

October: Respect Life Month

Gianna's life proclaims God's transforming power

By Kara Hansen

Twenty weeks into their third pregnancy, John and Jennifer Schmidt were on top of the world. They'd just told their two young sons — Jacob, 5, and John Paul, 2 — that there was a new baby on the way.

Now, all four of them were crowded into the examining room, waiting for the sonogram to show whether the baby was a boy or a girl.

Suddenly, it didn't matter.

The perinatologist first grew very quiet, then looked almost frantic. "All he told us was that something was very wrong," said Jennifer.

The Schmidts' baby had a condition called bilateral renal agenesis. She would not develop a kidney. If she survived labor and delivery, the obstetrician said, she would die within a few hours.

"I remember thinking this was just a nightmare and I'm going to wake up from this," said Jennifer. "It just can't be real."

The news was grimmer still. John and Jennifer were warned that babies with this condition often go full term because they have all they need while in utero. Could Jennifer face carrying the child to full term, knowing her birth meant certain death? More than half of couples in their situation choose to have an abortion, the Schmidts were told. Or they could choose to induce delivery early.

Neither, the Schmidts decided, was an option they could consider.

POWER OF PRAYER

Numb and confused, the couple called on Benedictine Father Brendan Rolling, for advice. A family friend from Jennifer's time as a residence hall director at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., Father Brendan couldn't help but hurt for the couple.

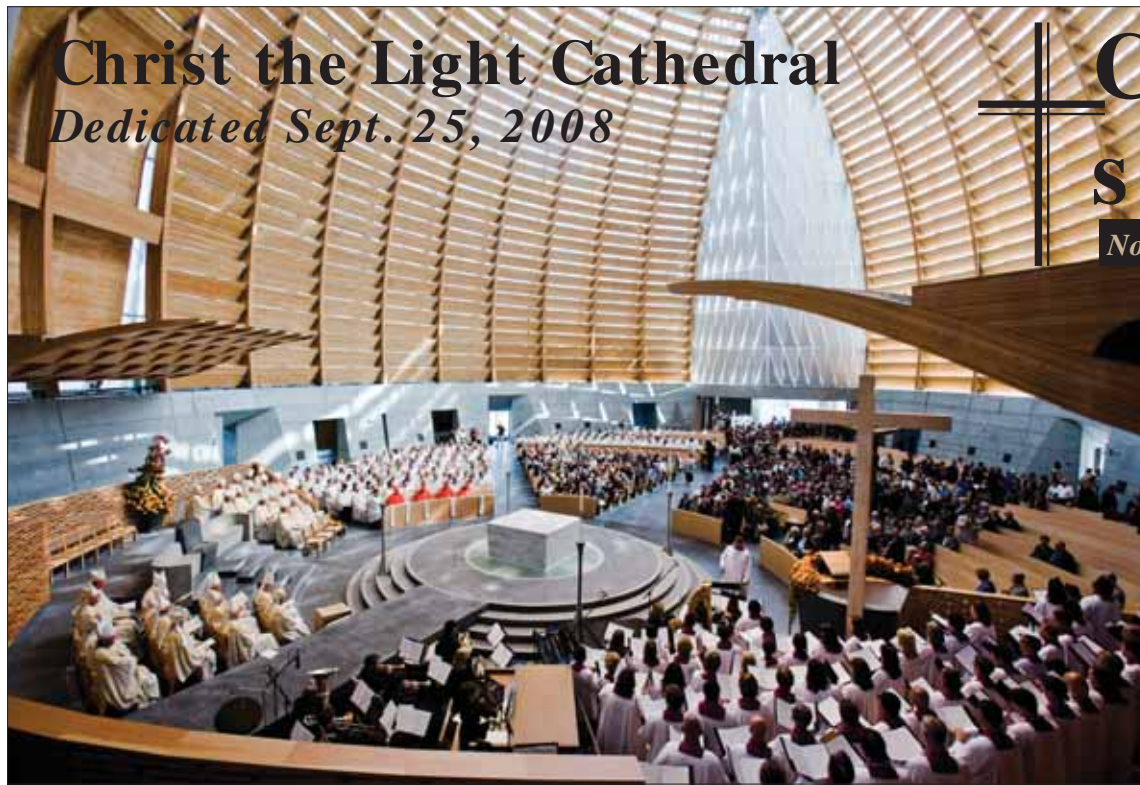
"I was shocked when they told me," he said. "It was very painful to hear there was not much the doctors could do."

GIANNA'S LIFE, page 10



Gianna Schmidt rests peacefully on the day of her birth — and death.

(PHOTO COURTESY ANGELA BOQUIN)



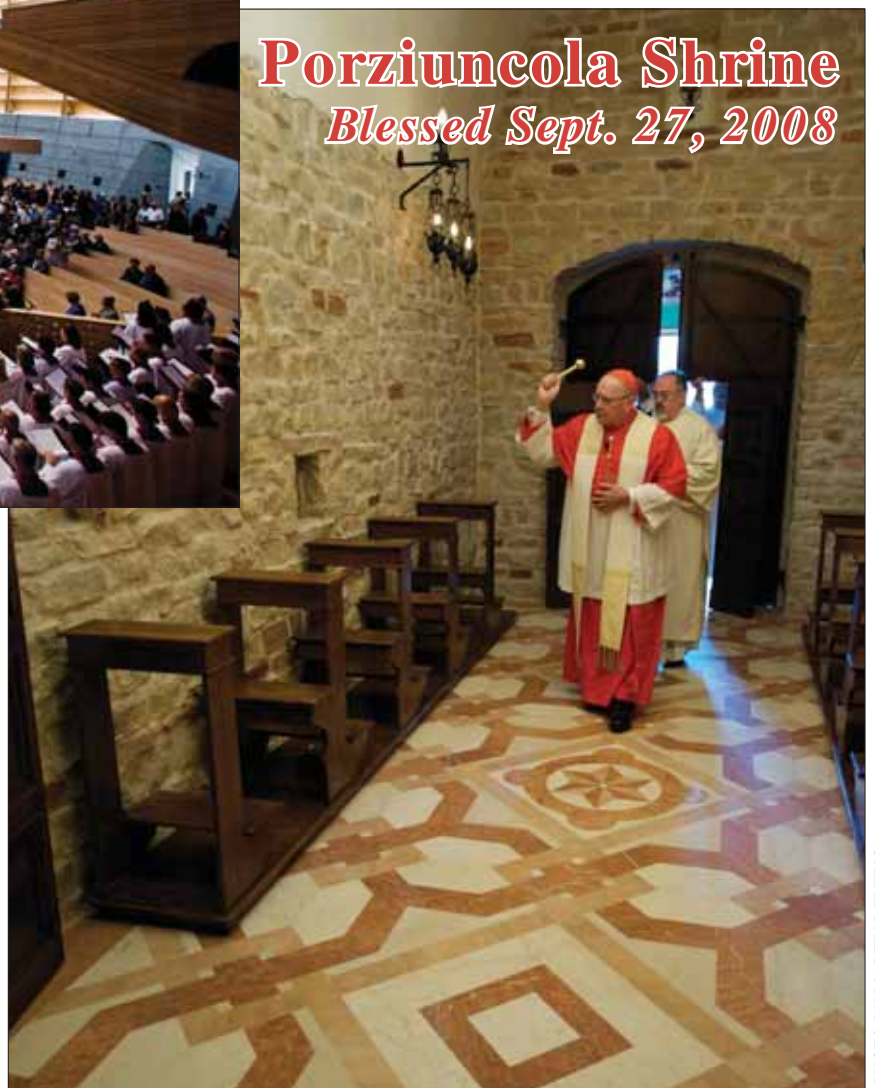
Christ the Light Cathedral
Dedicated Sept. 25, 2008

(GNS PHOTO/REG TARCZYNSKI)

Catholic San Francisco

Northern California's Weekly Catholic Newspaper

Porziuncola Shrine Blessed Sept. 27, 2008



(PHOTO BY MARTIN DELFINO)

Two iconic worship spaces for Bay Area

Two houses of worship destined to draw millions of pilgrims and visitors from the San Francisco Bay Area and the world — a small chapel in San Francisco and a new cathedral in Oakland — were dedicated last week within the space of 48 hours.

On Sept. 25, the much-acclaimed Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland (above) was dedicated during an afternoon rite at which Oakland Bishop Allen Vigneron presided and San Francisco Archbishop George Niederauer, metropolitan of the San Francisco Province, concelebrated at the altar. Four cardinals and three dozen bishops took part.

On Sept. 27, the Porziuncola Shrine at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood was opened and blessed. Archbishop Niederauer was principal celebrant. Cardinal William Levada (photo at right), prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Archbishop emeritus of San Francisco, presided.

Both events drew several inter-faith representatives. Speakers at both celebrations emphasized the two structures' impact on future generations and their role in serving the wider community as well as the Catholic faithful.

See Page 15 for the text of Archbishop Niederauer's homily at the Porziuncola Shrine blessing. See Page 18 for additional coverage of the Oakland cathedral rite.

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On The STREETST Where You Live

by Tom Burke



Yolanda Arnaudo, 100 years old Aug. 2, with her son, Victor, and daughter-in-law, Patricia.

Congratulations to one of San Francisco's newest centenarians, Yolanda Arnaudo, who celebrated her 100th birthday Aug. 2. Yolanda has been a parishioner of San Francisco's St. Elizabeth's since 1949 and a member of the Italian Catholic Federation - Branch #1 - since 1930....Children and families in the Mir Botcha Kot area of Afghanistan are now drinking clean water via a new well and water pump thanks to the "Pennies for Peace" donated by students at St. Raphael Elementary School in San Rafael. "This is an opportunity for the students to reach out to the rest of the world and begin to have a more global perspective," said Father Paul Rossi, pastor. "It takes them out of the local community and makes them part of another community with children their age, but with

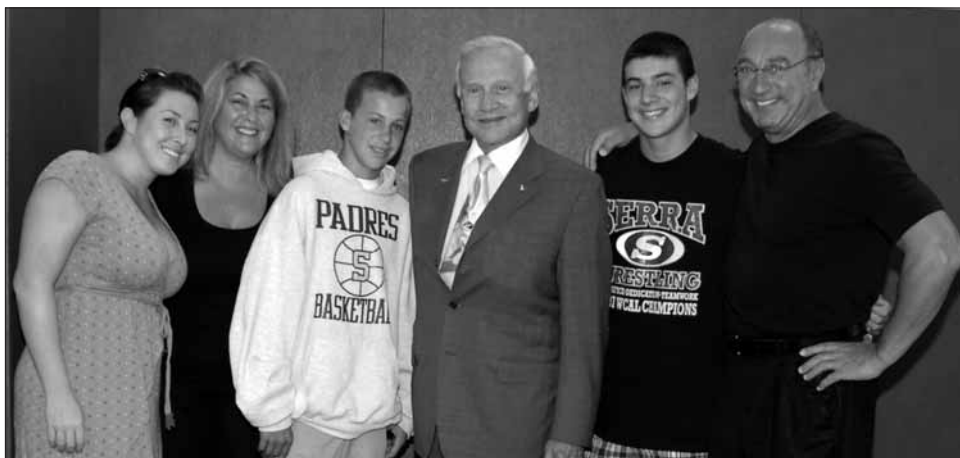


New water well and pump while under construction in Afghanistan. A plaque at the site thanks students at St. Raphael Elementary School in San Rafael for the new resource.

difficulties beyond ours here." Students donated more than \$1,000 to the cause. "Pennies for Peace" was founded by Kyleigh Kuhn, a graduate of Marin Catholic High School. Heidi Kuhn, her mom, is founder of "Roots of Peace," an effort to eliminate landmines in wartorn countries and rehabilitate the affected land.... Astronaut Buzz Aldrin gave a down-to-earth talk about his above-earth travels as well as his life's journey at Junipero Serra High School in August. Buzz, of course, was the second man to set foot on the moon and his first steps at Serra were courtesy of Serra mom and dad, Sam and Lori Runco, whose sons, Sammy and Nicky, attend the school. Barry Thornton, principal, called the Aldrin appearance "a wonderful gift to our boys." The moon landing in July 1969 was just a few months after I graduated high school and I remember it well. Where we lived - the Jersey Shore - was pre-cable at the time. We all gathered around the living room TV, rabbit ears aloft almost in salute to the history we were witnessing.... Happy 60 years married to Gloria and Tony Newhoff longtime parishioners of San Francisco's St.

Stephen's. The couple - "both native San Franciscans," son Joe said to be sure to say - took their vows at St. Charles Church on South Van Ness.... Welcome aboard at St. Peter Parish in Pacifica to new director of elementary religious education, Elizabeth Neapolitan. "Liz comes with lots of experience and we are blessed to have her join St. Peter staff," a recent bulletin said.... This is an empty space without you! Send items and pictures via e-mail to burket@sfarchdiocese.org. Mailed items should be sent to "Street," One Peter Yorke Way, SF 94109. Pix should be hard copy or electronic jpeg at 300 dpi. Don't forget to include a follow-up phone number. Call me at (415) 614-5634 and I'll walk you through it.

"Moonwalker" Buzz Aldrin with hosts, Sam and Lori Runco and children, Sarah, Nicky and Sammy, at Serra High School in August.



Families and friends of St. Stephen Parish and School had a great time at the annual Spaghetti Bingo in September. Taking the bows here for all involved are event chairs Teresa Anastasio, Dan Linehan, Tony Maffei and Diane Linehan.

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PHOTOS BY DAN MORRIS-YOUNG/CATHOLIC SAN FRANCISCO

About 50 persons took part in a workshop on the U.S. bishops' document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" Sept. 26 at Holy Name Parish, San Francisco. Above, Joan Rosenhauer of the bishops' staff in Washington, DC, addresses the group along with Jesuit Father George Schultze, left, who is an expert on Catholic social thought, and William May, chairman of Catholics for the Common Good.

'Faithful Citizenship' discussed in local parishes and across U.S.

WASHINGTON/SAN FRANCISCO (CNS/CSF) – Across the country and in the Archdiocese of San Francisco Catholics are taking a close look at the bishops' 2007 document intended to help Catholic voters form their consciences on a variety of issues.

Even though there is a push to review the document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," during the election season, many Catholics do not plan to put it aside after Nov. 4.

That was part of the message shared at workshops held in Marin, San Mateo and San Francisco counties last week.

Joan Rosenhauer, associate director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, has been giving talks about the document across the country and last week spoke to groups gathering at St. Bartholomew Parish in San Mateo, St. Sebastian Parish in Kentfield and Holy Name of Jesus Parish in San Francisco.

She said she has seen how Catholics are "taking very seriously the bishops' message that forming one's conscience is critical as we make decisions in political life."

"Part of this process involves studying Scripture and the church's teaching," she said. "Catholics are reading and reflecting on the document carefully to learn what is involved in forming one's conscience and to learn about the basic principles and ideas from Catholic teaching that should shape decisions in public life."

Rosenhauer said the document's emphasis on having a well-formed conscience seems to "strike a chord with many people."

"It's not an entirely new idea," she added. "But it's one they may not have considered as directly and fully as they are asked to do" with this document.

The first "Faithful Citizenship" was published in 1975. The bishops produce a new version about every four years to coincide with the national elections. The document for the 2008 election was unique in that it was the first to be discussed, amended and approved by the entire membership of the U.S. bishops' conference, Rosenhauer told a group of about 50 at Holy Name Parish on Sept. 26.

After extensive review, it was passed by a vote of 221 to 4, she said, adding that one observer of the U.S. bishops'

proceedings quipped that he doubted that body of bishops would have voted that overwhelmingly on existence of the Trinity.

"Many Catholics feel as though they don't really have a political home" in either major U.S. political party, Rosenhauer said at Holy Name Parish, explaining that both the Democratic and Republican parties in general embrace some positions at odds with Church teaching.

That is all the more reason, she added, that Catholics should be active in both parties to work for change and for "building a culture of life."

"We cannot be uncritical members of either political party," she said.

