

The Catholic Voice

DECEMBER 2022 • VOLUME 60 • ISSUE 12

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The Catholic Voice

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Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ
PUBLISHER

Helen Osman
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Michele Jurich
EDITOR

Dominique Ghekiere-Mintz
COVER PHOTO

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Chancery phone: 510.893.4711



Elizabeth Martin Solsburg
PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rachel Squibbs
ART DIRECTOR

Stacy Love
GRAPHIC DESIGN



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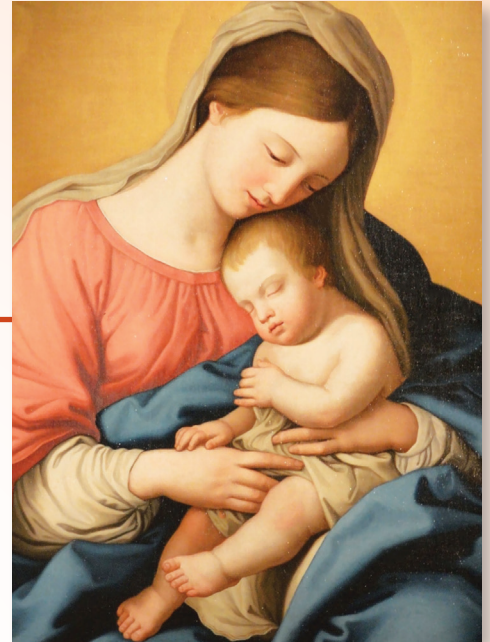
A note of gratitude to all who have had a role in *The Catholic Voice*: Thank you for your contributions. Your generous financial contributions support the journey from story idea to your mailbox. Your story ideas result in introductions to people doing the good work in the Diocese of Oakland. Your change of address notifications keep the magazine going where it's supposed to go. Thank you for understanding that the deadlines for the magazine mean that if you are producing a Passion Play in your parish, you should let me know right away. When we can't find room in print, or if something arrives past deadlines, we can put it online. Please look for *The Catholic Voice*, and all diocesan communications, at oakdiocese.org. Also Facebook and Instagram.

I wish you all the blessings of this awesome time of the year. Merry Christmas,
Michele Jurich, Editor, *The Catholic Voice* †

ADVENT *as a* season of comfort

“Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God.”

I love to hear these words sung in Handel’s Messiah every year at Advent and Christmas time. I don’t know about you, but I need “comfort” – I need help from the Lord for my own problems, and for the many people in our diocese who worry and are suffering. At this time of year, I gather, read and pray intentionally for each and every intention sent me, and then place the cards in baskets on and under the altar in my bishop’s chapel.



Our Lady of Comfort and Consolation



**BY BISHOP
MICHAEL C.
BARBER, SJ**

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ has been bishop of the Diocese of Oakland since May 2013.

Some problems can be solved by help from others: financial, medical, legal. Or relationships can be healed through change of heart or forgiveness of sins.

Yet some of our deepest wounds can only be healed by God Himself.

As a Navy chaplain, I was assigned to the aircraft carrier John C. Stennis. We were on a mission underway somewhere in the Pacific Ocean, with 5,000 sailors embarked. One night I was awakened at 3 a.m. by the duty officer who told me to get dressed and come topside.

They took me to a compartment where a 30-year-old sailor was curled up in a ball in the corner, weeping and crying. Two burly chief petty officers were standing there and said, “Chaplain, he’s been like this for an hour, and we don’t know why he is crying. We don’t know what to do. Can you help him?” “I’ll try,” I said, and they left us alone.

I moved my chair over next to the anguished man, put my hand on his shoulder, and tried my

best to comfort him. Inside myself, I was praying hard for him. After 30 minutes or so, he was able to stop a bit, and whispered to me, “Our baby died.” He had received an email from his wife that their infant child had died.

I wish I could raise that child from the dead, like Jesus did. But Jesus did become incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he became a human being like us, born on Christmas Day, to come near to us and comfort us. And the greatest comfort Jesus can give us is to raise us and our loved ones from the dead.

There are three comings of Jesus Christ. The first was “in history,” at his birth in Bethlehem. The second is “right now” today: in the Holy Eucharist, in all the sacraments, in our hearts through hearing the Scriptures, and in the needy person who comes to our St. Vincent de Paul or Catholic Charities looking for

food, clothing or housing. Remember Jesus said: “When you do it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you do it for me.”

The third coming of Jesus will be at the “end of the world” – as He said, “You will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with power and great glory.”

The three comings go together. That is why the Advent Scripture readings at Mass are prophecies from Isaiah of his first coming, and references by Jesus Himself and the Book of Revelation about His final coming.

Friends, at this Advent and Christmas time, if you want to experience Comfort, give comfort. Participate in Mass and the sacraments. Go to confession and receive Him in Holy Communion. Do something to serve the poor and needy, either in person, or through your alms. May the birth of Our Savior bring you and your families great and lasting comfort. †

“*Friends, at this Advent and Christmas time, if you want to **experience** Comfort, **give** comfort.*”

TAKE A PILGRIMAGE

www.APilgrimsJourney.com

Travel with Diocese of Oakland Priests!



