support the ‘ecological conversion’ which in recent decades has made humanity more sensitive to the catastrophe to which it has been heading. Man is no longer the Creator’s ‘steward’, but an autonomous converter’ which in recent decades has made humanity more .....”
   A. Benedict XV
   B. John Paul II
   C. Benedict XVI
   D. Francis

4. Quote: “What of a regime in which Capitalism is dominant? . . . You know its characteristic signs, and you yourselves labor under the burden it imposes: the excessive crowding of the population into the cities; the ever-growing and all-invading under the burden it imposes: the excessive crowding of the . . .”
   A. John XXIII
   B. Leo XIII
   C. Pius XII
   D. Francis

The correct answers are A, C, B, and C, meaning Popes Leo XIII, Benedict XVI, John Paul II, and Pius XII respectively. Readers with good radar for rhetorical cues will have noticed that in no case was the proper response “Pope Francis,” and probably have figured out where this is heading: While there are many innovative aspects to this papacy, Francis’ social oratory is actually among his least creative features. That’s not to say he isn’t adding some original details, (see Social Justice, p. 27)

(Noticias, cont. de la pagina 21)
African bishops warn of “Eurocentric” Synod
Nairobi (CNA/EWTN News)—October’s Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family should take on a global perspective, rather than sticking to isolated issues found primarily in western society, African Church leaders have said.

The chance that voices of the European Church could dominate synod discussion is “a danger of a Eurocentric Synod without strong input from Africa,” Fr. Joseph Healey, MM, of the Maryknoll Society told CNA.

African bishops and Church leaders recently gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for the final phase of a three-year evaluation of the continent’s Church, during which discussion largely fell to topics surrounding the October 4-25 gathering in Rome.

An unnamed participant in the colloquium sympathized with Fr. Healey’s concerns, pointing to what they saw as several gaps in last year’s Synod discussion, particularly when it comes to issues surrounding the African Church.

In the concluding document of last year’s gathering no mention was made of “HIV and AIDS, not one reference. No mention to female genital mutilation.” No mention of children-headed households,” the participant noted.

However, the participant observed that a reason Africa’s voice is seemingly missing from the discussion is that the continent’s bishops haven’t yet developed a strategy to clearly present these issues in Rome.

Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenburg, South Africa, gave a presentation at the Kenya gathering, explaining that rather than focusing on mainly western issues, Synod discussion should instead center on “hurting and struggling parents and families.”

He said discussion ought to address “all the systemic issues which threaten relationships between people in societies and make it so hard for parents today to nourish their relationship with their own children and so bring them up in wholesome and life-giving ways.”

What will Pope Francis do in October? Rome (Inside the Vatican)—Almost everyone is wondering what Pope Francis will do regarding the difficult issues facing this October’s Ordinary Synod on the Family.

The main problem is apparent conflicts between three facts, three realities, three teachings of Christ:

1. Marriage: Christ’s quite clear teaching on marriage’s indissolubility. That marriage is “forever” indissoluble by its nature, is based on Christ’s own words, “What God has joined together, let no man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6; cf. Mark 10:9).

2. Ministry: the quite clear teaching of Christ that His disciples must minister “to the sheep,” keeping the flock together if possible, and going to seek out the one lamb out of 100 that is “lost,” always showing special love, and mercy, not just for “the righteous” (who aren’t in grave need of it) but for “sinners” (who are; see the Parable of the Prodigal Son).

3. Reception of the Electuarist: the Pauline teaching that Communion must be received “worthily,” that is, by those — and only by those — whose faith is orthodox, that is, by those who believe the Electuarist is only for those Christians who, though they may have sinned (done evil), have [gone to confession], received absolution, and [decisively resolved to turn] away from their sins.

These three teachings of Christ are all so clear that none of them can be set aside without rejecting the very words and will of Christ.

And yet, life has begun to pose numerous practical difficulties and perplexing situations as the Church seeks to maintain all three teachings in their fullness without contradiction.

Often caught in the crossfire are children, who are arguably Pope Francis’ chief concern. Increasingly it this concern for the children, for their formation as happy and healthy young people not warped and wounded by their elders’ troubles and decisions that motivates Francis as he reflects on the pastoral care the Church can offer to families.

In his profound desire to be “merciful” to the children in difficult family situations, Pope Francis will have to be careful to defend the truth Christ taught, for these children—like all children and, indeed, like all of us—need the entire truth, not any partial truth.

This is the great battle Pope Francis faces in the coming days and weeks, and at the October Synod, for which he needs our prayers.