Carol Zimmermann of Catholic News Service and Dan Morris-Young of Catholic San Francisco contributed to this story. The text of "Faithful Citizenship" can be found on the U.S. bishops' website: www.usccb.org. The Office of Communications of the Archdiocese of San Francisco has created a web link to background information on legislative issues: <http://www.sfarchdiocese.org/about-us/elections-2008-legislative-information/>

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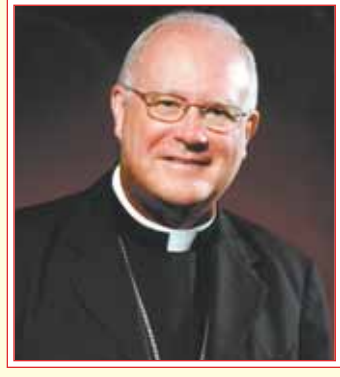
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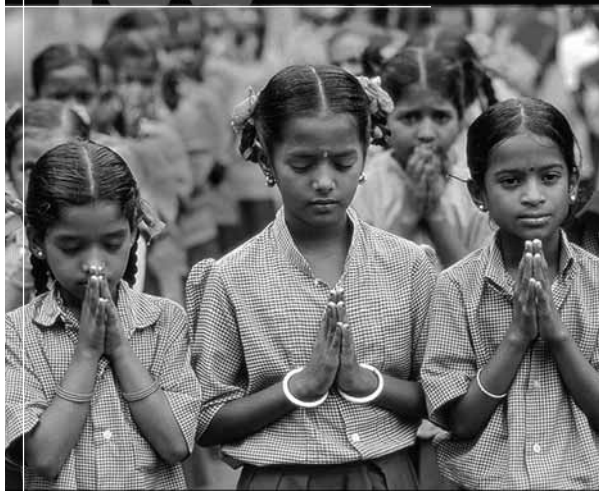
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Sister Dorothy Stang: film focuses on post-murder events

"They Killed Sister Dorothy," a new feature-length documentary film following events in the aftermath of the murder of Notre Dame Sister Dorothy Stang in the rainforests of Brazil in 2005, will be shown at the Mill Valley Film Festival Oct 11 and 12.

The film is produced by JustMedia of Denver and is directed by Daniel Junge, who will be at the showings to discuss the work. The film, which won the Grand Jury and Audience Vote for Best Documentary at the 2008 South by Southwest Film Festival, is narrated by film and television star Martin Sheen.

Sister Dorothy Stang began her work among the rural poor of Brazil in the 1970s. She helped peasants support themselves by farming small plots in the country's rainforests without harming the fragile environment. She also

sought to protect them from individuals and organizations which sought to usurp the land. She was carrying her Bible and walking along when shot to death by two gunmen on Feb. 12, 2005.

For ticket and other information, visit www.mvff.com or call (877) 874-MVFF. To learn about the film and view a trailer, visit www.theykilledsisterdorothy.com.



Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdN

(CNS FILE PHOTO)

To address 'Faithful Citizenship' at Belmont campus on Oct. 23

Msgr. Robert McElroy, Ph.D., pastor (on sabbatical) of St. Gregory Parish in San Mateo and recently named to the 2008 Loschiavo Chair in Catholic Studies and Social Thought at the University of San Francisco, will speak on the U.S. Catholic bishops' "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Notre Dame de Namur University's Taube Center, located at the entrance of the school off Ralston Ave. in Belmont.

Msgr. McElroy will discuss "Responsible Citizenship: Now That We Are Voting." The priest holds a post graduate degree in ethics from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a post graduate degree in International Relations from Stanford University.

His published works include "Church Teaching on War: Why We Must Withdraw from Iraq" (*America* magazine, September 2007) and "The Search for an American Public Theology" published by Paulist Press. For more information, call Notre Dame Sister Roseanne Murphy at (650) 508-3551.



Msgr. Robert McElroy, Ph.D.

Festival of Flowers opens this evening at Cathedral

The second annual Cathedral Festival of Flowers opens at 6 p.m. today with a gala preview, reception and silent auction at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

The program continues Saturday from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. with the "Festival of Flowers" displays and "Little Flower Festival" exhibits. A noon Mass on Saturday will mark the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the Archdiocese, of animals, and of the environment.

Two presentations are scheduled Saturday: a 1 p.m. "Introduction to Flower Symbolism" by Penelope Midlock, and a 2 p.m. "Flowers in Sacred Art" by Father Patrick Moran.

The flower displays may be viewed from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday which will also feature a 3:30 p.m. organ concert by David Hatt.

For information, call (415) 567-2020, e-mail visit info@cathedralflowers.org, or visit www.cathedralflowers.org.



(PHOTO BY F. JOSEPH LEONARD)

In conjunction with the Oct. 4 Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, pet blessings take place in many parishes of the Archdiocese including a Sept. 30 ceremony at St. Rita Parish, Fairfax, where Father Ken Weare (left), pastor, blesses the guinea pigs of Errol and Julia Friedman. Father Lawrence Finegan (right), parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral, blesses Cottonball the hamster during the pet blessing rite at the cathedral on Sept. 27.

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Most Reverend George H. Niederauer, publisher
Maurice E. Healy, associate publisher & executive editor

Editorial Staff:

Dan Morris-Young, editor: morrisyoung@sfarchdiocese.org;
Rick DelVecchio, assistant editor: delvecchio@sfarchdiocese.org;
Tom Burke, "On the Street"/Datebook: burket@sfarchdiocese.org;
Michael Vick, reporter: vickm@sfarchdiocese.org

Advertising:

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Sculptor Phil Diers and painter Adrian Card restored the Madonna Della Guardia statue at Corpus Christi Church. Nearly destroyed in a fire two years ago, it will be re-inaugurated at a Mass Oct. 18.

Italian Madonna, gleaming in blue and gold, arises from devastating fire

By Rick DelVecchio

A 67-year-old imported statue of the Madonna Della Guardia, a treasured icon for three generations of Italian-American Catholics at Corpus Christi Parish, San Francisco, has been restored after a devastating fire in 2006 and will be re-inaugurated Oct. 18.

The 10:30 a.m. celebration of the Festa Della Madonna Della Guardia, a Corpus Christi community event usually marked in August, will hail the resurrection of the gold-crowned Madonna. She holds the infant Jesus in her left arm as a shepherd gazes at her on bended knee and a lamb stands at the hem of her vibrant blue cloak.

The scene depicts a Marian vision reported in 1490 by a shepherd, Benedict Pareto, in Livellato, north of Genoa, Italy. The Madonna Della Guardia is so named because she is venerated in Genoa as a guardian of mariners.

The \$10,000 restoration is the work of sculptor Phil Diers and decorative painter Adrian Card. Their plaster sculpture, hand-wrought back to life piece by piece, rests on

a pedestal made by Matthias Gordon-Murer, a custom woodworker.

The statue was damaged in an arson fire Aug. 14, 2006. Volunteers limited the damage by smothering it with blankets, but firefighters struggling to prevent the flames from spreading to the church broke off the baby's head and one of the Blessed Mother's arms as they hosed the fire.

"Pretty well destroyed," said John Consiglieri, 92, whose mother was instrumental in bringing the original statute from Italy.

The story of the Madonna Della Guardia dates to the 1930s. As Corpus Christi parishioner JoAnn Consiglieri, John's daughter, tells it, Italian-Americans from the parish and surrounding areas grew tired of having to travel by horse and buggy or streetcar for a novena in late August at Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

"So my grandmother and three other women, with the help of the pastor began to talk about ordering a statue from Italy for their parish," she says. "After a fund drive where my grandmother and many women gave their gold jewelry for the cause, a statue was procured from Italy in

1941. Since that time every August the parish has had a celebration of the Madonna in the church on the 4th Saturday of August."

The statue arrived from Italy in August 1941, and people of Italian descent from Corpus Christi and surrounding parishes celebrated with a nine-day novena culminating on the feast of the Madonna Della Guardia.

The statue had its own niche in the church until a new church was built in 1952. From then until the 2006 fire it was brought out of storage for the annual celebration.

The festival was organized each year by a committee and Joann Consiglieri's grandmother, Luigia Consiglieri. As time went by Luigia's daughters Marie and Tillie and son John took over the commitment.


"My aunt Marie died in the 90's at age 89 and my aunt Tillie died on Sept. 8 at the age of 96, so my Dad is continuing the tradition along with his children," Joann Consiglieri says.

The Rev. Fr. Armand Olveri will celebrate the Oct. 18 Mass. Following the Mass the patrons of the Madonna and friends will have a complimentary brunch to commemorate the spirit of the Italian-American Catholics of an earlier time who waited so long for the statue to arrive from Italy. Guests are asked to RSVP to John Consiglieri at (415) 515-5102.

And there is hope that the statue again will find a permanent place in the refurbished church.


Insurance paid for the restoration but the patrons are always in need of money to cover feast day expenses, including flowers, printing and music. Plus, now that the statue is effectively new it will require resources to keep in good repair.

Donations may be made to the "La Madonna Della Guardia" Fund. Send to John Consiglieri, 45 Santa Rosa Ave., San Francisco 94112.



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NEWS *in* brief

Affordable housing encouraged

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Catholic Charities USA has called for a nationwide effort to develop affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income people as they face mounting pressure to keep a roof over their heads. Focusing on the housing crisis gripping the nation, the agency is seeking a broad plan that would see partnerships develop between local, state and federal governments, nonprofit housing groups, developers, philanthropic leaders and faith-based organizations including diocesan Catholic Charities agencies. “The lack of affordable housing is one of the most pressing needs of the country,” Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA president, said in introducing an afternoon-long program Sept. 26 at the agency’s annual gathering in New Orleans.

‘God sends angels’

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) – God sends angels to help people as they make their way through life and toward eternity with God, Pope Benedict XVI said. “The invisible presence of these blessed spirits is of great help and comfort to us. They walk alongside us and protect us in every circumstance, they defend us from dangers and we can turn to them at every moment,” the pope said Sept. 29 on the feast of the archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Communications Day theme set

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – For World Communications Day 2009, Pope Benedict XVI has chosen the theme: “New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship.” Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, announced the theme Sept. 29.

Security force joining Interpol

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – After setting up two new anti-terrorism units this year that work closely with international police, the Vatican’s security force has plans to join Interpol. Vatican Radio reported Sept. 28 the Vatican’s security force will join the international police organization sometime before Oct. 10 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Vatican official hits Demo Party

ROME (CNS) – The Democratic Party in the United States “risks transforming itself definitively into a ‘party of death,’” said U.S. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, prefect of the Vatican’s highest court. An interview with the former archbishop of St. Louis was published in the Sept. 27 edition of *Avenire*, a daily Catholic newspaper sponsored by the Italian bishops’ conference. The newspaper asked the archbishop, the new head of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature, if he knew that the August Democratic National Convention in Denver featured a guest appearance by Sheryl Crow, a musician whose performance at a 2007 benefit for a Catholic children’s hospital the archbishop had opposed because of her support for abortion and embryonic stem-cell research. “That does not surprise me much,” the archbishop said. “At this point the Democratic Party risks transforming itself definitively into a ‘party of death’ because of its choices on bioethical questions as Ramesh Ponnuru wrote in his book, ‘The Party of Death: The Democrats, the Media, the Courts and the Disregard for Human Life.’”

Groups hit KC letter to Biden

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Two Catholic organizations have raised questions about a Sept. 19 letter from the international leader of the Knights of Columbus that challenged Democratic vice-presidential candidate Sen. Joseph Biden’s unwillingness to end legal abortion. Taking differ-

NEWS IN BRIEF, page 7

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- 30-Nov. 1 HALLOWEEN (No Retreat)

NOVEMBER

- 7-9 SPANISH RETREAT, WOMEN:
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Oct. 17 - **Eternal Life: To Love One Another**
Oct. 19 A Non-Silent Retreat
Looking Toward the end of life
*Fr. Bernard Bush, S.J.; Dr. André L. Delbecq;
Janet Perucca-Kleinhoffer;
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Eternal life starts here and goes on forever. How we live here determines how we will be for eternity. It is to be a life of loving service that follows Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. This retreat will prepare us for that transition.

Oct. 10 - **We Don't Have to Wait**
Oct. 26 Recovery Retreat for Men & Women,
in the language of Al-Anon
*Msgr. Terrence Richey; Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J.;
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Perhaps the most liberating discovery in Al-Anon recovery is the awareness that we don't have to wait until the alcoholic listens, “gets it,” changes, stops drinking, etc. We embark on a journey of liberation right now by working through the Twelve Steps in companionship with others, and picking them up again when falter.

Oct. 29 **From Glory to Exile**
Bible Day of Prayer (Wednesday)
Fr. Joseph Fice, SJ


The glory of the Kingdom of Israel under kings David and Solomon eroded with the division of the kingdom into north and south. Eventually, both kingdoms fell – first the North, then the South – under the onslaught of great middle eastern empires. Bring your Bible!

Nov. 7 - **The Sacrament of Marriage:**
Nov. 9 **An Affair of the Heart**
*Fr. Bob J. Fabing, SJ; Madielene Viernes;
Fr. Kevin Ballard, SJ; Fr. Bernard Bush, SJ;
Bro. Thomas Koller, SJ*


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Dinner with Bishop Justice

October 14th
Presented by The Catholic Professional & Business Club



About Bishop Justice
CPBC is blessed to have Bishop Justice as our presenter at our October meeting. Most Reverend William Justice was named auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco in April 2008. He has been pastor of Mission Dolores Basilica in San Francisco since 2003, and archdiocesan vicar for clergy since 2006, a post held previously by Bishop John Wester before he became Bishop of Salt Lake City. Bishop Justice was ordained a priest from the San Francisco Archdiocese in 1968 and then went on to obtain a Masters in Applied Spirituality at the University of San Francisco. He later pursued post-graduate language studies in Spanish in Guadalajara, Mexico. He has served in several parishes in the archdiocese and brings a generous pastoral spirit to his work as Vicar for the Clergy.



The Topic: Faithful Citizenship
Our nation faces political challenges that demand urgent moral choices. We are a nation at war, with all of its human costs; a country often divided by race and ethnicity; a nation of immigrants struggling with immigration. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty; part of a global community confronting terrorism and facing urgent threats to our environment; a culture built on families, where some now question the value of marriage and family life. We pride ourselves on supporting human rights, but we fail even to protect the fundamental right to life, especially for unborn children. We bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so they can make sound moral choices in addressing these challenges. We do not tell Catholics how to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

Event Details –
Event Date: Tuesday, October 14th
Event Location: Caesar's Italian Restaurant, 2299 Powell Street at Bay Street
Parking: Easy street parking or \$6.00 valet parking
Format: Registration begins at 5:30pm followed by networking. Program begins at 6pm, ending by 7:30pm. Includes delicious dinner and dessert. No host beverages.

About the Catholic and Professional Business Club (CPBC)
CPBC is comprised of a group of Catholics who come together and share our common faith, network, hear speakers on pertinent topics, and discuss ways to incorporate our Catholic spirituality and ethics in the workplace. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month. We'd love for you to become a member of the CP&BC of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. To become a member, fill out the form below or visit our website at www.cpbc-sf.org.

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Check one: \$37 I am a member. Event cost is \$37 per member
\$47 I am Not a member. Event cost is \$47 per non-member
\$18 I am a non-member but want to join CPBC. Please make your check for \$58.00. Annual Membership is \$45.00 per person with this special evening at half price.

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Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming CPBC Programs:
November 12 - Breakfast Meeting with **Susan Todaro** - Stewardship: *Animating Our Faith*
December 10 - CPBC Merry Christmas! **Happy Hour**

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News in brief . . .

Continued from page 6

ent approaches to the letter from Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, Catholics United and Catholic Democrats made their disagreements with the Knights' leader public in statements issued after the letter was published in five East Coast newspapers where Biden has roots or a strong following.

Sex-selection abortions discussed

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Despite evidence that sex-selection abortions may be occurring in the United States, U.S. law affords “less protection from sex-based feticide” than India or China do, according to proposed legislation that is to be introduced soon in the House of Representatives. Republican Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona and Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska discussed the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act at a Sept. 23 press conference on Capitol Hill. The proposed bill would “prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or race.”

Help poor in bailout, leader says

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) – Any financial bailout for Wall Street “must include economic relief for the hardships of Main Street,” the president of Catholic Charities USA said in Sept. 25 letters to the leadership of the House and Senate. Father Larry Snyder said any plan to rescue the nation’s banking and financial system must ensure “that those with the least do not bear the greatest burden in this crisis.” He added, “We urge Congress to remember the low- and middle-income Americans whose lives and economic security are being shattered by the current economic crisis.”



Israeli Rabbi Shear-Yashuv Cohen poses in his office in Jerusalem Sept. 25. Rabbi Cohen, co-chairman of the Israeli-Vatican dialogue commission and chief rabbi of Haifa, will be the first non-Christian to address the world Synod of Bishops at the Vatican.

(CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL)

Pope praises Retrouvaille

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) – Pope Benedict XVI praised the Catholic program Retrouvaille for its dedication to helping couples overcome serious marital difficulties. He said the people guiding the program are like “custodians of a greater hope” that troubled couples need and have lost along the way. The pope spoke Sept. 26 to some 300 people participating in a Retrouvaille international council meeting who traveled from Rome

to meet with him at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo. Created by a Canadian couple in 1977, Retrouvaille – French for “rediscovery” – is a program that works to help heal marriages in crisis by bringing together troubled couples and couples who have overcome serious difficulties.

Retrouvaille is a weekend program followed by six follow-up sessions. The weekend is usually led by three married couples and a priest. The program “offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship,” say Retrouvaille officials. A Bay Area Retrouvaille weekend is scheduled for Oct. 17 - 19. Call (415) 893-1005 or e-mail 6018@retrouvaille.org.