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Fr. Mark Wiesner



Fr. Jimmy Macaliniao

FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS - With Fr. Mangini!
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WALK THE CAMINO - the French Way to
to Santiago de Compostela. Visit Fatima, Lisbon and Madrid.
April 24-May 4, 2023 - ‡4299

TRAVEL TO THE HOLY LAND - With Fr. Mark Wiesner!
Jan 18-31, 2024 - exact details to follow in future issues,
or contact travel organizer Belinda Held, details below

Reservations and Information
1-855-784-7687 or
Groups@PerilloTours.com

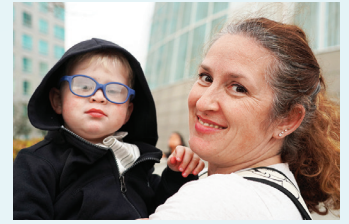


Additional Information call /email Organizer
BELINDA HELD
724-481-1700 or 724-679-7450
Belinda@APilgrimsJourney.com

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC FAMILIES

A week of family-oriented activities, including service, speakers, school festivals and hikes at the beginning of autumn, culminated with Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. After Mass, families gathered on the plaza for dinner. Ice cream and smiles included. †

PHOTOS BY DOMINIQUE GHEKIERE-MINTZ



Sounds and Sights of the Season

THE SOUNDS

Dec. 2

ADVENT GRACES

An afternoon of Music, Scripture and Prayer led by Catholic composer Janèt Sullivan Whitaker, 7 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Parish, San Ramon

Dec. 3-11

NOVENA MASSES TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

English Masses Dec. 3, 4 and 11 will begin at 7 p.m.

Spanish Masses Dec. 3, 4 and 11 will begin at 6 p.m.

St. Joachim Parish, Hayward

Dec. 3

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Featuring the Adult Choir, the Children's Choir and the Band 7:30 p.m. St. Agnes Church, Concord

Dec. 4

ADVENT GRACES

An afternoon of Music, Scripture and Prayer led by Catholic composer Janèt Sullivan Whitaker, 7:30 p.m. St. Augustine Church, Pleasanton

Dec. 4

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

4:30 p.m. Church of the Good Shepherd, Pittsburg

Dec. 9

BEHOLD I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

Christmas concert presented by the Lumen Christi Academies 6 p.m., The Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland
Free admission | Information: lcaacademies.org

Dec. 9

JINGLE JANGLE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 9, 2022 @ 7pm

Live Concert featuring Blues, R&B, Jazz and Hip-Hop

General Admission Tickets \$40 / VIP Seats \$50

Events: <https://stcolumba-oak.com/christmas-concert-2022>

Contact: 510-654-7600

Dec. 11

ADVENT GRACES

An afternoon of Music, Scripture and Prayer led by Catholic composer Janèt Sullivan Whitaker, 3:30 p.m. St. Mary Parish, Walnut Creek

Dec. 14

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Presented by TK-eighth-grade students

6:30 p.m., Church of the Assumption, San Leandro

DEC. 15

ADVENT GRACES

An evening of Music, Scripture and Prayer led by Catholic composer Janèt Sullivan Whitaker, 7 p.m., San Damiano Retreat Center Chapel, Danville

Dec. 16

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT INCLUDING AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

Performed by the Adult and Children's Choir of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton and the St. Paul Chong Korean Catholic Community of Pleasanton

7:30 p.m. St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton

Free admission. There will be a free-will offering.

Details: <https://www.catholicsofpleasanton.org/news-and-events> or 925-846-4489

... AND THE LIGHTS!

Dec. 2

DEACON DAVE'S 39TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

Deacon Dave Rezendes celebrates the season in this most delightful way at Casa Del Pombo in Livermore. His 39th Annual Christmas Display will open Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. The opening night procession will move down Hillcrest Avenue at 6:30 p.m. and upon arriving at the darkened House of the Dove, Casa del Pombo, the opening ceremonies will take place. This will include the blessings of the lights and people.

Hours:

Sunday through Thursday: 6-9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 6-10 p.m.

Last night of the 2022 Christmas Display:

New Year's Night at 9 p.m.

Display subject to close during high winds or heavy rain.

Admission is free. Donations are accepted.

Last year's light count was 712,325. This year Deacon Dave expects to exceed last year's number.

For more information, visit <http://casadelpomba.com>.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

With *The Catholic Voice* deadlines pre-Halloween, we'll update this list at *The Catholic Voice* website and on our Facebook page. See Page 15 for Cathedral events and more December events. †



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DISCOVER YOUR IMPACT**

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“I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND JOINS THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL WITH A 2023 CONGRESS

There’s a story told about St. Teresa of Avila. Someone once said to her, “If only I had lived at the time of Jesus ... If only I had seen Jesus ... If only I had talked with Jesus!” If only, indeed! – except that Teresa responded, “But do we not have in the Eucharist the living, true, and real Jesus present before us? Why look for more?”

I love this reminder of the simple yet astounding beauty and gift of the Holy Eucharist: that in the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lord Jesus Christ truly is present. As Jesus himself said in the final words of the Gospel of Matthew, “Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

In the Eucharist, God is among us. Heaven is on earth. Truth and Love incarnate appear under the guise of a tiny white host. The infinite and eternal has become so humble and approachable as to risk being overlooked and even dismissed.