Some Catholics are quite worried. They fear Francis—who has been unpredictable during his pontificate—will assent to changes in pastoral practice implying doctrinal change, which they would have to fiercely oppose as a departure from orthodoxy.

However on several recent occasions Francis, or his representatives and confidants, have spoken out clearly to say there will be no doctrinal change.

(1) Marriage: see www.vatican.va

(2) Ministry: see www.catholicnewsagency.com

(3) The Fr. Salvini Statement to Civilta Cattolica (Note: Nothing is published in this journal that doesn’t have the Vatican approval.)

“The doctrine on marriage is not at stake; the family, as an irreplaceable resource of every human society, is.” Fr. Giampaolo Salvini, SJ, wrote in an article summarizing the content of the Synod’s working document (Instruments laboris).
Los Angeles (CNA)—Academy Award winner Reese Witherspoon stars in a new film about the Lost Boys of Sudan, which she says features strong Christian messages of faith in God and perseverance in the face of hardship.

“It is true in lots and lots of Hollywood scripts in my career, it is rare that you get the opportunity to make a film about something that has a great Christian message,” Witherspoon told CNA in a recent phone conference.

“Do these people in Hollywood not think that there’s an incredible majority percentage of America (that is) Christian communities?” she added with a laugh.

Based on true stories of Sudanese refugees, The Good Lie opens nationwide October 3 and follows a group of Lost Boys—tens of thousands of mainly Christian children who were orphaned by the Sudanese civil war of 1983 to 2005 and were sometimes forced to be child soldiers – on their journey from their war-torn homes to the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

After living in the camp for over a decade, three of the boys, now young men, win a lottery to immigrate to America, where they are met by emotionally isolated social worker, Carrie—played by Witherspoon—who is charged with helping them assimilate and find jobs in Kansas City, Mo.

The refugees, Mamere, Jerimiah, and Paul, are played by Sudanese actors Arnold Oceng, Ger Duany, and former child soldier Emmanuel Jal.

Witherspoon said working with these actors, some of whom were also refugees, was an inspiring experience.

“Would think that anyone who had that profoundly upsetting childhood experience would be devastated to the point of not being able to function,” she said. “But these men, they’re incredibly spiritual, they’re incredibly positive. They just glow with gratitude for the opportunities that have been presented to them.”

Slowly, Witherspoon’s character opens herself up to the struggles of these young men and allows herself to form a relationship with them. In doing so, she finds community for both herself and the refugees.

“She’s not just this perfect, saintly character. She’s actually an imperfect, very flawed human being looking for human interaction as well,” she said.

The actress said the emotional numbness in her character is something many people in today’s culture could identify with.

“I think in my own life, and with my children, service in our communities is the antidote to the kind of complete self-absorption that we live in.” Witherspoon said.

Although the film is rated PG-13 for thematic elements, some violence and brief, strong language, Witherspoon said it is appropriate for many kids, and that she plans on taking her own children—ages 10 and 15—to see it.

“One of the most important things I want people to know is that they can take their kids to see this movie,” she said.

Today, some 700,000 people are still displaced due to the Sudanese Civil War and 50,000 children are expected to die of starvation this year alone due to manmade famines.

After she finished filming, Witherspoon and her then 13-year-old daughter visited the Kakuma refugee camp to learn more about the conditions and get to know some of the roughly 250,000 people who still live there.

“I just didn’t want to do my part of the movie in Atlanta and just be an armchair activist,” she said. “I wanted to see what we were making a film about.”

What stood out to her was seeing children sleeping on concrete slabs and only going to school until about age 10 or 11.

“There’s no reason for them to continue schooling because there’s no job opportunities past a certain age,” the actress says. “And that’s why I do it.”

Witherspoon said working on the film made her realize “a lot of people who are intelligent and leaders in their own communities, and they’re just displaced.”

In addition to releasing a film to raise awareness about the ongoing plight of the Lost Boys of Sudan, the filmmakers have also set up a program, The Good Lie Fund, to support education for those still living in refugee camps.

LOS ANGELES (CNA)—In the Center for Medical Progress’ latest video, former aborted baby body parts harvester Holly O’Donnell describes a medical technician using scissors to cut through the face of a newly aborted but nearly fully developed baby boy at a Planned Parenthood (PP) facility so his intact brain could be extracted.

O’Donnell says the technician could also make the boy’s hood [PP] facility so his intact brain could be extracted.

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O’Donnell said she was flabbergasted to see “…the most gestated fetus and closest thing to a baby I’ve seen.”