Ray Flynn goes home

BRIGHTON, Mass. (CNS) – Raymond L. Flynn, former Boston mayor and U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, was discharged from Brighton’s Caritas St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center Sept. 24 following a stay that began after his collapse at a Sept. 17 Theology on Tap event in Quincy. Media reports said Flynn, 69, was about 35 minutes into his talk at Bad Abbots Pub in Quincy when he passed out, remaining unconscious for about five minutes.



A police truck and policemen are seen at a rally organized by Catholics in front of St. Joseph Church in Hanoi, Vietnam, Sept. 25. The Vietnamese Catholic community has been protesting to demand the return of the site of the former Vatican embassy in Hanoi.

(CNS PHOTO/JOSEPH LY, REUTERS)



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Cardinal: 'spiritual nourishment' of Bible to be a synod focus

By Dan Morris-Young

SAN FRANCISCO – A renewed appreciation for the “spiritual nourishment” available in sacred Scripture, a shot in the arm for ecumenical dialogue, and enhanced preaching on “the word of God in Scripture” are among hopeful outcomes of the Synod of Bishops on the Bible said Cardinal William Levada, one of three delegate presidents who will alternate presiding over the synod’s daily sessions Oct. 5-26 in Rome.

“For all the rekindling of the love for Scripture that the Vatican Council proposed, I would say that perhaps we have not integrated” the study and appreciation of the Bible into the daily lives of average Catholics as much as the Church would hope, the Cardinal said during a Sept. 22 interview while in San Francisco.

“I am speaking in generalities,” said the prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, “but there are sources that indicate that a lot of people perhaps do not have their own Bibles, that they have not learned how to use it every day and make it part of their spiritual nourishment.”

“The pastoral implications of the Second Vatican Council, particularly ‘Dei verbum’ (The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), still need encouragement for fuller implementation,” Cardinal Levada told *Catholic San Francisco*.

The Archbishop Emeritus of San Francisco also said it “would be one of our great hopes” that the synod might provide “a great point of connection” with other Christian denominations and stimulate “renewed dia-



Cardinal William Levada

PHOTO BY RICK DELVECCHIO/CATHOLIC SAN FRANCISCO

logue toward the ecumenical efforts that we all have to continue to make according to the prayer of Christ that all may be one.”

Among other potential “pastoral applications” for the synod would be preaching, he said, “which the Church has always employed to break open the meaning of the Scriptures for our people.”

“I don’t think there are any tremendous theological issues which are left unresolved by the Second Vatican Council” that the synod might address, the cardinal said, but added that “we can always be surprised by some aspects of things that will be brought up and that can capture your mind. So you say, ‘Yes, that is really an interesting suggestion and we ought to go with that,’ so we will have to keep our ears and hearts open.”

He also noted that the inclusion of more women and a number of representatives of other faiths as synod consultants and participants, including a rabbi who will be the first non-Christian to address a bishops’ synod, “is going to have its own dynamic.”

In San Francisco to take part in the dedication of the Chapel of the Porziuncola Shrine at the National Shrine of St. Francis, Cardinal Levada noted that he, Pope Benedict XVI and other Church people had been invited by a major Italian television network to take part in a “10 to 15-minute reading of a passage from Scripture” every day of the synod during prime time “as a contribution to helping the Bible come into people’s lives.”

In addition to Cardinal Levada, Pope Benedict XVI has named as delegate presidents Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, Australia, and Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer of Sao Paulo.

The pope himself is president of the synod.

Catholics must know Bible to live Christian lives, pontiff says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) – Catholics must know the Bible and meditate on the Scriptures in order to live fully Christian lives, Pope Benedict XVI told the bishops of Uruguay.

Bishops, priests and catechists must help Catholics learn to read, understand and pray with the Bible so that “they can live their Christian vocation in a way that is more conscientious, firm and secure,” the pope said Sept. 26.

Meeting at his summer residence with the bishops, who were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican, the pope told them that the Bible must also be the source and content of their own preaching and action. Heads of dioceses are required to make such visits every five years to report on the status of their dioceses.

World attention will be drawn to the Bible as the international Synod of Bishops on the Bible takes place at the Vatican Oct. 5-26.

Preaching the Gospel, the pope said, “is more necessary than ever at a time when many other voices are trying to silence God in personal and social life, taking people on detours that undermine the authentic hope and strong interest in the truth that lie within the human heart.”

The pope told the bishops to teach the faith of the Catholic Church “in its integrity with the bravery and persuasion proper to one who lives by the faith and

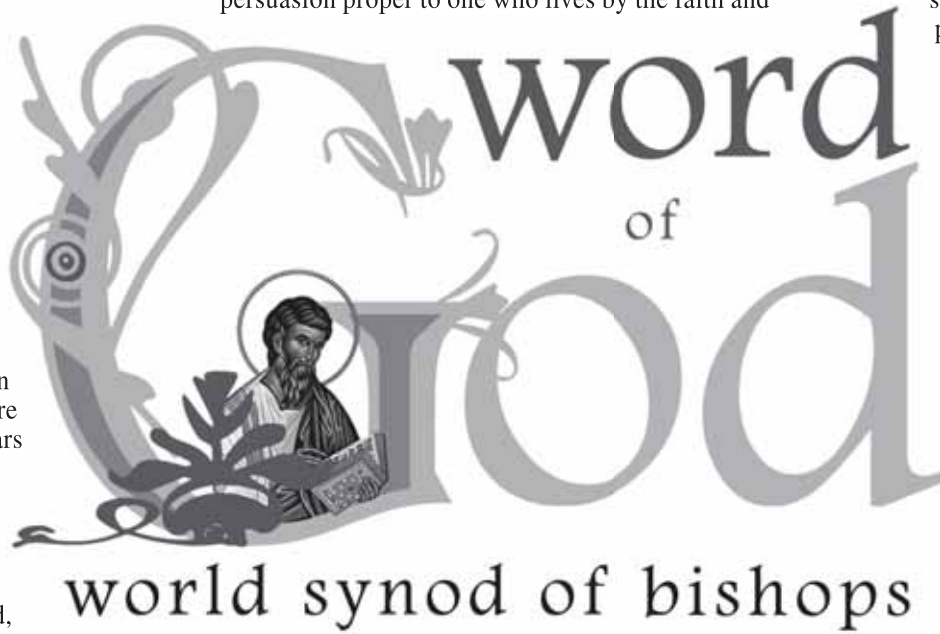
ily life, sexuality, abortion and euthanasia – must be defended even though they often are the subject of debate in the media and in the political, cultural and social arenas, he said.

Pope Benedict praised the Uruguayan bishops for their efforts “to defend human life from conception until its natural end,” and he prayed that each person in the country would come to a clear understanding of “the inviolable dignity of every person and (to) a firm commitment to respect and safeguard it without reservation.”

Bishop Carlos Collazzi Irazabal of Mercedes, president of the Uruguayan bishops’ conference, told Vatican Radio Sept. 22 that efforts continue in his country to decriminalize abortion.

“The Church has made its voice heard loud and clear,” he said. “We also trust in the commitment made by the president of the republic, who is a physician by profession and has said on several occasions that if the parliament passes pro-abortion laws he would veto them.”

The advance working document of the Synod of Bishops on the Bible in English can be found on the Vatican website: www.vatican.va.



for the faith without hesitating to proclaim explicitly the moral values of Catholic doctrine.”

The Church’s moral teachings – particularly on fam-



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RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2008

Guest Commentary

Abortion and 3 fundamental questions

On Sept. 17 *The New York Times* ran a front-page story, "Abortion Issue Again Dividing Catholics." This commentary speaks of the "struggle within the Church over how Catholic voters should think about abortion."

The story's context is the "theological dispute" that has arisen due to recent public statements about abortion by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Democratic vice-presidential candidate Senator Joseph Biden.

On NBC's Aug. 24 edition of "Meet the Press," Pelosi, a Catholic, misrepresented Catholic teaching on abortion by claiming that for centuries the Church has been unable to agree on when human life begins. On the Sept. 7 "Meet the Press," Biden, also a Catholic, said he believes human life begins at conception. He insists, however, that this "Catholic teaching" is a "matter of faith" and should not be imposed in a pluralistic society.

The "issue" of abortion comes down to three fundamental questions:

IS AN EMBRYO A HUMAN BEING?

The Church's teaching on abortion is not simply a matter of revelation. The baby in the womb is called an embryo from the time of conception, and after eight weeks of age is called a fetus. At the completion of the process of fertilization, an "embryonic human being" is present. This is not a "Catholic teaching." It's a biological fact.

Science has long established definitively that the embryo is both living and human. The embryo possesses human DNA, actively self-develops, and is scientifically classified as a member of the species *homo sapiens*. Physicians, biologists and scientists agree that conception marks the beginning of a human being. (www.epm.org). The embryo is not a potential human being but rather a small, actual human being with a great deal of potential. "Embryonic human beings, fetal human beings, infant human beings, adolescents and adults are all real human beings with potential yet to fulfill." (*Life Issues. Medical Choices*, Smith and Kaczor, 2007)

Human embryos are not merely collections of human cells, but living creatures with all the properties that define any organism as distinct from a group of cells. Embryos are capable of growing, maturing, maintaining a physiologic balance between various organ systems,

adapting to changing circumstances, and repairing injury. Mere groups of human cells do nothing like this under any circumstance.

IS THE EMBRYO A PERSON WITH RIGHTS, SUCH AS THE RIGHT TO LIFE?

This question is a moral one. From the very beginning of their existence, human beings have a certain intrinsic nature. Contrary to this belief is the alarming and increasingly dominant viewpoint that only humans who are able to function at a certain level have value or rights. For example, only those with communication skills, self-awareness, self-motivated activity, or reasoning ability merit respect. This erroneous view holds that human beings who are not so equipped do not have the right to live.

The embryo is not a potential human being but rather a small, actual human being with a great deal of potential.

On the contrary, the value of a human being does not depend upon what he or she can do or is capable of doing. All human beings are valuable because they are made in God's image and likeness. All human beings have the same basic rights from the time of conception until the time of death.

History demonstrates that human beings have excluded other human beings from belonging fully to the "class" of humans. The Nazis did it to the Jews. Men have done it to women. Native-born people have done it to foreigners. Slave owners did it to slaves. These

attitudes and actions represent a gross error in moral judgment. It is a terrible injustice to strip human beings of their natural rights and dignity. Abortion is an act that destroys an embryo's and fetus' right to live. The embryo and fetus are today's marginalized.



Father Gerald Coleman, SS

DOES A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO FREE CHOICE TRUMP THE RIGHT TO LIFE OF A HUMAN BEING IN THE WOMB?

Some argue that a woman's right to choose deserves greater protection than the right to life of an unborn child. It is critical to keep in mind that abortion involves two human bodies – the woman and the child. The embryo or fetus is living only temporarily within the mother. Destroying another's body is precisely what takes place in abortion.

If a woman's right to make free choices about her life comes into conflict with the right to life of the child in her womb, then the right to life should prevail as the more basic and fundamental right. Mother Teresa was correct when she wrote to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1994, "The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father's role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts – a child – as a competitor, an intrusion, and an inconvenience."

Sulpician Father Gerald Coleman is vice president for ethics for the Daughters of Charity Health System.



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RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2008



The Schmidt family, from left: John Paul, 2, John, Gianna, Jennifer and Jacob, 5.

Gianna's life . . .

■ Continued from cover

But the parents made it clear the options they had been given were not options for them. With the help of Father Brendan, they decided what they would do instead: pray.

John and Jennifer sent out an e-mail to nearly everyone they knew.

"We sent out a prayer request first asking for a medical miracle," said Jennifer, "and if that was not God's will for us, asking for the strength to carry the cross of infant loss with grateful hearts. 'We needed prayer to just be able to emotionally and spiritually survive this, and at first we were just so numb. We were completely at the mercy of others' goodness.'"

It didn't take long for help to arrive. Just a few days after the sonogram — and shortly after their prayer requests had gone out — John and Jennifer began to notice the grace of those prayers working in their lives.

"John and I just had this sense of peace that can't be explained," said Jennifer. "We knew there was a very difficult road ahead of us, but we knew — somehow — we would be able to do this."

The couple also gave their baby girl a name: Gianna, after St. Gianna Beretta Molla, a Catholic doctor who heroically risked her life for her child during her pregnancy.

MOVING FORWARD

Besides their family and close friends, the Schmidts sought support particularly from their faith community at Prince of Peace Parish in Olathe, Kan. and at Benedictine. Even relative strangers were in contact with John and Jennifer, due to the wide circulation of their e-mail prayer requests.

"We were e-mailed constantly by people we didn't know. There were amazing people all over the world who let us know they were praying for us — from cloistered nuns to prison inmates," said John. "It was very humbling to be lifted up in prayer by so many."

The couple also sought contact with other families who had experienced infant loss. Several people told the Schmidts about Patti Lewis, director of Alexandra's House, a perinatal hospice program in Kansas City, Mo. Lewis offers support to expectant couples experiencing a prenatal diagnosis.

From the moment the Schmidts and Lewis met, the couple knew they had found a rock of support for the pregnancy.

"She really gave us hope that regardless of what happened, we could face this cross with grace," said Jennifer.

During her time working with the Schmidt family, Lewis says she was moved by the dignity with which the family both carried their burden and enjoyed their short time with their daughter.

"John and Jennifer and their kids are like a Catholic family handbook with hands and feet," said Lewis. "They of course wanted healing for their daughter, but they trusted and were at peace with God's will, whatever it was. They made sure Gianna had dignity in her short life."



Jacob kisses his infant sister, Gianna.

CELEBRATING GIANNA'S LIFE

As the weeks passed, Jennifer felt Gianna moving constantly. Knowing their time with Gianna would be limited to the pregnancy, the couple began seeking out ways to treasure their time with her and celebrate her life while she was still in utero.

"We really wanted to bring Gianna to places that were special to our family," explained John.

For the Schmidts, that included everything from a family Christmas trip to Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., to a small chapel with special significance to the family. Friends of the Schmidts organized a prayer service — which John and Jennifer consider to be the highlight of their pregnancy — at St. Joseph Chapel, located in the basement of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison.

"It was completely overwhelming. We were expecting five or 10 of our friends, and instead, the chapel was filled with friends and family praying for Gianna," said John.

They also did the normal, everyday things

that families do. John, Jennifer and their young sons talked to Gianna constantly. Jacob and John Paul liked to kiss and pat their mother's stomach.

In fact, during this — the most difficult time in their lives — said John and Jennifer, the mood around their house was peaceful, almost serene.

"A part of us didn't want this pregnancy to end," said John. "We were very aware that we had a little saint living with us, and we knew she wouldn't be with us long."

But that didn't mean putting the family's life on hold in order to grieve. "It was heartbreaking," said Jennifer, "but we tried to keep a healthy perspective. That included normalcy in our everyday lives, as well as humor and allowing ourselves to fully grieve."

For the Schmidts, that grieving required as much spiritual as emotional support. "What really touched me was that at different times, John and Jennifer each called to talk," said Father Brendan. "Each in their own way described this overwhelming feeling of helplessness and suffering, ending in prayer where they would just ask God for help."

"And through that prayer, each of them

described this sense of God comforting them and letting them know things would be OK."

A CHILD IS BORN

John and Jennifer had been forewarned that Jennifer's labor could be much more difficult than her first two, due to a lack of amniotic fluid commonly associated with Gianna's condition. Plus, there was a real possibility that Gianna would be stillborn.

With the first contractions of Jennifer's labor, the Schmidts were keenly aware that this was both a beginning and end. They prayed fervently for just a little time with their baby.

"We wanted so much to welcome our baby and have her time on earth be completely filled with joy and happiness," said Jennifer.

Mercifully, Gianna was born alive. After baptism by Father Brendan, and held gently by her father, she opened her eyes to the sight of her big brothers coming into the room to admire and make over her.

"I don't think I've ever been more proud of our boys," said John. "They just showered Gianna with kisses, and John Paul kept trying to tickle her. The pure, unconditional love they gave her just blew me away."

Just as amazing to John and Jennifer was the sense of pride they felt in their new daughter.

"I had been scared to see Gianna," said Jennifer, "knowing she would die. But all that was gone when she was born. She was so beautiful. We were sad to be losing her, but John and I were both in awe. She was gorgeous!"

Lewis, who was in the delivery room with the family, said it's normal for a mother to hold her baby right after delivery.

"What struck me most was that John was the one to hold Gianna right away," said Lewis. "He just knelt down with her in his arms while their boys just kissed and loved on her, with Jennifer smiling and looking on."

"It was almost like Jennifer knew she had the time to hold Gianna all throughout her pregnancy, and now it was time for John and the boys."

Forty-five minutes after she was born, Gianna Marie Schmidt peacefully drifted off to sleep and her breathing slowed to an eventual stop. Her time on earth was over.

GIANNA'S LIFE, page 11

Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus-Dominican Fathers

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RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2008

Gianna's life . . .