The Eucharist changes hearts and lives

Two of my friends were simply unable to dismiss the power of the Eucharist. Each had powerful encounters with the Lord through the Blessed Sacrament that changed their lives.

“It was like the climax of my conversion story,” she explained to me. Kellen Troxell, now a Theology teacher at Marin Catholic, was then 19. In her own words, she had been “living away from the Church, and looking for happiness and meaning everywhere else.” Right when she’d decided to come back to the Church and had started attending Sunday Masses, some friends of hers invited her on a youth retreat as a speaker.

As they were preparing for the retreat weekend, “everyone kept talking about Adoration, Adoration, Adoration, and I didn’t understand what it was; I had no idea.” But when Saturday evening’s Holy Hour came around, she got the picture.

“It was just a very classic, very emotional Youth Ministry Adoration experience,” she said, chuckling. “There was a worship band, and it was all dark, and they had lights, but when they started playing ‘Lord, I Need You,’ I felt ...” She paused,



searching for words. “I’d been searching for love and had been feeling very unloved, a mess, just unworthy, I guess, and I’d done a lot of things that gave me reasons to feel shame, but at that moment I just felt the most love that I’ve ever felt in my entire life – this immense wave just flooded my heart. It was such an overwhelming experience of being loved by Somebody, being seen and understood all at once. I’d never felt like that before.”

That wasn’t the end of Jesus tugging on Kellen’s heart, though -



lovely. That's all you need, the peace of Christ in your life."

Another friend, St. Bonaventure parishioner Rod Chisholm, had his own life-changing encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. Back in the day he wasn't Catholic, he said, but wanted to set a good example for his kids, so he attended Sunday Mass with his family each week. "I didn't want the kids to ask why I wasn't doing it," he explained. But when he wanted to receive Holy Communion with the rest of his family, "my son, Ben, he told me, 'Dad, you can't do that unless you believe it's the Body and Blood of Christ.' Well, I certainly wanted to believe that this is real. I thought, maybe if I just go up there, I'll have some sort of epiphany or something."

As Rod approached and revered the Body of Christ, "nothing really changed, but when I turned to the Chalice, I was just humbled right down to my knees. I just started crying, carrying on. My two daughters had to escort me back to our pew. It was a real epiphany for me." When they got home, he told his wife Kathy that if the Catholic Church was going to give him this, then he was going to become a Catholic. Rod entered RCIA and converted to Catholicism, and is now a proud evangelist to the faithful on the importance of receiving Holy Communion.

Rekindling the fire of the Eucharist

There are many who long for the truth and peace of Christ or yearn for experiences like Kellen's and Rod's but haven't found it yet. The Bishops of the United States of America have an answer to this cry, and the Diocese of Oakland is joining in: We're talking about the National Eucharistic Revival!

As Bishop Barber wrote in his October letter to parishes, "It is time to revive and rekindle the fire of the Eucharist in our hearts." Of the most recent Pew Research Center's survey of American trends, only one-third (31%) of those who self-identified as Catholics say they believe that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus." This belief is called "transubstantiation," and is the heart of the Church's understanding of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our very faith.

The National Eucharistic Revival is in some sense a response to this situation. It gives Catholics a chance to reflect upon the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives, and to reaffirm our call to be a people nourished, fed and renewed by the Eucharist itself.

The theme of our Diocesan Eucharistic Revival comes from the Gospel of Matthew: "I Am With You Always." Christ Himself promises us that He is here with us, and invites us to renew our personal encounters with Him in this Revival. A steering committee of about 40 leaders on fire for the Lord have been chosen from parishes across the diocese to guide our own Revival, which will start with a Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress in September 2023.

Our Eucharistic Revival Congress will be held over two weekends in September 2023: a Spanish-language track on Sept. 8-9 and an English-language track on Sept. 15-16. We're looking forward to a time of prayer, talks, discussion, Mass, Adoration, a public procession of the Blessed Sacrament and more! With events for both youth and adults, there will be many opportunities for our hearts and souls to be renewed at this Eucharistic Revival Congress.

As St. Teresa said, "We have in the Eucharist the living, true, and real Jesus present before us" – here with us always. †



BY MEGAN ARTEAGA

Megan Arteaga serves as coordinator of youth ministry and communications at Santa Maria Parish in Orinda. She is a member of the steering committee for the 2023 Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress.

when she came home from retreat, she had what she explains as "this huge conversion of my heart. All of my misgivings about Catholicism, things I was struggling with, God was just pulling on my heart to go deeper and deeper. It was really slow over time, but if I look back, like when did it start, Adoration was a huge pivotal moment - even though I didn't see it at the time."

Kellen received the Sacrament of Confirmation later that year, choosing St. Augustine as her patron saint. She still makes time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. "I do love my hours in Adoration. It's always

“

MY SON, BEN, HE TOLD ME, 'DAD, YOU CAN'T [RECEIVE COMMUNION] UNLESS YOU BELIEVE IT'S THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.' WELL, I CERTAINLY WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS REAL. I THOUGHT, MAYBE IF I JUST GO UP THERE, I'LL HAVE SOME SORT OF EPIPHANY OR SOMETHING.”



EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL CONGRESS

Cathedral of Christ the Light

- Sept. 8-9, 2023 (Spanish)
- Sept. 15-16, 2023 (English)

For information on how to register or get involved, please e-mail: revival2023@oakdiocese.org

Guadalupana Association

RETURNS TO ST. JOSEPH PINOLE

BY LORENA ROJAS

Inspired by the Virgin Mary's "let it be done," a group of parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Pinole have responded to the call of Father Geoffrey Baraan to restart the Guadalupana Association.

The previous Guadalupana Association closed in 2018. The Guadalupana Association of the St. Joseph Church in Pinole re-emerges with the same charism of service and faith.

Most of the directors had already served in the previous association and also serve in other parish ministries. They know the needs of the community, the religious fervor and the resources they can count on. The new board of directors was installed at the end of the Spanish Mass on Sept. 3.

Rosamaria Légier, president of the new Guadalupana Association of St. Joseph Church, says this organization is different from the parish groups that

form in some churches to celebrate the solemnity of the Virgin of Guadalupe in December. This Guadalupana Association works year-round.

"The previous association was part of the Catholic Federation of Guadalupana Associations of the Diocese of Oakland, a branch of the organization of the Apostolic Movement and Diocesan Organizations, which works under the umbrella of Latino Movements of the diocese," explained Légier. She hopes to rejoin this diocesan organization.

The Guadalupana Association in Pinole helps the sick financially and spiritually; some of the members are extraordinary ministers and take Communion to their homes or hospitals; help

needy families; serve in a homeless shelter in Richmond; and offer scholarships to students in need. The members lead rosary with a community prayer in the parish center and coordinate the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, among many other services to the community.

Nancy Meléndez is the secretary of this association and was also the secretary of the previous association. The Guadalupe association does many



Ricardo Portillo, Treasurer; Nancy Meléndez, Secretary; Elsa Zavala, Trustee; Father Geoffrey Baraan, Chaplain; Genoveva De Alba, Trustee; Jhony Sánchez, Vice-President; Rosamaria Légier, President; Fernando Mendoza, Trustee, and Marina Sagastume, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Courtesy Photo

good things for the parish community and for the Pinole community in general.

Despite her willingness to serve, she is concerned that both this group and the Church in general face the challenge of how to attract young people. "Young people don't want to come to church," she said.

She hopes that when the patron saint festivities of the different countries resume, such as the solemnity of the Divino Salvador del Mundo, El Señor de los Milagros, El Cristo de Esquipulas and the Assumption, among others, families will return to participate with their children, and youth may be attracted.

Board member Marina Segastume and her husband coordinate the group that organizes the patron saint's feast of El Salvador, the Divine Savior of the World.

She sees attracting more members as the primary objective to enable the new association to carry out activities. Those activities raise funds to help other groups and do charity work. She assures that serving the Church is something that is returned to people in blessings.

"I entered the Guadalupana Association for the first time almost 20 years ago and it helped me a lot spiritually, my faith grew," Marina said. "I was looking at the needs that were there and I found this group very active and everything that was done was to help those in need. I have learned a lot, not only how to help others, but also how to live together."

The Guadalupana Association is inspired by the Virgin of Guadalupe for whom Marina has a special devotion and from whom she has received many blessings in her family. "Faith is what inspires one to keep working," she said. †

“

I have learned a lot, not only how to help others, but also how to live together.”

MARINA SEGASTUME

Diocese of Oakland Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

When: Dec. 3

Starting point:

St. Louis Bertrand Church
1410 100th Ave., Oakland 94603

Arrival: 8 a.m.

Start walking: 9 a.m.

First Mass:

St. Elizabeth Church
1500 34th Ave., Oakland 94601

Mass start time:

Between 10:30 and 11 a.m.

Second Mass:

The Cathedral of Christ the Light
2121 Harrison St., Oakland 94612

Mass start time: 1 p.m.

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

presides at both Masses

Peregrinación Guadalupana

Este año si llevaremos a cabo la Peregrinación Diocesana Presencial el día sábado 3 de diciembre.

Iniciaremos del mismo lugar que años anteriores, La parroquia de San Luis Beltrán.

Invitamos a los peregrinos a llegar a las 8:00 am o antes, tendremos la oración inicial con el Obispo a las 8:45 am e iniciaremos la peregrinación a las 9:00 am en punto.

Este año habrá se ofrecerá una versión corta a los años anteriores. Se invitara algunas parroquias a terminar su recorrido de este peregrinar en la parroquia de Santa Elizabeth para Celebrar ahí la misa con nuestro Señor Obispo Michael Barber, SJ

Otra parte de la peregrinación hará el recorrido tradicional hasta terminar en la Catedral con una misa también con nuestro Señor Obispo.

Hará el recorrido tradicional hasta terminar en la Catedral con una misa también con nuestro Señor Obispo.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession and Mass in Concord

Queen of All Saints Parish kicks off its 150th anniversary celebration Dec. 11 with a procession from the church to Todos Santos Plaza in Concord.

The event will begin at 2 p.m. at the church, 2390 Grant St., and process to the plaza, where the bilingual Mass will be celebrated outdoors. The event should last until 4 p.m.

The parish plans several activities through this anniversary year.