Her colleague then took an instrument and “tapped the heart and it starts beating.”

O’Donnell says, “I am sitting here looking at this fetus, and its heart is beating, and I don’t know what to think.” She said she didn’t know if the child was alive but “it had a face. It wasn’t completely torn up. Its nose was very pronounced. It had eyelids and its mouth was pronounced.”

The technician said the child was so intact they could “procure a lot from it. We’re going to procure a brain.” This person told O’Donnell they would need to “go through the face.”

The tech took scissors and cut through the child’s lower jaw up through the mouth. O’Donnell was directed to cut the rest of the way through “the middle of the face.”

“I can’t even describe what that feels like,” said O’Donnell. O’Donnell had to take the boy’s remains and put him in a bio-hazard container and “then I realized I was the only person ever to hold that baby.”

“That was the moment I realized I couldn’t work for [StemExpress] anymore,” she said.

PP claims abortions make up merely 3 percent of their overall services. Even liberal outlets have debunked that claim.

Even so, polls show most Americans don’t believe PP performs any abortions, although it performs 300,000-plus every year, more than any other group, generating more than $100 million in revenue from abortions alone.
BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS

St. Eugene School is Geared Up for a Great Year!

St. Eugene School has hired Mr. Steven Angelucci as its new music teacher, band, and choir director. Angelucci holds a BM and MM from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston with advanced music studies in Paris, France, and the Netherlands.

The school hasn’t just added new faculty. It is also incorporating the latest technology, which will continue to be a priority administration and faculty. Due to the generosity of parents, grandparents, and friends—plus the Golf Tournament and Fall Festival fundraisers—the school acquired 20 new computers for its computer lab, two iPad carts, upgraded computers for the science lab, purchased four new projectors for SMART boards, and a bought a Redcast sound system for the music room.

Furthermore, the students enjoy using the 75 iPads in the various classrooms as just one part of fostering a strong learning environment.

New developments at St. Vincent de Paul School

From the desk of Principal Stephanie Quinlan of St. Vincent de Paul School in Petaluma comes the news that fifth and sixth graders will have expanded access to technology with the addition of Chromebooks. Additionally, the computer lab will feature new iMacs.

Fifth and sixth grade students can now participate in athletics program under the direction of new athletic director, Mrs. Tara-Jen Kelly. These athletes will represent St. Vincent de Paul in the Catholic School League, while seventh and eighth grade students will compete in the North Valley League.

A special thank you to Mrs. Van Zandt, the former athletic director, for her guidance in expanding the program.

Colors of Spanish will provide seventh and eighth grade morning classes from 7:30-8:10am. Classes will take place twice a week. Specific days will be communicated to families through a sign-up survey.

The school will also offer Spanish to Kindergarteners once a week during the school day, and to first and second grades twice a week. The goal is to eventually provide all St. Vincent de Paul students the opportunity to acquire a foreign language.

Cardinal: “What Sister Lucia told me: Final Confrontation Between the Lord and Satan Will be Over Family and Marriage.”

On February 16, 2008, Carlo Cardinal Caffara, archbishop of Bologna, granted an interview to Tele Radio Padre Pio, which was subsequently reported in the monthly magazine Voce di Padre Pio in March 2008. In light of recent events, we offer the following excerpt:

Your Eminence, there is a prophecy by Sr. Lúcia dos Santos, OCD, of Fatima, which concerns “the final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan.” The battlefield is the family. Life and the family. We know that you were given charge of the Pontifical Institute for the Studies on Marriage and the Family... [Editor’s Note: Sr. Lucia was one of the three then-child visionaries to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Fatima, Portugal, between March and October 1917. In her appearances to the children, Our Lady predicted the end of World War I (1914-1917), Russia’s fall to communism and spreading its atheistic errors (1917), World War II, and other calamities if people did not return to the Faith, praying and sacrificing for sinners, and begin saying the Rosary again.]

Caffara: Yes, I was. At the start of this work entrusted to me by the [Pope St.] John Paul II, I wrote to Sr. Lucia of Fatima through her bishop as I couldn't do so directly.

Unexplainably however, since I didn’t expect an answer, seeing that I had only asked for prayers, I received a very long letter with her signature—now in the Institute’s archives.

In it we find written, “The final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family.”

“Don’t be afraid,” she added, “because anyone who works for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be fought and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue.”

And then she concluded, “However, Our Lady has already crushed its head.”