■ Continued from cover

HEALING

They say time heals all things. The Schmidts will tell you otherwise: It was the grace of God and the kindness of others that brought them peace.

"I think this story really shows what a Catholic, pro-life family can do in the world with their witness to Jesus," said Father Brendan. "Our world is so afraid of suffering and bad news. We often want to run from it. But what I saw was Christ transforming their lives and the lives of people around them."

Though Gianna's life did not end the way the Schmidt family wanted, they take consolation in knowing she is in heaven — and that she was loved during her time on earth.

"We never in our lives had to surrender our lives and will to God so much. But Gianna forced us to do that," said John. "We had to pray with grace and dignity, even through the rough moments, and embrace her life and our time with her."

Countless people reached out to grieve and celebrate with the family, help around the house, and provide meals during the pregnancy. Families from Jacob's kindergarten class created a rose garden in honor of Gianna.

"We will forever be touched by the kindness others have shown us. It helped us be able to survive day to day," said Jennifer.

Little sister saint
Jacob and John Paul, too, help their parents through the hard parts, sometimes

quite unintentionally. It's difficult to resist the boundless energy — and equally boundless faith — of the two little boys.

"When John Paul sees pictures of Gianna, he says, 'That's my baby Gianna.' He talks about her and wants to remember what she looked and felt like," said John.

Jacob, on the other hand, shares his birthday with Gianna: March 5. But it is a happy, not a sad, occasion — and not because he has forgotten his little sister, said Jennifer. "He tells people, 'My little sister is a saint in heaven — pretty cool, huh?'"

Still, one of the most healing experiences for John and Jennifer has been sharing their story. Though it started as a simple prayer request, the couple has continued to be open about their experience with Gianna in the hope it will help other families who experience infant loss.

"I think sometimes people don't know what to say or do, so they don't say anything," said Jennifer. "And I think had we heard of a family with a situation like ours

before, I probably would have said, 'Oh those poor people, how incredibly sad for them.' And I would not have known what to do or say.

"But what most people don't realize is that despite the pain, we feel incredibly blessed to have been Gianna's parents."

Reprinted from the Jan. 25, 2008 edition of The Leaven, newspaper of the Kansas City Diocese. Photos courtesy of Angela Boquin, owner of Bella Photography, in conjunction with the "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep" program, www.nilmtds.org.



Jacob and John Paul hold their infant sister, Gianna.

Jacob and John Paul, too, help their parents through the hard parts, sometimes quite unintentionally.

What is Project Rachel?

Project Rachel is the name of the Catholic Church's healing ministry to those who have been involved in abortion. Its name comes from Scripture:

*In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning,
of bitter weeping!
Rachel mourns her children,
she refuses to be consoled
because her children are no more.*

*Thus says the Lord:
Cease your cries of mourning,
wipe the tears from your eyes.
The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward
There is hope for your future.*

Jeremiah 31:15-1



Project Rachel operates as a network of professional counselors and priests, all trained to provide one-on-one spiritual and psychological care for those who are suffering because of an abortion. Although most dioceses use the name Project Rachel, some programs are named differently. In addition to individualized counseling, some programs include support groups and retreats. Founded in 1984 by Victoria Thorn in Milwaukee, today Project Rachel programs can be found in 140 Catholic dioceses in the United States, as well as in dioceses in other countries. Visit www.hopeafterabortion.com.

In addition, Rachel's Vineyard is a retreat program, which helps those suffering after abortion in a group setting, usually over a weekend. Retreats often are sponsored by local Project Rachel offices, as well as counseling centers and retreat houses. For information or retreat schedules contact www.rachelsvineyard.org.

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before, at, or after birth.*

*We hold these our children
gently in our hearts and
pray for all who mourn for them.*



Rachel Mourning Shrine
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"For I will turn their mourning into joy." – Jeremiah 31-13



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A Tradition of Faith Throughout Our Lives.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2008

Former prison warden haunted by executions

By **Ron McAndrew**
Special to *Catholic San Francisco*

During my tenure as warden at Florida State Prison it was my duty to oversee the executions of three men: John Earl Bush, John Mills, Jr. and Pedro Medina.

Remembering every gruesome detail of their deaths is haunting. The flames that consumed Pedro Medina's head when the execution went seriously awry, the smoke, the putrid odor, and his death by inferno is deeply embedded in my brain. The memory of telling the executioner to continue with the killing, despite the malfunctioning electric chair, and being at a point of no-return, plagues me to this day.

When I became warden I learned that it was tradition for the "death team" to go out for breakfast the morning after an execution. On the early morning after John

Bush's execution, the "traditional breakfast" was held 15 miles south of the death chamber at a Shoney's in Starke, Fla.. This was my first execution and I felt that tradition was important and, moreover, the well-being of the "team" was my responsibility.

In this small town of 5,000 most everyone works at the prison, is retired from the prison, or has a family member in the business. Everyone in the restaurant knew who we were and what we had just done. There were even a few "high five" signs.

While stirring my scrambled eggs into hot grits, I began to realize the full import of the spectacle around us. Looking across the room, I could see the female attorney who had represented Bush. I saw my own sickness on her sad face and decided that breakfast after executions just didn't fit. It was my first and my last traditional death breakfast. It simply appeared celebratory from too many angles.

Minutes before an execution it is the warden's responsibility to sit with the prisoner and read the death warrant aloud after explaining that it is a state law requirement. I asked the condemned men if there was anything that could be done for them or if there was anyone I could call or if they had something very personal and confidential they'd like me to pass on - following, of course, their imminent death. While I shall never share any of the words passed to me during those quiet moments it can be said that the whispers were sincere and promises were kept.

Searching my soul for answers that would



Ron McAndrew

satisfy the question of why were we killing people and why our governor and politicians would do their chest pounding over these ghastly spectacles was difficult. I began to remember myself as the person who went to Florida State Prison with a firm belief in the death penalty. And even though I still professed this belief, the questions of why we were doing this and if it were necessary, would not leave my mind.

While appalled by the physical act of tying a person to a chair and burning him to death, I did not deny the reasons for the act.

Here I want to say that one must be careful in searching his soul. One may just find that God is there and that he does not support the barbaric idea that man should execute man.

During the renewal of my faith and my conversion to the Catholic Church, I was asked to speak out about my feelings on the death penalty.

After 23 years in corrections, I have come to the conclusion that killing people is wrong. We have no business doing it, except in self-defense, in defense of someone else or in defense of the nation.

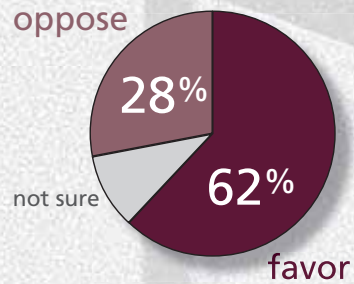
And it's wrong for us to ask others do it for us. Looking back, I wish I had never been involved in carrying out the death penalty. We have an alternative that doesn't lower us to the level of the killer: permanent imprisonment. It is cheaper, keeps society safe and offers swift justice to the victims.

I have found that my experience and notoriety as a warden who carried out executions provides a good platform to reach the public. I have told many groups in the past few years that I will tell my story to anyone who'll stand in front of me long enough to hear it.

Ron McAndrew is a 22-year veteran with the Florida Department of Corrections. He is a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Dunnellon, Fla. His website is www.RonMcAndrew.com

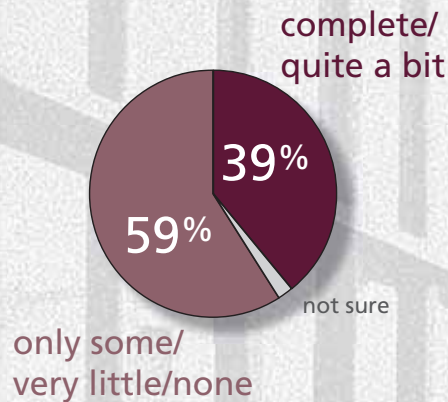
Death Penalty

Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?



From interviews of 1,000 U.S. adults conducted March 8-11. Margin of error is plus or minus 3 points.

How much confidence do you have that the criminal justice system always sentences only guilty people to death?



Source: Death Penalty Information Center ©2007 CNS

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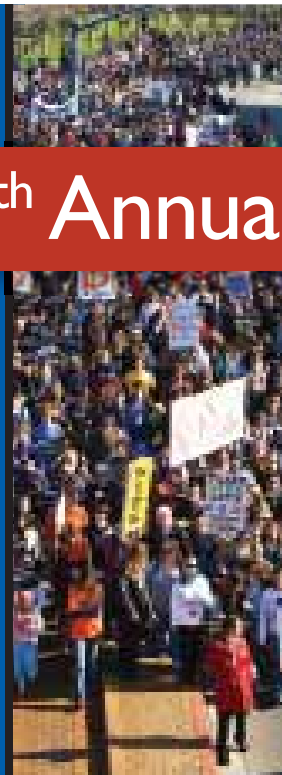
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RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2008

USF law students face death penalty realities up close

By Geoffrey A. Brooke Jr.

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Summer is usually a chance to get a break from the books, but for some students at the University of San Francisco's Law School, this past summer was an opportunity to put book learning into practice.

The students participated in the Keta Taylor Colby Death Penalty Project run by the law school at the Jesuit-run university. The project places students with death penalty projects in Louisiana and Mississippi.

USF Professor Steven Shatz started the program after hearing about projects being set up to handle death penalty cases in Louisiana and Mississippi. Shatz described a desire "to do more than write about (the death penalty). I was too academic. I wanted to try to make a contribution, involve students to reform or abolish the death penalty."

During the first two years of the program, founded in 2001, Shatz would work alongside students for part of the program. Now that the program has developed, Shatz spends the first week in the region with the students. This also enables Shatz to meet with lawyers handling the local projects.

Shatz said the program enables students to "move into being like lawyers in a really big, really intense way. There isn't any student who comes back without having had the difficult emotional experience of coming face to face with the death penalty."

For Shatz the program has two goals: that the students make a "real contribution" to the cases they face during the internship and that they become educated about the "law and larger social context in which you have the death penalty."

For many of the students not only was this their first

extended stay in the Deep South, but also their first chance to work with inmates, specifically inmates on death row.

Tiffany Danao, a New Jersey native, spent her internship working in New Orleans. Danao had never been inside a maximum-security prison.

"Seeing the cause you are working for in front of you" made the experience one of the most meaningful she has had, said Danao.

The program intensified her interest in criminal defense. "I don't think it's right to condemn someone to death," said Danao. Her desire to see the death penalty abolished was reinforced.

Rarely have students seen their case decided while they are still working on it. For most, their case is decided months or even years later. This year, it was different.

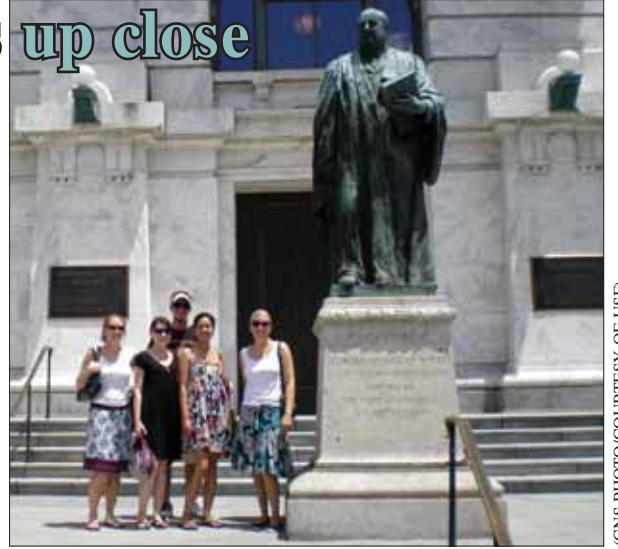
Two pairs of students had their internships in Jackson, Miss. One pair arrived in June to enter what is known as the "eleventh hour" as one of their clients was scheduled to be executed in July. Despite their efforts, the man was executed as scheduled. The students were unavailable for comment.

The other pair had the opposite experience: just before his trial, their client accepted a plea bargain for a sentence of life without parole.

Students Lani Virostko and Ashley Connell spent a great deal of time with the client. They developed a bond with the man, whom they didn't identify, as he considered the plea bargain.

They met the family of their client and the family of the murder victim. "It's a difference of life and death. You really see it's not one-sided. You can relate to the victims and clients. There's sadness on both sides," said Virostko.

Connell, who chose the USF Law School in part for its




CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF USF

University of San Francisco law students Ashley Connell, Lani Virostko, Brian McComas, Tiffany Danao and Natalie Davis pose outside the Louisiana Supreme Court in New Orleans. The interns at the USF law school participated in the Keta Taylor Colby Death Penalty Project, which was founded in 2001 and puts students to work on death penalty projects in Louisiana and Mississippi.

death penalty program, reflected on a meeting with the client one day after he had accepted the plea bargain.

"He was processing the fact he would never be free. Nothing could prepare me for what to say. I was just glad to be there for him during this very intense week," she said.

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Archbishop Niederauer

Porziuncola: 'an oasis of peace, of prayer, of devotion, and of spiritual renewal'

(Following is the homily delivered by Archbishop George H. Niederauer at the Sept. 27 Mass celebrating the opening and blessing of the Porziuncola Shrine at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco.)

A week from today, on Saturday, Oct. 4, the Church will celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the heavenly patron of our city and county, of this National Shrine, and of our Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco. This morning, however, we come together in joy and thanksgiving, to dedicate this "little portion," this beautiful Porziuncola chapel, a precious gem of religious art and devotion.

The inspiration for this lovely project comes to us here on the Pacific Rim from halfway around the world and eight centuries ago. Speaking from his Cross, Jesus the Savior called to Francis of Assisi to rebuild his Church. With his own entire life, and through his spiritual fatherhood of the women and men who follow his way and rule of life, Francis continues to build up the Church today, by his prayer, his example and his guiding spirit.

Francis began his response to Jesus Christ, however, by literally building up the collapsed and abandoned structure of a little church, the first Porziuncola, enshrined now in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels in Assisi.

Francis dedicated that Porziuncola to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Our Lady of the Angels. That's why the readings and prayers of this dedication Mass today are those of Mary, Our Lady of the Angels. In our first reading we hear the praise of the Wisdom of God from the Old Testament, now seen by the Church as an early figure for Mary, the Mother of the Lord and the Seat of Wisdom. We hear Wisdom speak, "I am the mother of fair love, of fear, of knowledge, and of holy hope," and it helps us understand how the angel Gabriel addresses Mary, beginning "Hail, full of grace."

St. Paul, in our second reading, explains the wondrous implication for each of us in the call of Mary to be the Mother of the Redeemer: "God sent his Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as sons" and daughters as children of God in Christ.

...this shrine ... is an oasis where we can once again be unafraid of silence and stillness, be open to meditation and reflection, be embraced by the quiet presence of a God who revealed himself to Elijah in a whisper, and not in noise and roar.

St. Paul says that Jesus Christ makes it possible for all of us to call God the Father, "Abba." The translation of "Abba" as "father" is too formal. To this day, in a country where Arabic is spoken, if you are in a crowded marketplace you may see a little boy running after his father and crying



Archbishop George Niederauer, left, and Cardinal William Levada were principal celebrant and presider, respectively, at the Sept. 27 opening and blessing of the Porziuncola Shrine.

out, "Abba!" That is, "Daddy!" St. Paul says we are free in Christ to be that loving and warm and close to God our Father.

God's Son became human so that all women and men could become children of the Father, sisters and brothers in Christ. That great gift of Incarnation, of the enfleshment of God's Son, continues as gift in each time and place since then. That's why we venerate saints. Christ continues to live and serve and sacrifice most intensely in all the men and women who hear his call, proclaim his Word, and do his work in the Church and in the world. The saints are our spiritual heroes and ancestors. They inspire us by their example, they intercede for us by their prayers, and they are our patrons. We take their names when we are baptized. The early Spanish explorers and settlers in California gave the names of saints and articles of faith to the places they discovered and founded: St. Joseph in San Jose, Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, the Blessed Sacrament in our state capital, Sacramento, and St. Francis of Assisi — Francesco — in our own San Francisco.

St. Francis may well be the most widely popular saint among all Christians. Why? Perhaps it is because of Francis's intensely pure and uncompromising imitation of his beloved Savior, Jesus of Nazareth. Francis single-mindedly and single-heartedly gave himself to the poor, becoming poor himself, embracing "Lady Poverty," and leading his followers in such complete simplicity of life.

If we consider our spiritual genealogy as Northern Californians, as residents of the San Francisco Bay Area, we are carried back to the time and work of the Franciscan friars and their mission foundations, and we are carried forward to this day, this place, this priceless gift of the *Nuova Porziuncola*, the New Porziuncola for this city and shrine of Francesco.

Francis continues to build up the Church today, by his prayer, his example and his guiding spirit.