For additional information, see qaschurch.org or contact Debra Smith at bm.debrasmith@gmail.com or call 415.706.0413. †

Guadalupana de Pinole

EMERGE COMO SEMILLERO DE FE Y SERVICIO

POR LORENA ROJAS

Inspirados en el “hágase” que es la enseñanza de la Virgen María, un grupo de parroquianos de la iglesia San José en Pinole han respondido al llamado del párroco Geoffrey Baraan para reiniciar la Asociación Guadalupana. Una nueva junta directiva fue instalada el 3 de septiembre al final de la misa en español. La anterior asociación guadalupana fue cerrada en el verano del 2018 y no hay detalles del por qué.

La Asociación Guadalupana de la iglesia San José en Pinole resurge con el mismo carisma de servicio y fe. La mayoría de los directivos ya habían servido en la asociación anterior y también sirven en otros Ministerios parroquiales. Conocen las necesidades de la comunidad, el fervor religioso y los recursos con los que pueden contar.

La presidenta de la nueva Asociación Guadalupana de la iglesia San José, Rosamaria Légier, explica que esta organización es diferente a los grupos parroquiales que se forman en algunas iglesias para celebrar la solemnidad de la Virgen de Guadalupe en diciembre.

En la Asociación Guadalupana en la iglesia San José trabaja permanente. “La asociación anterior era parte de la Federación Católica de Asociaciones Guadalupanas de la Diócesis de Oakland, una rama de la organización del Movimiento Apostólico y Organizaciones Diocesanas, que funciona bajo la sombrilla de Movimientos Latinos de la diócesis”, detalló Légier. Ella espera volverla a integrar esta organización diocesana.

La Asociación Guadalupana en Pinole, ayuda financiera y espiritualmente a los enfermos, algunos de los miembros son ministros extraordinarios y les llevan la Comunión a sus casas u hospitales, ayudan a familias necesitadas, sirven en un refugio para desamparados en Richmond, ofrecen becas a estudiantes en necesidad, lideran la devoción al rezo del Rosario con un rezo

comunitario en el centro parroquial, y coordinan la adoración al Santísimo, entre muchos otros servicios a la comunidad.

Nancy Meléndez es la secretaria de esta asociación y lo fue también de la asociación anterior. Ella dijo a *The Catholic Voice* que la asociación guadalupana hace muchas cosas buenas para la comunidad de la iglesia San José y para la comunidad de Pinole en general.

A pesar de su disposición para servir, le preocupa que tanto este grupo como la Iglesia en general enfrentan el reto de como atraer a los jóvenes. “los jóvenes no quieren venir a la Iglesia”.

Ella espera que cuando reanuden las fiestas patronales de los diferentes países como la solemnidad del Divino Salvador del Mundo, El Señor de los Milagros, El Cristo de Esquipulas y la fiesta de la Asunción entre otras, las familias vuelvan a participar con sus hijos y se pueda hacer algo para atraer a la juventud.

Otra parroquiiana miembro de la directiva de la Asociación Guadalupana es Marina Segastume, ella y su esposo coordinan el grupo que organiza la fiesta patronal del santo patrón de El Salvador, el Divino Salvador del Mundo. Ella, ve como objetivo primordial para la nueva Asociación Guadalupana, atraer más miembros para poder hacer actividades como lo hacía la asociación anterior. Esas actividades son la fuente para recaudar fondos para ayudar a otros grupos y hacer obras de caridad.

Asegura que servir en la Iglesia es algo que se devuelve a las personas en bendiciones. “Yo entré a la Asociación Guadalupana, la primera vez hace casi 20 años y me ayudó mucho espiritualmente, mi fe creció. Yo estaba viendo las necesidades que había y encontré este grupo muy activo y todo lo que se hacía era para ayudar a los necesitados. He aprendido mucho, no solo como ayudar a los demás, también a convivir”.

La Asociación Guadalupana es inspirada en la Virgen de Guadalupe por quien Segastume tiene una devoción especial y de quien ha recibido muchas bendiciones en su familia. “La fe es lo que le inspira a uno para seguir trabajando”, concluyó. †

Sisters in active retirement



Sister Mary (Josephus Mary) Hrovat, OP, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, is celebrating 60 years of religious life. She graduated from Hoban Dominican High School in Cleveland in 1962 and that June entered the Adrian Dominican Congregation. She professed her first vows on Dec. 29, 1963, and her final vows on Dec. 28, 1968.

Sister Mary holds a bachelor's degree in English from Siena Heights College (now University) in Adrian, 1970, and a master's degree in elementary education from Arizona State University, 1976.

Her first teaching assignment after profession took Sister Mary to St. Lawrence O'Toole, Oakland, where she taught at the elementary and junior high school level from 1964 to 1970. She later taught at the elementary and junior high level at All Saints School in Hayward from 1970 to 1977.

After serving as an administrative assistant at the Adrian Dominican Sisters Motherhouse for six years, Sister Mary spent the rest of her ministerial life serving in the Archdiocese of Chicago. She has lived in active retirement in Skokie, Illinois, since November 2010.

Among her special memories are "the joy of seeing a young child's smile of accomplishment when he or she mastered a skill" and experiencing the various people and cultures in various parts of the country. Sister Mary expressed "a profound sense of gratitude that I have been graced with this Dominican vocation."

Former students who would like to contact her may do so through the Office of Communication, Adrian Dominican Sisters, Adrian, MI 49221-1793

Thanks to Sister Barbara Kelley, OP for sharing this story.