Talking also to John Paul II, one felt, too, that this was the crux, as it touches the very pillar of creation, the truth of the relationship between man and woman among the generations. If the founding pillar is touched, the entire building collapses, and we see this now, because we are at this point, and we know it.

And I’m moved when I read the best biographies of Padre Pio, on how this man was so attentive to the sanctity of marriage and the sanctity of the spouses, even with justifiable rigor on occasion.

[Editor’s note: St. Pio of Pietrelcina, OFM Cap, known as Padre Pio (1958), was a friar, priest, stigmatist, and mystic. He is one of the most venerated saints of modern times in the Catholic Church.]

(Source: Renate Caetl. Translation: Francesca Romana. Source: Voce di Padre Pio.)

New Teachers at Our Catholic Schools

Cardinal Newman High School, Santa Rosa
Dr. SheriAnne Simpson, Assistant Principle for Curriculum and Technology
Kristina Davison, Director of Academic Support Center
Martha King, Counsellor
Fr. Mario Valencia, Theology
Fr. Abel Mena, Theology

St. Francis Solano School, Sonoma
Melissa Rousalides, First Grade
Jennifer Cordero, Art elective, upper grades

St. John the Baptist School, Healdsburg
Michael Haufler, Seventh Grade

St. John the Baptist School, Napa
Beth Ann Brancale, Fourth Grade
Nadya Martinez, First and Second Grade

St. Mary of the Angels School, Ukiah
Amanda Velasco, Kindergarten
Tina Tejeda, Fifth Grade
Jill Scheller, Gardening

St. Vincent de Paul School, Petaluma
Jim O’Brien, advanced math for Fifth and Eighth grades
Katie Carlsten, Kindergarten aide
Sharon Jeffrey, Science teacher for Fourth through Eighth grades
Tara-Jen Kelly, Director of Athletics
Jennifer Tsurumoto, Second Grade student teacher

St. Vincent de Paul High School, Petaluma
Gwenly Carrel, College Counselor
Art Walker, Dean of Students/Vice Principal
Timothy Corrigan, English
Nick Knoles, Music
Ray Noll, Scripture
John Svitak, AP Physics & Algebra

St. Vincent de Paul High School, Petaluma
Mary McLaughlin, AP Human Geography

St. Francis Solano School, Novato
Melissa Rousalides, First Grade

St. Francis Solano School, Napa
Beth Ann Brancale, Fourth Grade

St. Francis Solano School, Sonoma
Melissa Rousalides, First Grade

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Welcome one and all! May God bless you with our children.

On August 12, Dr. John Collins, diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools gathered roughly 30 parochial school teachers who are new to the diocese at the chancery. There he gave them an orientation where they learned about the diocese, looked over the Code of Ethics, and were briefed on benefits and the mission of diocesan Catholic schools.

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A Fun Summer for Youth Activities
by Stephen Morris

This past summer our diocesan youth and young adult programs took over 100 people from nearly 20 parishes all around California to a variety of activities that truly were as fun as they were spiritually uplifting and fortifying.

In addition to Camp RAD the annual middle school summer held at Camp Cazadero, our younger parishioners participated in Youth on a Mission: Discipleship Training conference at the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo and Steubenville San Diego held at the University of San Diego. Additionally the Latino young adult groups gathered at Cardinal Newman High School one weekend for a sports and fellowship day.

The Youth on a Mission program was a collaboration of all the Northern California diocesan youth directors. It is geared towards high school upper classman who have received confirmation and are ready to take their next steps in serving the Church.

Participants came from as far as Bakersfield and Eureka. Regardless of their geographic origin, however, all shared a common devotion to serving our Church. While typical youth programming consists of a lot of games and singing, the curriculum at Youth on a Mission was designed for learning in a classroom. The lessons included how to lead a small group, event planning, and how to give a witness talk.

These young disciples found all of the material very relatable. For instance the first skill discussed covered how to evangelize with social media.

In follow-up surveys, one student noted, “This was an incredible step in my faith journey. The tools learned here are easy to apply in my parish.” For decades now, Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, has held youth conferences. At first there was just one. That grew to three. Within several summers, tickets for these sold out within hours, just like a rock concert.

Then they expanded to the South, the Midwest, and for a number of years have taken place in San Diego. Indeed the now-seventeen summer conferences take place in twelve states and two Canadian provinces each summer.

Fr. Bernard D’Sa, SFX, from Queen of Peace Church in Clearlake, said of Steubenville San Diego, “It affirmed my faith that Christ founded the Church and it will never die. I was inspired by the passion that nearly 5,000 teenagers brought to the conference. They were a ray of hope for our shared Catholic Church.”