You have seen, or you soon will see, that all the exquisitely beautiful details of the Assisi Porziuncola, including the frescoes, have been reproduced in our Porziuncola. Now residents of our city, and visitors as well, who come as pilgrims to this shrine — many of whom will never have the chance to visit Assisi in Italy — will find here an oasis of peace, of prayer, of devotion, and of spiritual renewal. It is important for me to express the thanks of all us to the superbly gifted and greatly generous artisans who have given of their skills, under the direction

of Nibbi Brothers and Alfonso Rocciolo, so that this *Nuova Porziuncola* could become a reality.

This church of St. Francis of Assisi was rebuilt after the 1906 quake, but the parish here pre-dates the State of California by several months. It was founded in 1850, when this country's 12th president was in the White House. Now we are about to elect our 44th.

Ten years ago my predecessor as Archbishop, His Eminence, Cardinal William Levada, designated this church to be the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Francis, and a year later the Catholic bishops of the United States designated it as the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi. Its ministry today is to invite and welcome pilgrims and visitors of all faiths in this sacred place of beauty and quiet and prayer.

The distinction between "sacred" and "profane" was not always as melodramatic as our language seems to make it today. In ancient times temples were sacred spaces for worship and prayer and reverence. The word "profane" did not suggest objectionable language or actions; it merely meant that which was, literally, *pro fana*, outside the gates and the premises of the sacred space. Profane was a word for everything else apart from the sacred.

However, the poet W. H. Auden described the distractedness of the modern sense of "profane" very well in one of his poems: "The lights must never go out,/ The music must always play." In that sense, this shrine, this Porziuncola, is an oasis where we can once again be unafraid of silence and stillness, be open to meditation and reflection, be embraced by the quiet presence of a God who revealed himself to Elijah in a whisper, and not in noise and roar.

We have a Porziuncola to bless here today in Francesco's other city because of the dream of Angela Alioto and her family, of Cardinal Levada, and all those who have so generously and enthusiastically heeded her call and followed her lead.

And this entire Renaissance Project is by no means finished today. It is just begun. The Porziuncola is the first phase of the Renaissance Project. We proceed now to the other three components: the preservation of the National Shrine of St. Francis, a national landmark and an historical treasure, that needs strengthening and reinforcing so that it will continue to draw and serve pilgrims and visitors for generations to come; next, the Piazza in front of the shrine, on Vallejo Street, where those who visit the shrine will be able to stay and enjoy peace and camaraderie and refreshment, in a space to be adorned by the Bufano statue of St. Francis; finally, an intellectual center housed here that will offer a continuing program of lectures, seminars, small group classes and discussions, all meant to express and promote the life, teaching and prayer tradition of St. Francis of Assisi.

None of that will fall unaided from the heavens, just as this wonderful Porziuncola did not. We are thankful to God, and to the intercession of Francesco, for the accomplishment of this Porziuncola project, and we are thankful to you for your generosity in this first phase. We ask you for your continued support as you walk and share with Francesco and with all of us the efforts, the journey, and the accomplishments that lie ahead.

St. Francis taught us, "Always preach the Gospel. When necessary, use words." Thus far, because of your help, we have used stones and marble and wood and paint to glorious effect. May God and St. Francis bless our continuing efforts on behalf of this shrine and this entire Renaissance Project.

Catholic San Francisco

Northern California's Weekly Catholic Newspaper

Our faith and reason say Yes on Proposition 8'

The language of Proposition 8 on the Nov. 4 California ballot is clear and succinct: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Proposition 8 restores the definition of marriage that has temporarily been taken from us.

Proposition 8 has the identical language of an initiative passed overwhelmingly by the state's voters in 2000 – the law that was overturned by the California Supreme Court May 15 in a razor-thin ruling with four judges for and three against. However, Proposition 8, when it is approved, will have the added weight of being an amendment to the state's Constitution. Therefore, appointed judges with an activist agenda will not be able to invalidate it.

While Proposition 8 is a straightforward return to the status quo prior to May 2008, when the state's high court issued its 4-3 ruling, political pressure by homosexual advocacy groups led the Attorney General to assign a new title to the measure. On the November ballot, the title of Proposition 8 will read: "Eliminates the right of same-sex couples to marry."

This politically driven change in the title of Proposition 8 reaches high absurdity as it postures the existence of a "right" that is against the spoken will of the people; one that has been "recognized" by just four of the seven judges of the California Supreme Court; one that has had currency for only about 20 weeks; and one that is counter to the tenets of our faith, the clarity of reason, the common good and our common sense.

More appropriately, the title of Proposition 8 should be: Preserve marriage as God created it and as our faith testifies to it. Preserve marriage as our reason brings us to understand it and appreciate it. Preserve marriage as fairness to children, families and society demands it. Preserve marriage as our common sense and our interest in the common good (rather than individual desires) warrant it.

As a people of faith, we know that marriage – instituted by God and in accordance with God's plan – is a faithful, exclusive and lifelong union of one man and one woman joined in an intimate relationship of love that is always open to the procreation of children. Created equal, men and women are different from one another, but are made for each other. A natural complementarity draws them together in a mutually loving union that accepts the responsibility of bringing children into the world and caring for them. These truths about marriage are present in the order of the universe and can be perceived by human reason.

Voting yes on Proposition 8 protects marriage, as it exists consistent with our faith, reason and common sense. Voting yes on Proposition 8 does not deny the humanity or dignity of individuals, or their civil rights. Voting yes on Proposition 8 does not remove any benefits of other contractual arrangements such as domestic partnerships. Voting yes on Proposition 8 simply affirms the historic, logical and reasonable definition of marriage.

In their well-financed campaign, "gay marriage" advocates have focused on gaining sympathy for individual adults who, as same-sex couples, wish to live in relationships with the official approbation of society, represented by marriage. But what is at issue is the imposition of a radical change in public policy toward marriage. Legalized same-sex marriage would change the meaning of marriage to accommodate homosexual orientation further, while undermining for all of society the very thing that is marriage's most distinctive contribution to human society.

Marriage is society's most pro-child institution, notes David Blankenhorn, author of "The Future of Marriage." In 2002, a team of researchers from Child Trends, a nonpartisan research center, reported that "family structure clearly matters for children, and the family structure that helps children the most is a family headed by two biological parents in a low-conflict marriage."

Blankenhorn observes that all our scholarly endeavors seem to agree: For healthy development, what a child needs more than anything else is the mother and father who together made the child, who love the child and love each other. He adds, "For these reasons, children have the right, insofar as society can make it possible, to know and to be cared for by the two parents who brought them into this world. The foundational human rights document in the world today regarding children, the 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically guarantees children this right."

California's Catholic bishops have stated their strong support for Proposition 8 and have encouraged Catholics to be generous in providing financial support and volunteer efforts needed to assure passage of Proposition 8 on the California ballot in November.

For further information, contact Catholics for the Common Good at (415) 651-4171, or visit www.catholicsforprotectmarriage.com. MEH



Words echo true

I often think of the mysterious and moving words spoken by Pope John Paul II at the end of the Mass at Candlestick Park on Sept. 18, 1987. As I marvel at the completion of the wonderful Porziuncola Nuova in San Francisco, the pope's words return to my mind with new meaning.

On that day more than 20 years ago, it seemed the service was about to end, but the pope had something else he wanted to say:

"You probably want to give me a message to bring back to St. Francis of Assisi in Italy. I told St. Francis that he needs to certainly remain in Italy, but I also told him that his spiritual presence here on the West Coast of America is needed very much. (An audible gasp was heard throughout the stadium and the pope continued to speak.) So, I hope that the saints are able to do both, to be in Assisi and to be here in spirit on the West Coast of America, in San Francisco. I want you to be very proud of the name of this saint because he was the bearer of so much peace to all the world. I warmly thank you for this opportunity to meet with you during the eucharistic celebration and thanks especially to all who have prepared this celebration. What I have here I also said in Los Angeles, the city of the angels. The West Coast of America is very beautiful, not only for being in communion with the saints, but also for being in communion with the angels. Thanks from my heart, and may God bless each of you, your families, and all your communities in San Francisco and in California. May Jesus Christ be praised."

Raymond Frost
Daly City

Good men overlooked

I was somewhat disappointed reading the several articles about the new Porziuncola Shrine (Sept. 19 *Catholic San Francisco*) and not once were two fine Catholic men who have played important roles even mentioned: the first, Father Bob Cipriano, the rector of St. Francis of Assisi Shrine, who has worked hard at this mission, and also the late Frank Marini, a fine Catholic San Francisco funeral director associated with the firm at Valente Marini and Perata Co. in San Francisco who donated the original building for the youth at North Beach.

I feel it may have been an oversight, but both fine men should be acknowledged. Sometimes good people are overlooked.

Bob Goodwin
Larkspur

(Ed. note: See the Sept. 26 *Catholic San Francisco* for a reflection on the Porziuncola and the National Shrine of St. Francis by Father Cipriano.)

Taking rosary to streets

Oct. 13, 2007 marked the beginning of Rosary Rallies along the Mission District of San Francisco. The devotees hoped prayers would end the violence in the

streets, the mistrust of immigrants, and the abortion of innocent infants. The main purpose of these rallies is to gather in prayer committed Catholics who believe public prayer is powerful in bringing consolation and strength to people who are suffering.

On Sept. 20 we had our fifth rally. Around 250 persons started the walk from St. Anthony of Padua Church at Cesar Chavez Street and ended at St. Mary's Cathedral. As practiced before, a different route was taken from the last time to cover as much ground as possible. While walking, our group encountered all sorts of people: some nonbelievers who thought we should not express our faith in public; some believers who expressed appreciation for our group's effort to bring God to them. They were the ones who made the sign of the cross and recited part of the prayers with us. Some thought it was so out of the ordinary that they took pictures of our pilgrimage. Even Channel 14 took some footage as we walked by.

Also, we met day laborers and some homeless persons who accepted rosary beads from us. (Donations of rosaries for future rallies are welcome; please call (415) 794-9195.)

Thanks to the San Francisco Police for keeping the order during our walks.

On the way to the Cathedral, we stopped momentarily at the Planned Parenthood Clinic to say special prayers for the victims of abortions. We arrived at the Cathedral after four hours, but the people were still full of energy and were ready for the next rally.

At the Mission Dolores Park, on Oct. 11 at 10 a.m., the rally will include the nationwide movement of "America Needs Fatima" in a Holy Rosary Crusade, when 3,000 rosaries will be prayed that day.

Mary Mother of God, pray for us! Amen.

Father Jose M. Corral
Spiritual Director
Guisell Garcia
Coordinator

(Ed. note: the website www.americaneedsfatima.org lists locations for the Oct. 11 Public Square Rosary Crusade. The rosary will be prayed at noon at more than a dozen locations throughout San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties.)

Thank you, Archbishop

It strikes me that it must be very lonely being a bishop; knowing that no matter what you do, you will have to endure an angry torrent from the very people you are called to serve. It is always very difficult to correct error. Most of us avoid confrontation as much as possible. It is very easy when you are not the one who has to act, to offer all sorts of opinions as to what should be done in a difficult situation.

In my opinion, the Archbishop fulfilled his role as our shepherd perfectly. He firmly and completely corrected the doctrinal errors made in public by Congresswoman Pelosi with enough charity that he can also fulfill his role as her pastor and help her to understand why it is never acceptable for a Catholic to do anything, whatsoever, to allow an innocent unborn baby to be killed, at any stage of its development.

He has clarified the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church, which he is called to proclaim. I offer thanks to him for being a good shepherd and want to assure him that my family is praying and fasting for him and for our sister in Christ, Nancy Pelosi. This is an opportunity for healing and restoration. With Christ all things are possible. I hope many others, who feel as I do, will offer their prayers, sacrifices and a word of encouragement to our Archbishop.

Cheryl Amalu
Belmont
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Letters welcome

Catholic San Francisco welcomes letters from its readers. Please:

- > Include your name, address and daytime phone number.
- > Sign your letter.
- > Limit submissions to 250 words.
- > Note that the newspaper reserves the right to edit for clarity and length.

Send your letters to:

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One Peter Yorke Way
San Francisco, CA 94109
Fax: (415) 614-5641
E-mail:
morrisyoungd@sfarchdiocese.org

Spirituality for Life

On the shores of Babylon

Henri Nouwen once remarked that he found it curious that many of the people he knew who were very angry and bitter were people he had met in church circles and places of ministry.

He is not alone in that. Many of us, I suspect, could say the same thing. We often find more anger and whining than joy within church circles because there we can justify anger and disappointment in the name of something sacred.

There is a biblical name for this particular type of anger and whining. This is called being on the shores of Babylon, feeling exiled from your own faith experience.

We are all familiar with the Psalm 137 (popularized in songs) that sings out the lament: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. How could we sing a song of the Lord on alien soil? Let my tongue cleave to my mouth, if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!"

There is an interesting background to this lament. After Israel had entered the Promised Land, received God's law, became one kingdom, and built a temple to worship in, she felt politically secure and confident in her faith. Her confidence in faith was very much rooted in possessing three material things: a land, a king, and a temple. God had promised these and God had delivered on that promise.

After much struggle they finally had their own land, their own king, and their own temple. These were now the pillars of their faith, their guarantee God was real and with them. They expected it would stay that way forever.

It was not to be. Neighboring Assyria overtook them, conquered the land, deported the people, killed the king, and knocked the temple down. Israel now found herself in exile in Babylon, with no land, no king, no temple – and, seemingly, no reason to continue to have faith in God. Her faith, anchored as it was in land, king and temple, now seemed a dream gone sour. She felt exiled, not just from her own land but from her own faith.

She was left with some painful questions: How can there be a God, if God promised to be present in a land, a king and a temple, and these are gone? How can we be happy in such a situation? Someone had stolen my faith and my church and I will not be happy about that! The laments of Babylon are in the end a euphemism for whining and anger.

But they echo the bitter, whining poetics we hear today in our own church circles: liberals and conservatives, equally unhappy, each blaming the other for somehow stealing away the other's church, for ruining something that was dear to them, and for putting them on an unhappy shore.

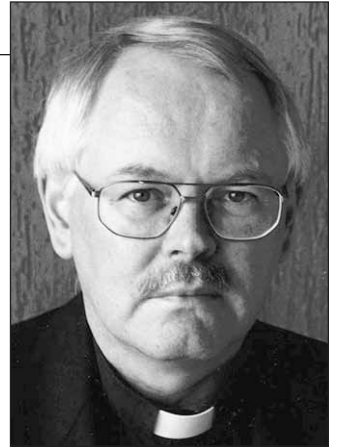
In Roman Catholic circles these laments often pit Vatican II against John Paul II with both sides equally

protesting. How can we be joyous and gracious in this situation? It is no different in Protestant circles. There is lamentation everywhere.

What we need to hear is the answer God gave to Israel when she first expressed that religious unhappiness: Where is God when someone has taken away your land, king and temple? God's answer: "You will find me again when you search for me in a deeper way, with your whole heart."

God is beyond any material land, ruler or church building. God is also beyond any church council and any pope, no matter how true or great these may in fact be. The dark night of pain and insecurity we experience whenever we feel like we are on the shores of Babylon is the purifying pain that comes with finding that everything that is religiously precious to us, everything we want to identify with God himself, eventually gets crucified (just as Jesus was). In the

ROLHEISER, page 20



**Father
Ron Rolheiser**

The Catholic Difference

Campaign 2008: Iraq and its implications

No matter who is elected president, American forces will remain in Iraq for a considerable period of time. The serious points at issue have to do with troop numbers, deployments, missions, and the question of a permanent American base in Iraq. "End It Now" and similar bumper-sticker admonitions ill fit the real world of moral and political responsibility. America's Mesopotamian expedition has been very costly in lives, treasure and political good will. Domestically, however, the adult questions have to do with what we've learned about the exercise of American power in a world in which the art of statecraft remains a subtle and complex one.

So whether it's President McCain or President Obama, the next commander-in-chief will have to see the war in Iraq through to a successful conclusion. The possibility of just that – a stable Iraq, safe for pluralism, governed responsively and responsibly – has been enhanced by the counterinsurgency strategy implemented by General David Petraeus over the past 18 months. Unlike other major American institutions – the Congress, for example – the U.S. military has an impressive capacity to learn from its mistakes, and from the mistakes of the nation's political leadership. That, in itself, is a positive lesson to be drawn from the past five difficult years.

But it's not enough. The country remains divided on the nature of the threat that could no longer be ignored after 9/11. A common understanding of what we are fighting, and why, is essential in building and sustaining a bipartisan consensus that will allow presidents of both parties to conduct the war

against global jihadism over the next several decades – and to do so through all the instruments of statecraft, of which armed force is only one. That struggle is, among many other things, a struggle in defense of religious freedom – a core Catholic concern in this or any other election year.