Sister Gloria Loya, PBVM, has long been teased that her appointment as Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of Monterey was due to her relationship to then-Bishop Richard Garcia, her cousin.

It is difficult, however, to imagine someone more qualified than Sister Gloria. Her teaching career spanned elementary to graduate school, which

combined with her advanced degrees led to positions as Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of San Jose and Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology and Hispanic Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley. Sister Gloria also served on the congregational leadership team from 2004-2010.

"I do deeply believe God and my parents blessed me, as I suspect they [the diocese] were looking for someone with a theological background and who was bilingual in English/Spanish," she says. "I grew up in a bilingual family and thanks to the Sisters, I was able to complete graduate studies in theology."

The responsibilities of this position included representing the bishop within the 23 religious congregations in the diocese (10 of men, 13 of women). This required much dialogue and trust-building with the bishop and individual religious.

With her Council of Religious and the congregations, the office offered Diocesan Jubilee Celebrations, retreats and days of prayer – even going virtual during the pandemic. A significant aspect of this ministry was outreach to the campesino/Latino community, which led to the most important event: bilingual retreats for mothers and daughters, a creative approach to a demonstrated need and a vehicle to build trust and understanding of women religious.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



Visit retiredreligious.org/2022photos to meet the religious pictured.

Elderly religious need your help.

Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry – educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine and other necessities. Please give generously.

**Please donate at your local parish
December 10–11 or by mail at:**

Diocese of Oakland
Office for Mission Advancement
2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Make check payable to Diocese of Oakland/RFR

retiredreligious.org

2022 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC
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In response to the calls from Pope Francis and Bishop Danny Garcia, Sister Gloria formed a team to lead three Synodal Conferences with the ministerial and monastic religious throughout the diocese. The results are summarized in a Synodal Document that describes the lived experience of these communities within the clerical and lay communities in the diocese. "This document is a vital result and expression of my work and the work of all religious who participated," Sister Gloria said.

Like many others who are grounded in faith, she saw challenges as opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. She described some difficulties: "It is not easy to learn to really listen and encourage others to become leaders. In Latina theology many of us write and describe our 'invisible visibility' in the church. I observe this too happens with women religious in the church whose voices and leadership are too often overlooked and ignored."

Sister Gloria relied on two groups of women as support during her time as Vicar: fellow Presentation Sisters and her Council of Religious. "My Presentation Sisters of Guadalupe Community have over these years been such a support. We share our lives, struggles, prayer, love for Nano. They have been my base. We are also bilingual and are enriched by communicating in Spanish/English and welcoming our Hispanic spirituality and cultures. This gives me strength. And my Council of Religious – we worked very hard, planned, laughed, celebrated, and struggled together ... such a gift!" She also expressed that she felt she had the respect and support of the men with whom she worked, including the bishop, and especially the men religious.

Although a new Vicar for Religious has not been named, Sister Gloria has hopes for the future, saying "I pray that we do find a new Sister for this very special ministry, and soon. She must love religious life; have good communication skills; in our diocese it would be a gift if she is bilingual and bicultural – albeit not necessary! Must be able to laugh at herself and enjoy and love the church, even with its problems."

Sister Gloria plans to continue living in Monterey and ministering in the Mother-Daughter retreats, anti-trafficking work and other activities of the diocese.

Thanks to Jan Potts for sharing this story. †



**How can we help?
Let us know.
510.267.8334**

Simbang Gabi 2022 to kick off Dec. 10 at All Saints, Hayward

Now on its 10th year, the Kick-Off Mass of the Simbang Gabi will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 10 at All Saints Church in Hayward, with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ presiding.

This is the first time that the kick-off Mass is brought to a parish other than the Cathedral of Christ the Light, in the hope of engaging the local communities to a renewed zeal and hopeful anticipation of the coming Christmas, which is what the 9-day devotion – the Simbang Gabi novena Masses – is all about.

Coming out of the pandemic, with food and social distancing restrictions lifted, details of the fellowship and entertainment are being ironed out.

Come and re-experience the warmth of Christmas and the joy of growing in faith as we celebrate this time-honored tradition – the Filipino way! Don your Filipiniana attire, with your parish banner and lantern for the procession, and enjoy the festive music from the choir assembled by Ariel Mayormita.

Contact frjetvilla@srcdublin.org for updates as we approach the date.