He also noted that at every stop along the trip—and especially at the conference—countless people thanked him for his vocation. He was also impressed with the genuine devotion teenagers showed by flocking to confession.

“We were up until I am listening to real, healing confessions.”

Cardinal Newman High School Chaplain Fr. Moses Brown also was energized by the trip.

“The youth rediscovered their faith and the good things about it,” he observed, “which will boost their desire to seek out Christ and find Him daily.”

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, called all the young men in the pavilion who have discerned a vocation to the priesthood.

“Are there any young men answering the call, including three from the Santa Rosa diocese.”

This abbreviated article originally appeared in the August 4 edition of Crux. To read the entire piece, go to http://tinyurl.com/nadikeou.

(nordiocese.org)
## Adult Faith Formation & Certification 2015–2016

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<th>SCHEDULE (Time TBA)</th>
<th>Chancery Santa Rosa</th>
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<td>Feb. 17 &amp; Mar. 16</td>
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<tr>
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- Basic Catechist $150.00/person for entire program, includes some books.
- Master Catechist $175.00/person for entire program, includes some books.
- For those interested in dropping in $20/person/class.
- There will be various books available to purchase. The Class fee does not include all books.
- Class can be used as credit towards Catechist Recertification.
- Those who wish to attend and are not interested in receiving a California Certificate are welcome.
- Complete an Application to begin the California Catechist Process.

**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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## Adultos Formación de Fe y Certificación 2015–2016

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<td>Observaciones</td>
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- Catequista básico $150.00/person para toda la serie. Algunos libros están incluidos.
- Catequista Maestro $175.00/person para toda la serie. Algunos libros están incluidos.
- Para aquellos interesados en ir a solamente una clase el costo es $20 por clase.
- Habrá varios libros disponibles para comprar. La tarifa de la clase no incluye el costo de estos libros.
- Clase se puede utilizar para la recertificación del catequista
- Aquellos que deseen asistir y no están interesados en recibir un certificado de catequista son bienvenidos.
- Llene una solicitud para iniciar el proceso de certificación de catequista.

**Patrocinado por el Departamento de Educación Religiosa**

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

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## B.U.S.Y.

by Stephen Morris

Remember when the new school year started after Labor Day? That’s when you would put away your white linen outfits and pull out your protractor.

But with summer not even over, at some point in the last few weeks, we’ve taken a collective sigh to announce vacation is finished and the calm of the hot season is behind us. It’s not even fall!!

And now we are “too busy!” Everyone’s busy … busy, busy, busy …

I have a priest friend from Kenya, and he noted that in America, “Everyone is in a hurry. I can’t believe it. Even people who don’t have jobs are busy.”

Our children are busier than ever before now with a ridiculous amount of school work, smart phone distractions, club teams, school work, extra-curricular activities, and don’t forget their mandatory “volunteer” hours.

Can’t we take a breath?

How did this happen? How in the world with all of our technological and transportation advancements have we come to a point where—instead of having more leisure time—we never have time for anything?

There’s an evil behind this. No joke.

We are experiencing the devil’s trick of being B.U.S.Y.: Burdened Under Satan’s Yolk. And we don’t even have time to pause and realize “evil” is behind this issue. As Kevin Spacey’s character in the movie Usual Suspects stated, “The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world that he didn’t exist.”

Guess what, he exists, and he’s made you B.U.S.Y. Being B.U.S.Y. takes us away from what matters. Eventually it leads to that regret we’re in danger of feeling on our deathbeds. (You know the old saying: “At the end of your life you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict, or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a spouse, a friend, a child, or a parent.”)

But it especially takes us away from the thing that matters most: God and spending time with Him in prayer and through service to others (cf. Matt 25). Being B.U.S.Y. makes us think we don’t need Him, when the exact opposite is true.

Make no mistake: This is a war for our souls, my brothers and sisters, a war for our interior lives.

We know we should slow down, that we should be more present to our family, that we should make time for God. But it’s not just something we know: Our lives and health depend on it.

Just the other day I flipped through Costco’s magazine and found an article titled, “Enjoy Life by Doing Less.” It addressed the body’s need to pause throughout the day in order to accomplish things effectively (a link to this article is found on the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Young Adults website under “articles”).

Our early Church Fathers didn’t write for Costco, but they said the same thing Christ taught us in the Gospels: Go off on your own and pray. There you will find God. He will give you rest, and He is listening.

“The” Mr. Morris serves as diocesan director of the Office of Youth and Young Adults Ministry.