So here are some questions Catholic voters might pose to the two principal presidential candidates:

1) How do you define the enemy in this new kind of war? What role does distorted religious conviction play in creating the dangers we face from terrorists?

2) Whatever you may have thought in 2003, how do you think Iraq "fits" within the global struggle against jihadism today? Do you think it possible that Iraq might become a kind of Middle Eastern Poland – the domino that sets in motion a long-term regional trend toward responsible and responsive government?

3) What can the United States do to ensure that Christian Iraqis who have fled Iraq in recent years have the opportunity to return to a home that is safe? What should the U.S. be doing to protect the remnants of Iraq's once-vibrant Christian communities?

4) What specific steps will you take to enhance American intelligence capabilities, which have consistently failed us over the past decade? What training programs in the languages and cultures of the Islamic world will you implement to upgrade the capacities of both the CIA and the Department of State?

5) If the war against jihadism is, at bottom, a contest

between two very different ideas of the just society, what will you do to enhance our national capacity to make the case for civility, tolerance and religious freedom through public diplomacy? Is broadcasting American pop culture into the Middle East the most effective

way to illustrate our convictions about the good society? What should we be telling an Arab Islamic world, caught in a narrative of failure of its own making, about the goods that freedom brings? Or should we just drop the subject?

6) How will you guide the evolution of an American military that has become confident in its counter-insurgency capabilities and that now has a cadre of brilliant younger officers formed in the hard school of learning-from-our-mistakes in Iraq?

7) In the cases of Iran and North Korea, and indeed as a general principle, do you favor coupling U.S. anti-nuclear proliferation diplomacy to an American pledge to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons?

8) What did you get wrong about Iraq?

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.



George Weigel

Of Grace and Sippy Cups

'Small things with great love'

One evening, when my son was about six weeks old, my husband came home from work and joined me in the kitchen. "What did you do today?" he asked conversationally.

"I fed Matthew and changed his diapers," I said. I racked my brain. "Oh, and I did laundry."

And I realized something: my life had become excruciatingly boring.

Motherhood is many things. It's magnificent and mysterious and meaningful. It's also, frankly, monotonous. This is not something I fully grasped before Matthew was born. During my pregnancy, when I read that newborns can go through 12 diapers a day, I was astonished to think of the expense. It didn't occur to me how tiresome all those diaper changes would be.

When Matthew was born, I couldn't believe how often he wanted to eat, or how many hours I spent feeding him on the couch. Looking back, that shouldn't have come as a surprise; after all, those 12 daily diapers have to get filled somehow.

I must clarify that before Matthew was born, I didn't exactly lead a glamorous, adventurous life. I didn't scale mountains or look for a cure for cancer. Normally, though, my days had included at least a few things that the average person

would find interesting: a breakthrough with a student in my English classes, an idea for a new article, that sort of thing.

No more. Within weeks, I had become a nursing, baby-diapering robot who occasionally did something as dramatic as putting Dreft into a washing machine.

But it was around this time that I remembered a quote from Mother Teresa: "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

I realized parents have an insider's perspective on that. After all, history books are not written about changing diapers. No one gives a prize for bathing a baby. These tasks are small, mundane, hardly enthralling – but when I scratch the surface of my boredom, I recognize that what motivates these actions is a love for my son, a love so great it frightens me.

And I've realized, too, that these tasks are only small to me. To my son, they're huge, the foundation of his very existence. They're the concrete proof that he is loved, that there is safety to be found in the big world out there.

And I've discovered, as moms do, that there's a paradox to parenting. Since having Matthew, I've learned that a life focused on small things can also bring massive amounts of joy. When your baby rolls over, it's like witnessing a miracle.

A little giggle can stop you in your tracks. A toothless smile becomes the stuff of legend, the event you call to report to Grandma, an achievement that you record carefully in your journal. I'm enthralled by each babble and scoot

And you know what? It's a pretty amazing way to spend a day.

No, I'll never love changing diapers. Yes, I'll probably always complain about the monotonous mommy tasks. But when my son smiles at me and says, "Mama," my heart lurches with a love that, almost two years after his birth, still makes me weak in the knees.

And there's nothing boring about that.

Ginny Kubitz Moyer is the author of "Mary and Me: Catholic Women Reflect on the Mother of God." Contact Moyer via her blog at www.maryandme.org.



**Ginny
Kubitz Moyer**

New cathedral's sacred vessels – gift from San Francisco Archdiocese

**By Father John Talesfore
Pastor and Rector, Cathedral
of St. Mary of the Assumption,
San Francisco**

Communion is the most intimate moment we share as Catholics. So it was all the more distinct a privilege for me to join the Diocese of Oakland for the Sept. 25 dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the Light, since these ancient rites were completed with the first celebration of the Eucharist in the East Bay's beautiful new Mother Church. Still more meaningful was the knowledge that we partook of Communion from sacred vessels presented to Bishop Allen Vigneron, the Diocese of Oakland and the Cathedral of Christ the Light by Archbishop George Niederauer in the name of the Archdiocese of San Francisco and Saint Mary's Cathedral.

In his letter informing Bishop Vigneron of our gift, the Archbishop lauded the new building as a fulfillment of Pope Paul VI's vision of a Cathedral Church, which "in the majesty of its building is a symbol of the spiritual temple that is built up in souls and is resplendent with the glory of divine grace... the express image of Christ's visible Church, praying, singing, and worshipping on earth."

The Archbishop continued: "United with you in that worship, we are especially pleased that the Church of San Francisco has been granted the honor of providing your new Cathedral with its sacred ves-



San Francisco Archbishop George Niederauer, left, joins Oakland Bishop Allen Vigneron in the Eucharistic Prayer Sept. 25 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light's newly consecrated altar, upon which are visible a number of the sacred vessels presented to the new cathedral by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Also visible, background, is Father Quang Dong, rector of the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

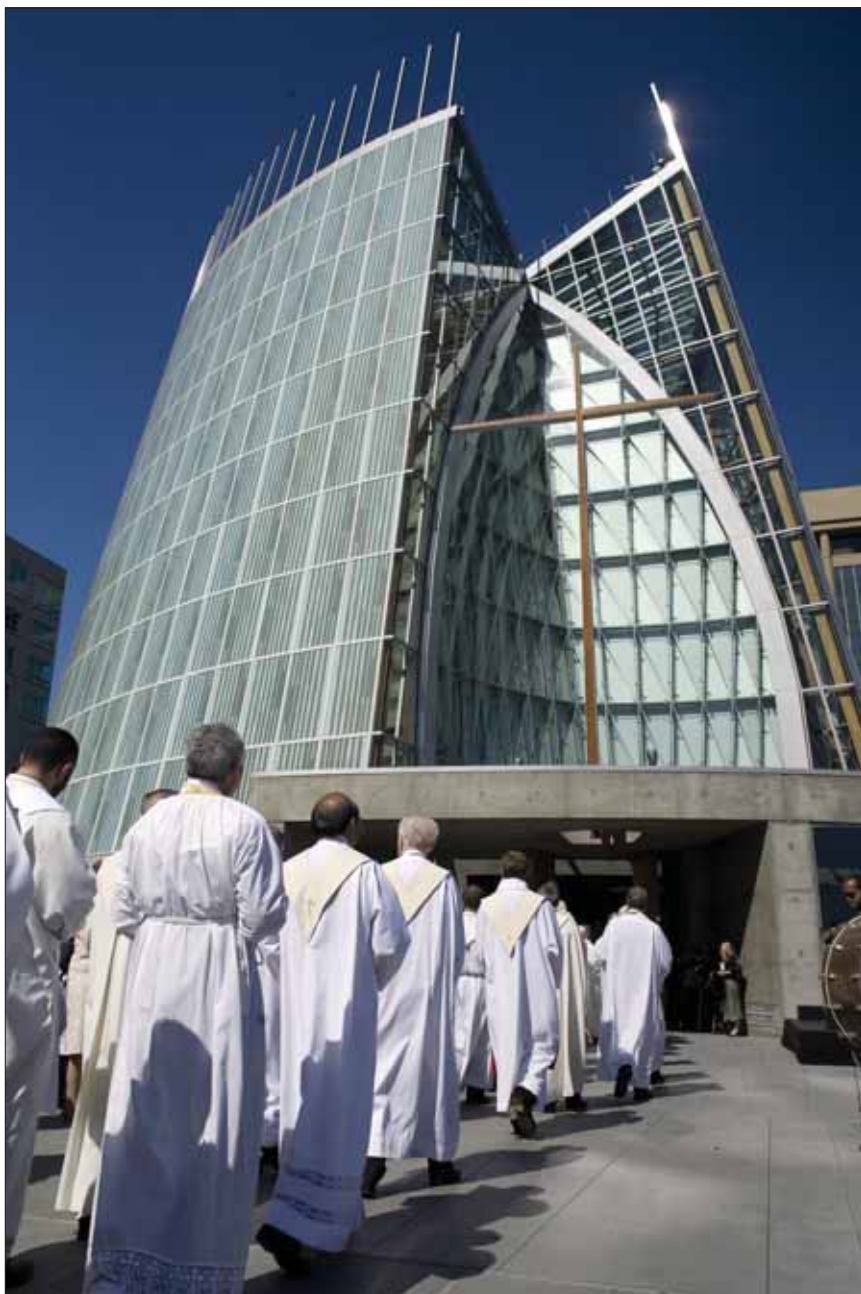
Such a gesture reminds us that far from being separated by diocesan boundaries, the Church of Oakland and the Church of San Francisco are united by a shared life and faith, a bond that is preserved by the unity of our bishops in "full communion." All the more meaningful to us is the reminder that until the establishment of the Diocese of Oakland in 1962, the Church of the East Bay was part of a much larger Archdiocese of San Francisco. And so, the Archbishop concluded his letter to Bishop Vigneron, "with the very warmest greetings from the Archdiocese of San Francisco to the Diocese of Oakland, as from a mother to her daughter, and from your brother bishop."

Surely Bishop Vigneron received this gift in the spirit with which it was given. It was a noteworthy honor that, of the many bishops and archbishops present, Archbishop Niederauer alone was invited to stand at the altar with Bishop Vigneron and Bishop Cummins, bishop emeritus of Oakland, and to share in the proclamation of the Eucharistic Prayer.

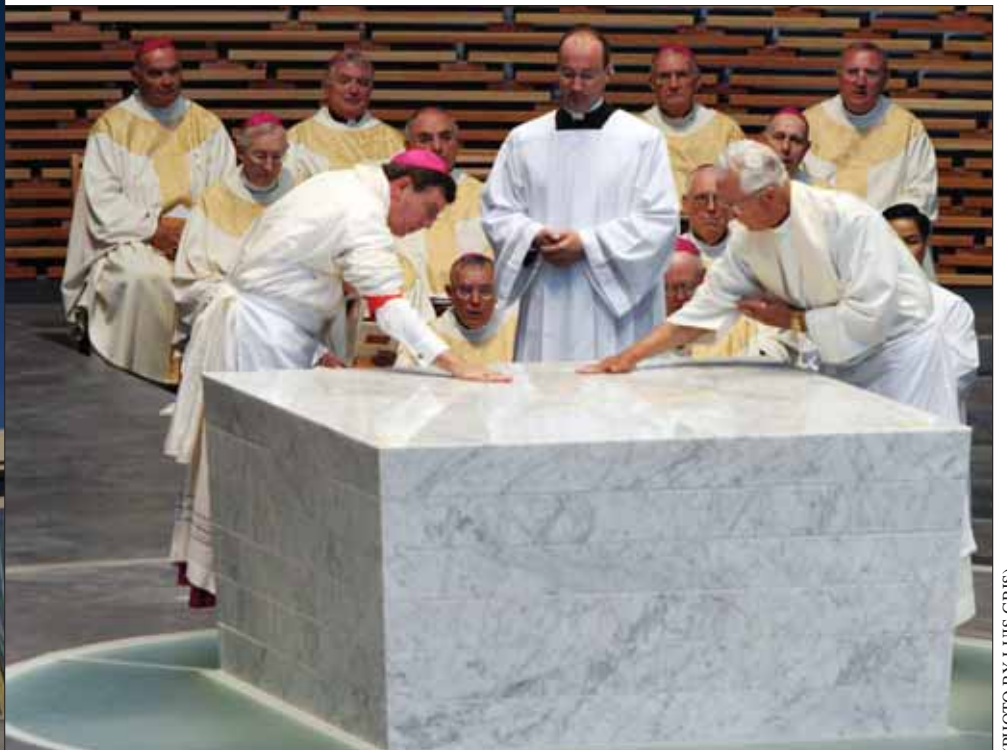
I encourage the faithful of the Archdiocese to celebrate this great occasion of joy with the Diocese of Oakland by visiting the Cathedral of Christ the Light for the celebration of the Eucharist and by partaking of Communion from the sacred vessels presented to the Cathedral in our name. A schedule of Masses and docent tours is available at www.ctlca-cathedral.org.

sels for Holy Communion. It is our hope that this gift will long serve as one more outward sign of the Communion we share with one another and with the Church

throughout the world. (God) *grant that we, who are nourished by his Body and Blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ.*"



(PHOTO BY JOSE AGUIRRE)



(PHOTO BY LUIS GRIS)

Left, the Sept. 25 dedication Mass procession into Oakland's Christ the Light Cathedral included four cardinals, three dozen bishops and scores of priests. Above, Oakland Bishop Allen Vigneron and Oakland Bishop Emeritus John Cummins anoint the altar with holy oil. Right, the image of Christ in Majesty looms above the sanctuary and is reflected in the baptismal font.



(PHOTO BY LUIS GRIS)

Oakland's Christ the Light Cathedral dedicated

Acclaimed for its dramatic use of glass, steel and stone to harness light and the imagination, the Oakland Diocese's new Cathedral of Christ the Light was dedicated in Sept. 25 ceremonies.

In his dedication Mass homily, Oakland Bishop Allen Vigneron said the cathedral "manifests with incomparable beauty and grandeur in wood and glass and concrete and bronze the all-beautiful Lord we strive for in all our acts of faith, hope and love."

"The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Oakland has built this cathedral to testify to this truth, which is for us life itself – that Jesus Christ is the light for all peoples, for all ages,

and that he is found in our midst," Bishop Vigneron said.

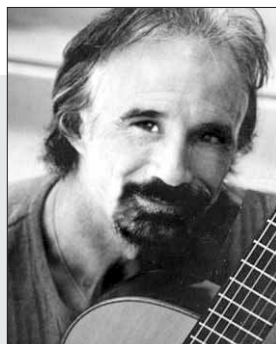
Four cardinals and nearly three dozen bishops took part in the three and a half hour rite which was the culmination of a three-year, \$190 million project that includes the new cathedral, a chancery complex, cathedral parish residence and offices, a mausoleum, a book store, a public café, a plaza and park, and a free health care clinic for the uninsured supported by the Order of Malta.

The cathedral, which seats 1,350 for liturgies, replaces the Oakland Diocese's former St. Francis de Sales Cathedral which was damaged beyond repair in the Oct. 17, 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 5:1-7;
Psalm 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20;
Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43



Scripture reflection ROB GRANT

A READING FROM THE BOOK ISAIAH

Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; he spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines; within it he built a watchtower, and hewed out a wine press. Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard: What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? Now, I will let you know what I mean to do with my vineyard: take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall, let it be trampled! Yes, I will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but overgrown with thorns and briars; I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it. The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant; he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it. It put forth its foliage to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Why have you broken down its walls, so that every passer-by plucks its fruit, The boar from the forest lays it waste, and the beasts of the field feed upon it?

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Once again, O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name. O Lord, God of hosts, restore us; if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Brothers and sisters: Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"

They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?* Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Jesus: candidate of change

When we think of Jesus' 30-plus parables recorded in the synoptic accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the first stories that often come to mind are the "Good" ones—the Good Samaritan, the Good Shepherd, the Good Seed. I doubt that "the Good Rump-Kicker" would ring a bell, but that's the story we hear this week in Matthew's Gospel of the wicked tenants.

In this 21st chapter of Matthew's account (written at the time when the 40 years of friction between the Jews who followed the teachings of Christ and those who maintained the primacy of Mosaic Law finally resulted in the expulsion of those early Christians from the synagogues) Jesus is in the middle of a two-chapter long discourse against the Pharisees and elders of his time.

We heard the beginning of that criticism two weeks ago in the story of the 11th hour workers who are paid the same wage as the early hires, and again last week in the "tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you" story of the two sons called to work in the field.

We'll continue to hear Jesus' chastisement of the authorities through the next three weeks, with the parables of the "many are called but few are chosen," the story of the wedding feast, and the "render to Caesar what is Caesar's" rebuke to the entrapment-minded Pharisees.

Mathew's account is rife with "woe to you hypocrites" criticism of the local authorities, as are the Gospels of Mark, Luke and John, so we're pretty familiar with the picture of Jesus scolding the religious leaders of his day. But it's important to remember that, as much of an "outsider" his criticism of the Pharisees may seem to make him, Jesus is speaking not as an outsider,

but, in his erudition in and reverence for the Mosaic Law, as a colleague, himself a bona fide rabbi of the pharisaic tradition.