SIMBANG GABI IN PARISHES

- All Saints, Hayward: 6 a.m., Dec. 16-24; 510.914.4076
- Church of the Assumption, San Leandro: 6:30 p.m., Dec. 15-23; arleighsimon@yahoo.com
- Church of Good Shepherd, Pittsburg: 5:30 a.m., Dec. 16-24; frthihoang@goodshepherdpittsburg.org
- Holy Spirit, Fremont: 6:30 p.m., Dec. 15-22; patricia.saturnio@gmail.com
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Brentwood: 6 a.m., Dec. 16-24; villa.mserrano@gmail.com
- Most Holy Rosary, Antioch: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 15-23; maharcen126@yahoo.com
- Our Lady of Good Counsel, San Leandro: 7 p.m., Dec. 15-23; olgc.finance@gmail.com
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fremont: 6 a.m., Dec. 16-24; deacon.steve.budnik@gmail.com
- Our Lady Queen of the World, Pittsburg: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 15-16, Dec. 19-23; 5 p.m., Dec. 17; 6 p.m., Dec. 18; ladycion@comcast.net
- St. Agnes, Concord: 7 p.m., Dec. 15-23; marosecencarnacion@yahoo.com
- St. Albert the Great, Alameda: 5 a.m., Dec. 16 and Dec. 24; ordinarioh@yahoo.com
- St. Anne, Union City: 5:30 a.m., Dec. 16-24; office@saintannecatholic.org
- St. Anthony, Oakley: 6:30 p.m., Dec. 16-23; 5 a.m., Dec. 24; quibbs@yahoo.com
- St. Catherine of Siena, Martinez: 6 a.m. Dec. 16-24; e.centeno@sbcglobal.net
- St. Clement, Hayward: 6:30 p.m., Dec. 15-23; jayumi2@sbcglobal.net
- St. David of Wales, Richmond: 7 p.m., Dec. 15-23; lisaherico@yahoo.com
- St. Felicitas, San Leandro: 5 a.m., Dec. 15-23; gracefechalas@gmail.com
- St. Francis of Assisi, Concord: 5:30 a.m., Dec. 16-24; bengbeza@sbcglobal.net
- St. Ignatius, Antioch: 7 p.m., Dec. 15-23; st.ignatius@sbcglobal.net
- St. Joachim, Hayward: 5:30 a.m., Dec. 16-24; stjoachimmusic@gmail.com
- St. Joan of Arc, San Ramon: 7 p.m., Dec. 16-23; 7 a.m., Dec. 24; ambantug@yahoo.com
- St. John the Baptist, San Lorenzo: 5:30 a.m., Dec. 15-23; stjohsrectory@gmail.com
- St. John Vianney, Walnut Creek: 6 p.m., Dec. 21; peaceworld1221@gmail.com
- St. Joseph Basilica, Alameda: 5:30 a.m. Dec. 15-23; aramos94501@gmail.com
- St. Leander, San Leandro: 7 p.m., Dec. 16, Dec. 18-23; 6:30AM, Dec. 17 and 24; tess.morales@yahoo.com
- St. Margaret Mary, Oakland: (Missa Rorate) 6 a.m., Dec. 16-17, Dec. 19-24; 5:10 a.m., Dec. 18; 5:10 a.m. 480.0596, gnaguit@stmargaretm.org
- St. Michael, Livermore: 5:30 a.m., Dec. 16-24; stmichaelfilipinocommunity@gmail.com
- St. Patrick, Rodeo: 5 a.m., Dec. 16-24; 510.799.4406
- St. Raymond, Dublin: 5:30 a.m., Dec. 16-24; getinvolved@srcdublin.org

Please see www.oakdiocese.org/simbanggabi for updated listings. †

Many parishes were represented at a Sew-Fest in August. Among them are Catholic Community of Pleasanton, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Joan of Arc, Assumption, St. Clement, St. Michael, Transfiguration and Our Lady of Grace. And thanks to those from faith traditions other than our own who contribute their talent.



BLESSED ARE THE *Dressmakers*

Putting their creativity to work to help keep girls safe from harm

THIS CHRISTMAS, THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WILL OPEN A CHRISTMAS BOX – PERHAPS YOUR PARISH HELPS PACK GIFTS FOR BOX OF JOY OR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Inside more than 5,000 of those boxes, girls will find a handmade sundress that reached her through the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of Dress a Girl Around the World.

BY MICHELE JURICH

Michele Jurich is editor of The Catholic Voice

PHOTOS BY DOMINIQUE GHEKIERE-MINTZ

That dress may be the first new one the girl has ever owned. All hers. More than clothing, the dress sends a message to her that she is full of dignity and a daughter of God. It also sends a message to those who might do her harm: Someone is looking out for this girl.

“Someone” is Suzanne Beck and the 300 women and men she leads who turn fabric, thread, buttons, bias tape and a touch of lace and ribbon into a life-changing gift.

Suzanne’s ministry is the answer to a prayer.

“I was active at CCOP [Catholic Community of Pleasanton] then I went through a horrific divorce,” she recalled. She stepped back from her parish responsibilities.

“For about a year, I simply let the Lord take care of me.”

There was a home to sell and a new, smaller home to buy.

“As things settled down, I prayed, ‘OK, Lord, I’m ready. Show me

where you want me to be ... oh and if it could be creative, that would be really cool!’ That was my literal prayer!”

Two weeks later, she saw something about Dress a Girl. She doesn’t recall where it was, a bulletin perhaps.

“Then they were making dresses out of pillowcases. I burst into tears.

“This is it.

“I can sew. My grandpa was a tailor. He taught me to sew when I was a little girl.

“But what I’m better at is organizing people. I called a bunch of friends and said, ‘Let’s do this!’

“The first meeting was five gals with an ironing board in my tiny house in Livermore,” she recalled.

Dress a Girl Around the World was founded in 2009 in Arizona



by Rachel Cinader. A group had begun in Sacramento. The ambassador there helped Suzanne learn how to proceed.

Suzanne's reaction: "Okay. We can do this." She became the ambassador for the San Francisco Bay Area.