Jesus' ultimate reverence for the Mosaic Tradition is brought to light powerfully in the closing week of this extended harangue when, in the last verses of Chapter 22 Jesus is asked by the Pharisees, "Tell us, teacher, what is the greatest commandment?" ...to which Jesus responds, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Here, of course, we get to the nut of the matter.

Why is Jesus so incensed by his fellow teachers? Why does he liken them to "wretched men who are to be put to a wretched death?"

As a human being, Jesus is frustrated, knowing his learned colleagues who have studied the Scriptures and pledged loyalty to them, who have all the same information that he does, still just don't get it. As the Son of God, Jesus is disheartened that the irrepressible, selfless love, beauty and graciousness of his father is supplanted by the self-advancing, self-protective teachings of the Pharisees.

What does Jesus want of us? What is the nut of it all for us third millennium vineyard tenants?

SCRIPTURE, page 20

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kastan

Gospel for October 5, 2008
Matthew 21:33-46

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading, Cycle A, from Matthew about the ungrateful and murderous tenants. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

LANDOWNER	PLANTED	VINEYARD
WINE PRESS	BUILT	TOWER
LEASED	TENANTS	SEIZED
BEAT	SAME WAY	RESPECT
HEIR	DEATH	READ
STONE	BUILDER	REJECTED
TAKEN	PRIESTS	FEARED

VINEYARD TENANTS

Y A W E M A S T O N E D
R R B U I L T H J D D E
E E W E N A S N E K A T
W J O I A D E Z H I N N
O E R K N T I B T S R A
T C E P S E R E A D K L
E T D E S T P F E J W P
N E L L F N X R D N L O
A D I L D R A Y E N I V
N J U A P E L E A S E D
T Y B G F G H D P S S Q
S L A N D O W N E R P R

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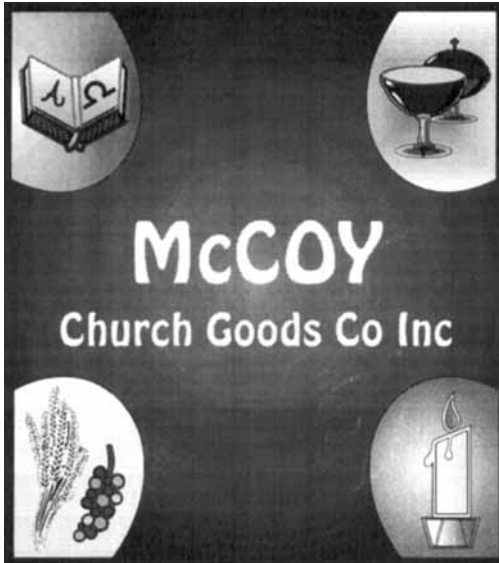
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Letters . . .

■ Continued from page 16

Franciscan way of life

Peace and all good!

Many thanks for the publication of your recent series on the life and spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. I have found the work to be exceptionally well researched and written, insightful and accessible. It is a wonderful resource for anyone who is seeking either basic or more in-depth information about the life and work of St. Francis.

I hope to use this material with men who are interested in and discerning a call to our Franciscan way of life. Its publication is especially appreciated as we approach the feasts of St. Francis Oct. 3 (Transitus) and Oct. 4 (Feast of St. Francis).

Thank you for this valuable contribution to all who are drawn to understand and appreciate Francis – “birdbath and beyond!”

Father Chuck Talley, OFM
Coordinator of Vocations
Franciscan Friars,
Province of St. Barbara

Prop 8 truths

In response to two recent letters regarding Prop 8: I wholeheartedly endorse the letter from Richard LemMon requesting the bishop of each diocese of California to instruct every priest to explain to all parishioners the necessity of voting “yes” on Prop 8. It is past time when Catholics need to be taught the basics of our faith. This moral issue needs to be heard from the pulpit and frequently.

The letter from John Kovacevich exemplifies why this needs to be taught. The letter shows the confusion of so many – unaware of the many places in both the Old and New Testament where sodomy is condemned, or of the consistent Church teaching on the immorality of practicing homosexuality.

The media regularly distorts or omits the truth, or even issues lies. So here is a truth many do not know: Prop 8 proponents

want to persecute supporters of traditional marriage. Recent examples: a woman on staff at the University of Toledo wrote a letter to an off-campus newspaper supporting traditional marriage; because of this she was fired. A New Mexico photographer refused to cover a lesbian ceremony on grounds of religious convictions (other photographers were available), was sued and fined nearly \$6,000. Recently in Placerville a couple wanted to be listed on the marriage application as bride and groom, rather than as party 1 and party 2, only to learn that is no longer allowed.

In short, if Prop 8 passes, homosexuals can still do the things they do. If Prop 8 does not pass, anyone who openly supports traditional marriage, or who opposes sodomy, can be accused of hate speech. Bishop Frederick Henry of Calgary, Canada was accused of hate speech and brought before the Human Rights Tribunal because he dared to tell parishioners that traditional marriage is part of the Catholic Faith.

Prop 8 opponents say they hurt because their relationships are not called marriage. Out of pity some good people will vote “no” on Prop 8. But like cuddling a viper, if Prop 8 does not pass, there will not only be Christian persecution, but our children will be brainwashed in school to oppose traditional marriage and chastity.

Vote “yes” on Prop 8.

Jessica Munn
Foster City

Please lend a voice

I would like to bring to your attention some disturbing news about the Catholic community in my hometown, Mangalore, India.

For the first time in the history of this town Catholics are being abused and harmed by people associated with the Hindu political party (currently the ruling party in the Karnataka State of India).

These ruthless people have destroyed church property throughout the city and in the suburbs of Mangalore City.

Please visit www.daijiworld.com/home.asp for further information on the disturbance in my hometown. In addition to this website you can read more at the *Indian Express* news site. I request that readers consider writing letters of protest

in this matter to the Indian Consulate in San Francisco.

My mother and my sister’s family are still living in Mangalore. I am a U.S. citizen and served in the Navy. Thank you.

Albert Lobo
Redwood City

Hard to explain

Terrific. We are back to the storied days of “plenary indulgences.” We were taught by the Baltimore Catechism, in its discussion of this curious custom, that “Indulgences have their effect because the Church, through its Councils, declares Indulgences useful, and if they have no effect they would be useless, and the Church would teach error in spite of Christ’s promises to guide it.”

The first recorded instance of indulgences was in 1095 when they were granted by Pope Urban II to those who agreed to join the First Crusade and kill Muslims. That was pretty useful.

And then, of course, there were the wholesale abuses of indulgences for sale in the Middle Ages. That worked out well.

The Church has now decided to use the dedication of the Porziuncola Shrine as an occasion to subject the faithful to a needless round of ridicule.

It is hard enough to explain to curious non-Catholics why it is now impermissible to use the word “Yahweh” in songs and prayers during liturgies. Now this.

Jim Hargarten
San Francisco

(Ed. note: For background and an explanation of the Porziuncola indulgence, see the Sept. 19 Catholic San Francisco, pages S6 and S7.)

Prop K deceptive

Thank you to *Catholic San Francisco* for the guest commentary by Debra Saunders on the dangers of Proposition K, the ordinance on the Nov. 4 ballot in San Francisco regarding legalization of prostitution in San Francisco.

As Saunders accurately points out, Proposition K goes far beyond what it appears to be. Read the initiative yourself. It would shield child prostitution and trafficking of underage boys and girls, making San Francisco a destination of choice

for pimps who peddle girls and boys and perverts seeking sex with minors.

If Proposition K passes you will have the City and County of San Francisco giving its official seal of approval to a dehumanizing way of life with all the associated violence and pain that will be now unleashed on San Francisco’s streets. Don’t we have enough problems on the streets of San Francisco without going out of our way to importing even more?

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors laid yet another egg in supporting this ordinance and the local Democratic Party Central Committee laid an even bigger egg by endorsing it.

It’s important that San Francisco voters get the word out to neighbors and friends that Proposition K is the proverbial wolf in sheep’s clothing whose passage will only bring more violence and pain to the streets of San Francisco than we already have.

E.F. Sullivan
San Francisco

Dialogue appreciated

Thank you for publishing responses from some of your readers to my letter of a few issues back regarding the Blessed Virgin Mary in the post-conciliar Catholic world. Two things especially gladdened my heart: 1) the informational sources they provided on Mary which, I hope, will lead others to explore and rekindle their faith and devotion to Our Lady, and 2) the sheer intensity of the respondents’ come-backs.

I truly believe they reveal sincere passion for and devotion to our Blessed Mother. However, I must confess I found it a tad disingenuous among some of the respondents to blame in essence mostly the laity (and some clergy) for their own lack of Marian devotion. Why has that occurred, I wonder. *In vacuo*? As my letter recommended: What we need most in this issue of contemporary Catholic life is vital, dedicated and constant leadership at all levels of the hierarchy. Thank you for publishing all of our passion-filled letters and divergent points of view, thus aiding to jump-start in your pages a much-needed dialogue.

Oscar Ramirez
San Francisco

Scripture . . .

■ Continued from page 19

Would Jesus want tenants for his father’s garden who recognize that their fields are beautiful gifts entrusted to them for their wise stewardship, or tenants who see their vineyards as vehicles for short-term profit maximization? Are we called to be tenants who see ourselves above and

separate from the tenants of other fields, or as planetary cohabitants inextricably tied together by divine familial bonds? Are we to be tenants who welcome workers as co-laborers whose unique contributions bring added, not diminished, richness to our harvest, or will we see newcomers as interlopers, competitors for limited resources? And, as citizens facing an election and believers facing an institution both rich in tradition and rife with potential as an organic, ever-evolving work in progress, will we be willing to call our

beloved nation and our beloved Church each to move to their highest fruitfulness?

A 30-year veteran of parish ministry in San Francisco, Rob Grant holds a master’s degree in pastoral ministry from Holy Names University and a bachelor’s degree in communication arts from the University of San Francisco with a minor in theology.

Rolheiser . . .

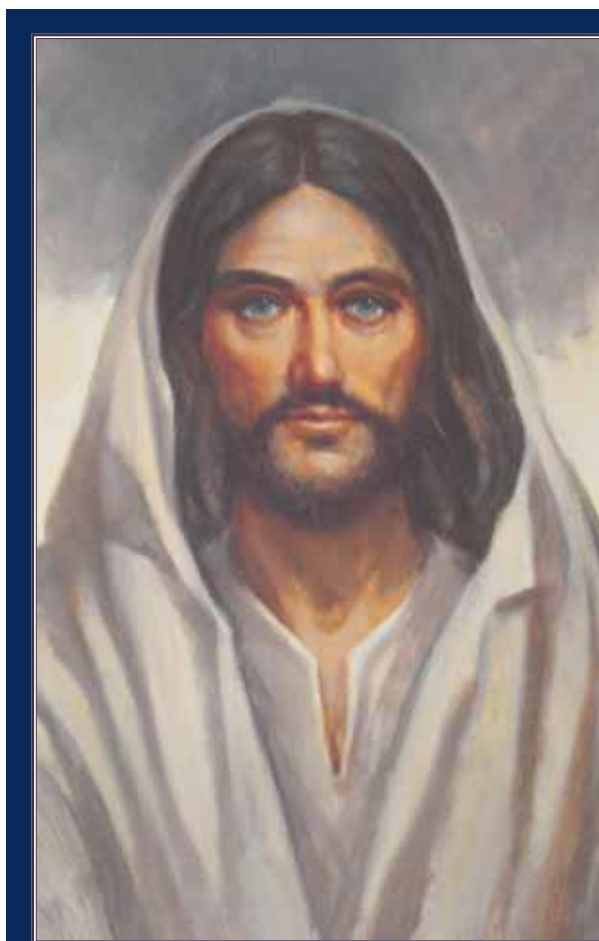
■ Continued from page 17

wake of the disillusionment we find ourselves in a free-fall, losing a grip on what once anchored our faith. And we will continue to free-fall until ultimately we lose everything so as to fall right to the bedrock of faith itself, God, solidity beyond all material lands, kings and temples.

That is the difference between an icon and an idol. Idolatry forgets that the icon is not God. No matter how true and wonderful an icon might be, there comes a time when it has to be taken away from us. Then we find ourselves on the shores of Babylon, insecure, feeling exiled, unhappy, but hearing this from God: You will find me and your joy again when you search for me in a deeper way, with all your heart, mind and soul.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

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St. Mary's Cathedral

Gough and Geary St. in San Francisco – (415) 567-2020. Ample parking is available free of charge in the Cathedral lot for most events.

Oct. 4, 5: Cathedral's Second Annual Festival of Flowers showcasing the work of San Francisco's finest florists, adorning the shrines and altars of the landmark Cathedral. The Festival opens with a Gala Preview and Reception on Friday evening, Oct. 3, and will be open to the public during the open hours of the Cathedral on Saturday and Sunday, free of charge. Chief presenter is Father Patrick Moran of the Archdiocese of Dublin, Ireland known around the world for his expertise in church environment. Hear him shed light on the importance of the decorative arts to worship space. Presentations of floral design and flowers in sacred art, and the Little Flower Festival, will take place downstairs in the Cathedral Event Center. For schedule of times and events, or tickets to the Gala Preview or Design Presentation visit www.cathedralflores.com.

Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m.: Cathedral's annual Gospel/Jazz Mass featuring the San Francisco Bay Area Gospel Choir under the direction of Rawn Harbor. Archbishop George H. Niederauer is the principal celebrant. Reception follows in the Cathedral Event Center downstairs.

Third Tuesdays beginning Oct. 21 through September 2009, 7:15 p.m.: The Year of St. Paul Lecture Series features Professor Stephen C. Córdova of the St. Anthony of Padua Institute, and Conventual Franciscan Father Francisco Nahoe of the Franciscan Spirit and Life Institute. Talks are free. Information and lecture dates are available online at www.stanthonypadua-institute.org/stpaul.pdf

Good Health

Oct. 11, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: "Crossing the Threshold to Adulthood in a Healthy Manner," a day-long session for youth and their families with opportunities for health screenings and dialogue with physicians. Takes place at St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church, Third St. at Jamestown in San Francisco. Day includes raffles and lunch plus entertainment by a Gospel Youth Choir. Every part of the day is free and includes medical check-ups for everyone. Minors must be accompanied by parent or guardian to take part in health screenings from 1 – 4 p.m. Sponsored by St. Mary's Medical Center, St. Paul of the Shipwreck Parish, the San Francisco Giants and others. For more information, call (415) 750-5683.

Special Liturgies

Oct. 3, 6 p.m.: First Friday - Latin High Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road at Glen Way, East Palo Alto. Mass is followed by the Litany of the Sacred Heart and exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament until midnight. Confessions are heard before Mass. Low Mass in Latin is also offered every Friday evening at 6 p.m. For further information, call (650) 322-2152.

Oct. 4, 11 a.m.: First Saturday Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma. Call (650) 756-2060.

Oct. 4, noon: The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrate 175 years as a congregation and 120 years in Northern California with a special Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Paul Church, 29th and Church in San Francisco. In addition to St. Paul's, the BVM Sisters have served at parishes and schools including San Francisco's St. Philip, St. Brigid, Most Holy Redeemer, and St. Thomas More. For more information on helping with the event or remembering the Sisters on this occasion, call (415) 648-3862.

Oct. 18, 5 p.m.: St. Luke's Mass and Banquet at St. Cecilia Church and Collins Center, 17th Ave. at Vicente St. in San Francisco. Tickets are \$70. Attorney Wesley J. Smith will speak on "Assisted Suicide and the Corruption of Palliative Care" and be honored with the group's annual award. Copies of Smith's book, "Forced Exit," will be available for purchase. Contact George Maloof, M.D., at gmalooft2003@yahoo.com or (415) 305-2408. Sponsored by San Francisco Guild of the Catholic Medical Association.

Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.: Breast Cancer Awareness Mass at St. Dominic Church, Bush St. at Steiner in San Francisco. Survivors of the disease as well as family and friends of survivors and those lost to the disease are invited. Parking available. Call (415) 929-9242 or e-mail martid528@comcast.net for more information.

Oct. 26, 3:30 p.m.: "Mass for Those Affected by Crime, Abuse or Violence" at St. Mary's Cathedral, Gough and Geary Blvd. in San Francisco. Archbishop George Niederauer will preside. This is a Mass for those of all ages who have been victimized in any way through crime, abuse or violence. It is also for secondary victims including families and friends of those traumatized. Sponsored by the Restorative Justice Board of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. For information, call (415) 614-5570 or e-mail ribeiro@sfarchdiocese.org or mfelix@ihmbelmont.org.

Arts & Entertainment

Oct. 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 26 at 2 p.m.: "Hotel Paradiso" plays at Notre Dame de Namur University Theater at 1500 Ralston Ave. in Belmont. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (650) 508-3456 or e-mail boxoffice@ndnu.edu.

Oct. 26, 3 p.m.: Concert featuring "The Jeduthun" and "Chorus Paulinus" of the

Datebook



Oct. 7, 5:45 p.m.: "California Academy of Sciences Transformed," a presentation by Greg Farrington, Ph.D., on the recreation of San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences as the only combined museum, aquarium and planetarium in the world. Farrington joined the Academy of Sciences in 2007. Takes place in Fromm Hall at the University of San Francisco, 2467 Golden Gate Ave. in San Francisco. Admission is free but registration is necessary. Call (415) 422-6828. For more information, visit www.pacificrim.usfca.edu.



Oct. 16, 7 p.m.: The Daughters of St. Paul celebrate the Year of St. Paul with Sulpician Father Ronald Witherup who will examine the lasting testament Paul has given to the Church. Paul's tireless preaching and writing, extensive travels and love for Jesus Christ all witness that conversion is not a one-time event but a lifetime commitment. Copies of the priest's three books on Paul will also be available. Pauline Books and Media, 2640 Broadway, Redwood City. Call (650) 369-4230 or visit paulineredwood.blogspot.com.



Philippines under the musical direction of Father Arnold Zamora at St. Brendan Church, 29 Rockaway Ave. just off Laguna Honda in San Francisco. Proceeds benefit St. Brendan Church Altar Servers' Society and retired priests of the Philippine's Bohol area. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call Sister Necy at (415) 681-4225.

Food & Fun

Oct. 3, 4: "Fabulous Fiftieth Jubilee Weekend" at Our Lady of Loretto Parish and School. Friday is Family Movie Night with the popular comedy, "Ratatouille," on the school lawn. Tickets are \$20 per family for film and food. Saturday begins with a pancake breakfast by the Knights of Columbus in the parish hall followed by a parish festival with 19 booths, face painting, games and bingo. Family Mass is at 5 p.m., then a spaghetti feed. For more information, call (415) 892-8621.

Oct. 4, 6 – 11 p.m.: Casino Night 2008 at All Souls Church, Spruce and Walnut Ave. in South San Francisco. Play poker, blackjack, craps and pai gow. Call (650) 871-8944.

Oct. 4, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.: Star of the Sea Festival and Touch-a-Truck Event on parish campus, 360 9th Ave. in San Francisco. Vehicles expected to be available include a front loader, backhoe, steamroller, fire truck, police car and ambulances. Trucks on site 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. with festival completing the day from 2 – 7 p.m.

Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: "Ultimate Home Party," a shopping opportunity benefiting the Ladies Guild of St. Mark Parish, 325 Marine View – just a few blocks off Old County Rd., in Belmont. Items for sale include jewelry, house wares and clothing. Free admission. Raffles take place throughout the afternoon. Call the parish office for more information at (650) 591-5937.

Oct. 5: Annual 5K Run or Walk at Lake Merced benefiting Strides for Life Colon Cancer Foundation; \$35 fee includes tee shirt, drawstring sport pack, water bottle, and meal after race. Register on-line at www.stridesforlife.org or call (650) 588-6390.

Oct. 10, 11, 12: All Souls Parish Festival, Spruce and Walnut Ave. in South San Francisco: Friday 6 – 10 p.m.; Saturday noon – 10 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Games, rides, prizes, music and food. Call (650) 871-8944.

Oct. 10, 11, 12: "Beach Party," annual festival benefiting St. Cecilia Parish, 18th Ave. at Vicente in San Francisco: Friday 6 – 10 p.m.; Saturday noon – 4 p.m. and 6 – 10 p.m.; Sunday noon – 6 p.m. Silent auction, bingo, raffles, children's games, and new teen games. Enjoy lunch and dinner in the snack bar. For more information, call (415) 566-2733.

Oct. 18, 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.: St. Anne Elementary School Flea Market in the school cafeteria, Funston at Judah St. in San Francisco. Proceeds benefit school's junior high trip to Washington, D.C. in May. Food will be available for purchase.

Oct. 25, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.: Fright Fest at Holy Name of Jesus Elementary School, 39th Ave. at Lawton in San Francisco. Admission is free. Tickets for food and games available for purchase. Enjoy food, carnival games, bingo, raffle, fun house and haunted house. Proceeds benefit the Holy Name of Jesus School. For more information, call (415) 731-4077 or visit us at www.holynamesf.com.

Nov. 2, 3 – 6 p.m.: Anniversary Prayer Liturgy and celebration for Alma Via Residence 1300 Junipero Serra Blvd. in San Francisco, now in its fifth year. Prayer of Thanksgiving at 3 p.m. with reception following. Registration is requested. Call (415) 337-1339.

Nov. 14: Twelfth Annual Vincenzo Wine tasting and Auction at San Francisco's Bently Reserve benefiting Catholic Charities CYO's St. Vincent School for Boys. Event includes gourmet din-

ner, select wines and an auction. For ticket information, call (415) 972-1233 or visit www.vincenzo.org.

TV/Radio

Sunday, 6 a.m., WB Channel 20/Cable 13 and KTSF Channel 26/Cable 8: TV Mass with Msgr. Harry Schlitt presiding.

Saturday, 4 p.m.: Religious programming in Cantonese over KVTO 1400 AM, co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry and Chinese Young Adults of the Archdiocese.

1st Sunday, 5 a.m., CBS Channel 5: "Mosaic," featuring conversations on current Catholic issues.

3rd Sunday, 5:30 a.m., KRON Channel 4: "For Heaven's Sake," featuring conversations about Catholic spirituality.

KSFB Catholic Radio 1260 AM offers daily Mass, rosary and talk on the faith – visit www.ihradio.org

EWTN Catholic Television: Comcast Channel 229; Astound Channel 80; San Bruno Cable Channel 143; DISH Satellite Channel 261; Direct TV Channel 370. For programming details, visit www.ewtn.com.

Trainings/Lectures/Respect Life

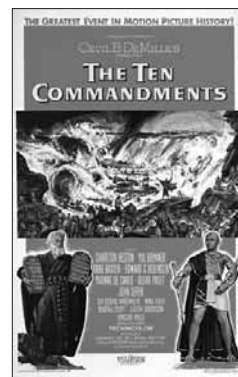
Oct. 5, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.: San Francisco Life Chain on Park Presidio Blvd. between Geary and Clement in San Francisco. People stand with signs in unity over the sanctity of life, organizers said, noting event is "prayerful, peaceful and legal." Signs will be provided. For more information, call (415) 751-8083.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30 p.m.: "Let Paul Speak to the Nations," a series looking at the life and letters of St. Paul with Father David Pettingill at St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church, Third St. at Jamestown in San Francisco. Registration fee: \$25. Bring a Bible. For registration information, call (415) 468-3434.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 3-4:30 p.m.: "Family Caregiver Mini-Sabbatical," a four-part series for persons helping an older spouse, parent or sibling, especially someone with increasing memory loss. The Tuesday afternoon sessions will be held at Catholic Charities CYO's San Carlos Adult Day Services, 787 Walnut St., San Carlos. Cost is \$25, but a sliding scale fee is available. Respite care can be arranged. For information, call (650) 592-9325 or e-mail margas@cccyo.org.

Oct. 11, 1 – 5:30 p.m.: "Green Clinic," for students and educators at San Domenico School, 1500 Butterfield Ave. in San Anselmo. Afternoon offers wide variety of workshops for adults and students as well as panel discussions. Lunch will be served in the school's one-acre teaching garden. Register before Oct. 9 at www.sandomenico.org or call (415) 258-1985.

Oct. 15, 3:30 p.m.: Lecture by Dominican Father Michael Morris, professor of religion and the arts and a collector and expert on film posters from Bible-inspired films, at 252 McLaren Conference Center at University of San Francisco. Reception follows in Thatcher Gallery where a display of such posters, "The Celluloid Bible," continues until Dec. 14. For more information, call (415) 422-204 or visit www.usfca.edu/library/thacher



Catholic Charismatic Renewal

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal plans events throughout the year. Information about the group's activities can usually be found in Datebook and always at their web-site: www.sfspirit.com. First Fridays of the month are commemorated with rosary and Mass at selected churches throughout the Archdiocese usually beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, e-mail John Murphy at exmorte@aol.com.

Oct. 3, rosary 6:45 p.m. and Mass 7:30 p.m.: First Friday liturgy at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Fulton and James St. in Redwood City.

Taize/Chanted Prayer

1st Friday at 8 p.m.: Mercy Center, 2300 Adeline Dr., Burlingame with Mercy Sister Suzanne Toolan. Call (650) 340-7452; young adults are invited each first Friday of the month to attend a social at 6 p.m. prior to Taize prayer at 8 p.m. The social provides light refreshments and networking with other young adults. Convenient parking is available. For information contact mercyyoungadults@sbcglobal.net.

Tuesdays at 6 p.m.: Notre Dame Des Victoires Church, 566 Bush at Stockton, San Francisco with Rob Grant. Call (415) 397-0113.

2nd Friday at 8 p.m.: Our Lady of the Pillar, 400 Church St. in Half Moon Bay. Call Cheryl Fuller at (650) 726-2249.

Vocations

Oct. 17 and subsequent third Fridays, 8 p.m.: Refresh your soul with a moment of peace and quiet away from the busyness of life. Listen to beautiful music and join others in prayer and song around the cross at Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Motherhouse Chapel, 43326 Mission Blvd., Fremont. For further information, contact Maria Shao at (408) 839-2068 or maria49830@aol.com or Sister Beth Quire, OP (510) 449-7554 or beth@msjdominicans.com.

Oct. 25, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Western States Conference of Associates and Religious meet at Notre Dame High School, 1500 Ralston Rd. in Belmont. Notre Dame Sister Janice Bohn will facilitate the day on a theme of "Association: A New Call to Prayer and Service." Sister Bohn has been a companion to women discerning to become third order associates or vowed religious for almost 30 years. Fee for the day is \$30. Lunch is available at \$10 per person. Coffee and snacks also provided. To register or more information, contact Kathy Noether at knoether@aol.com or call (408) 267-3426. For more information about WSCAR, visit the national website at www.nacar96.org.

Reunions

Oct. 18: USF, class of '48. Reunion events include campus tours, shopping in bookstore, liturgy, reception and dinner. Tickets are \$68. For more information or to register, contact USF alumni office at (800) 449-4873 or alumni@usfca.edu.

Oct. 18, 6 p.m.: St. Cecilia Elementary School, class of 1988, at Maggie's McGarry Bar, 1353 Grant St. in San Francisco. Tickets at \$10 include appetizers. Contact Tabitha Totah at Tabitha.Totah@lucasfilm.com.

Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m.: St. Agnes Elementary School, class of '46, at San Rafael Joe's. Contact Joan Hunt at jnhunt2003@aol.com or (818) 248-4513.

Oct. 18: The class of 1978 from Our Lady of Angels Elementary School is planning a reunion with site to be announced. All members of the class as well as former teachers are asked to contact Julie Britton Kanzaki at kanzakis@comcast.net.

Oct. 19, 9:15 a.m. registration: The San Francisco College for Women/Lone Mountain annual all-class reunion. Classes of '38, '48, '58, '68 are honorees. Day includes Mass, lunch, reception. Tickets are \$45. Contact USF alumni office at (415) 422-6431 or alumni@usfca.edu.

Oct. 25, 6 p.m.: Presentation High School, San Francisco Class of '71 at Caesars Restaurant, Bay at Powell in San Francisco. For more information, contact Anne Rabbitt at (415) 892-2974 or anne@divrab.com.

Nov. 2, 2 p.m.: Mass and reception honoring the 130-year history of San Francisco's St. Peter school, 24th and Alabama St., and the service there of the Sisters of Mercy, the Christian Brothers, and lay faculty and staff. San Francisco Auxiliary Bishop William J. Justice will preside. Call (415) 647-8662 for more information.

Nov. 9, 10: Anyone who attended or taught at Ryan Preparatory Seminary in the Fresno Diocese has been invited to a reunion at the diocesan Pastoral Center which is the site of the former seminary. For information, contact Bob O'Brien at bobrien@wnnet.com or (559) 493-2882.

Datebook is a free listing for parishes, schools and non-profit groups. Please include event name, time, date, place, address and an information phone number. Listing must reach Catholic San Francisco at least two weeks before the Friday publication date desired. Mail your notice to: Datebook, Catholic San Francisco, One Peter Yorke Way, S.F. 94109, or fax it to (415) 614-5633, or e-mail burket@sfarchdiocese.org.

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**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
and Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas
are responding to the communities of victims affected by Hurricane Ike.
The Gulf Coastal communities of both dioceses were hit hard. Both are
providing emergency response. They collaborated in past storms to address
the needs of the Bolivar Peninsula residents and continue to do so with Ike.**

Galveston-Houston is distributing food and supplies through mobile units to those most in need - filling in the gaps in the smaller communities and for those who might not have transportation to get to distribution sites. Galveston and Bolivar are within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas, out of Beaumont, are collaborating with other agencies to maximize efficiency in distributing food and supplies to victims through PODS (points of distribution) and Community Resource Sites. Currently operating two sites in Jefferson County and one in collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Chambers County. A site will be implemented in Orange County as soon as supplies are made available to distribute. The distribution of food and supplies made available to agencies to distribute in this area has been very slow in coming.

After the initial immediate emergency response, both agencies will transition into the Recovery phase - providing case management and financial assistance.

If you would like to donate to this effort, you can access the website
for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
www.catholiccharities.org and the website for Catholic Charities of
Southeast Texas www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org. Both agencies are most
appreciative of the financial support to continue Providing Help and Creating
Hope, especially for those affected by the devastation left by Hurricane Ike.

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VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Reporting to the Rector President and Vice Chancellor, the Vice President for Advancement is a member of the senior management team on the Seminary staff and is responsible for providing strategic direction for every aspect of Development and fundraising in partnership with the Board of Regents, its fundraising arm, the Board of Trustees, peers on the Seminary and University senior management team and with alumni, community stakeholders and donors in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and its twenty some diocesan communities of service. The Vice President for Advancement also:

1. Plays a pivotal role in engaging an enthusiastic community of alumni at a particularly important and exciting time in the Seminary's history and is expected to convey a strong vision, developed in partnership with the Rector President, senior colleagues on staff, Board of Regents and Board of Trustees.
2. Provides strategic leadership in implementing that vision through collaborative leadership with the Board of Regents, Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Student Council.
3. Creates lifelong relationships between the Seminary and its giving community--who may be highly diverse high, intermediate and first time donors.
4. Has comprehensive experience and skill sets to execute activities in:
 - Strategic planning, implementation and evaluation of fundraising and development
 - Public relations and marketing
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 - Grant writing
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Qualifications and Requirements

- A high degree of comfort working throughout the Western United States and Pacific Rim with a proven track record of cultural sensitivity and an optimistic approach to work, supported by a strong work ethic, attention to detail, an outgoing nature and warm personal style.
- A strong affinity for Catholic institutions and ability to champion the Seminary and its initial and ongoing formation and educational mission among its various constituents.
- Ability to multitask effectively in a changing environment comprised of multiple constituencies.
- Additional experience with other Advancement disciplines including major gift fund raising, annual fund leadership, small business marketing and corporate cultivation capabilities.
- Capital Campaign familiarity and experience.
- Demonstrated success in a collaborative leadership style which engages constituents respectfully with active listening skill which allows for dialogue, buy-in and partnership.
- Exceptional experience in fields such as educational advancement, not-for-profit administration, multicultural and intergenerational marketing, and other client-centered professions.
- Maturity, credibility and ability to convey personal integrity necessary to influence senior seminary administrators as well as key alumni volunteers.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully manage a program that is similar in scale and complexity operating with an institutional budget of at least four million dollars.
- Speaker's Bureau training proficiency.
- Special Events planning and vendor negotiations capabilities.
- Traditional donor base retention proficiencies
- Volunteer management.
- Philosophy supportive of an integrated approach in Advancement.
- Creativity required to introduce new ideas and incremental change balanced by a respect for the traditions.
- Intellectual curiosity and capacity to understand the full breadth of teaching, formation programs, and the ability to translate that understanding to the alumni with superior written and oral communication skills.
- Exemplary interpersonal skills, the ability to work in a Roman Catholic Seminary environment and a deep understanding of how to motivate and develop volunteers and a commitment to vision and mission.
- Bay area experience highly desirable.

COMPENSATION:

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin never known to fail.

Most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel Blessed Mother of the Son of God, assist me in my need. Help me and show me you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to help me in this need. Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us (3X). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3X). Say prayers 3 days. M.T.

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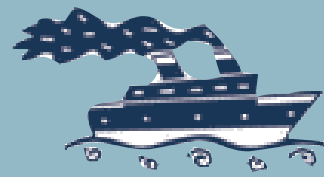
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