"In May 2011, we had our first meeting at St. Augustine, Pleasanton. We made 30 or 40 dresses.

"We took off from there."

A few months later, Father Bob Mendonca, then pastor at St. Michael Parish in Livermore, assisted Suzanne in starting Dress a Girl as a ministry.

The local group has partnered with Christian organizations to deliver the dresses, such as the two Christmas-oriented organizations. The dresses are never just sent away; they are carried by

missionaries or, on occasion, by local travelers.

The San Francisco Bay Area group is the grateful beneficiary of grants from St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore, Amador Valley Quilters and Wooden Gate Quilts in Danville.

They are also grateful to the individuals who donate fabric collections and sewing supplies, either as a bequest or at a time of downsizing.

"It's nice to be able to say, 'I know this is going to a good cause. I know this isn't going to be wasted.'

"We use every little piece we get," she said. "Whatever we don't use, we pass on to someone else."

The group is also happy to receive gift cards from Joann Fabrics, which the bargain-savvy shopper can use to get the most for their money.

“**YOU GET AS MUCH BLESSING OUT OF DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING AS THE END-USER GETS OUT OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE.**”

THEN THERE'S THE LOVE STORY.

Six months after starting her ministry, Suzanne went to Indiana to attend her high school reunion.

"I reconnected with a guy I'd known since 6th grade," she said, when she, the daughter of a fundamentalist minister, moved into Eric's classroom. "We were good friends for years, but each had moved on with our lives."

He, too, had gone through a divorce and raised four children by himself. The last child had gone off to college, and he was wondering what he would do next.

Eric and Suzanne each obtained an annulment and were married.

"We couldn't do Dress a Girl without him," Suzanne said. "He unloads, packs everything, hooks up electricity at Sew-Fests." He also takes dresses to the warehouse, where they are stored ready to travel.

“
**WE'RE
 INSISTENT
 ON TWO
 POCKETS ON
 EVERY DRESS.
 SOMETIMES
 IT'S THE
 ONLY PLACE
 A GIRL HAS
 THAT'S HER
 OWN PRIVATE
 PLACE.”**

Vital to the work, too, is Suzanne's mother, Anne, who precisely packs the dresses for shipping.

The Dress a Girl group meets every six weeks or so for a Sew-Fest. They come together to sew, iron and put together dress kits. Three or four volunteers work behind the scenes, making thousands of yards of bias tape for the dress straps. This saves the rather expensive cost of the bias tape, allowing more dresses to be made.

Especially sharp-eyed volunteers give each dress a thorough going-over, noting spots that need repair. The majority that pass inspection go the ironing board, where a small Dress a Girl Around the World patch is attached to the front. It's there to remind people: Someone cares for me.

Some of the dressmakers bring their own sewing machines, and work on their dresses at long tables Eric has set up earlier in the day. They admire each other's work, and offer tips to newcomers.



The simple sundresses, in sizes 4 to 14, are adorned with pockets. “We're insistent on two pockets on every dress,” Suzanne said. “Sometimes it's the only place a girl has that's her own private place.”

It's a place of community, where the day begins with prayer.

When the pandemic came, the dressmakers picked up kits on the front patio of Suzanne's home and dropped off finished dresses there.

2021 was the group's most successful: 6,515 dresses were made.

Sew-Fests began again in 2022, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore. The 2023 dates are Jan. 14, Feb. 25, April 1, May 6 and June 10.

Dress a Girl “has been a huge blessing to everyone involved. You get as much blessing out of doing what you're doing than the end-user gets out of what you've done.”

“So many people have gotten so much blessing from using their hands, using their creativity. We don't much of that these days.” †

+ **MORE INFORMATION**
www.dressagirlsfbayarea.com
 Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or
suzbeck@yahoo.com



2021 FINAL DRESS COUNT: 6,515

- 800** Malawi - Hls2Offer
- 336** Sierra Leone - Kargboyard
- 2,909** Box of Joy - Cross Catholic Outreach
- 215** Local Operation Christmas Child groups
- 20** The Philippines
- 2,220** Regional California Operation Christmas Child Processing Center (Los Angeles)
- 15** Kauai - St. William Food Pantry, Kauai, Hawaii

2022 is still being counted.

More Events in December

CRAFT FAIR AT ST. JEROME PARISH

St. Jerome Crafters invite you to a Craft Fair, featuring hand-knit items for babies and adults, and other handmade items at the benefit for St. Jerome Parish in El Cerrito. The sale will be at the parish, 308 Carmel Ave., El Cerrito, from 3-6:30 p.m. Dec. 3 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 4.

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Legion of Mary Oakland Comitium invites you to the Annual General Reunion to celebrate its 60th anniversary.

The potluck celebration will be from 2-4 p.m. Dec. 4, at Sacred Heart Church, 4025 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland.

For more information, call Priscilla at 510-367-2619 or email pabaya@mac.com.

"MISSION STORIES" BOOK DEBUT

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ will celebrate the 10 a.m. Mass on Dec. 4 at Newman Hall/Holy Spirit Parish in Berkeley. Father Augustine Joseph's book "Mission Stories" will make its debut at a reception after Mass. The church is at 2700 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Bishop Barber's November column in *The Catholic Voice* was about the book. Father Augustine serves at St. Augustine Parish in Oakland.

Advent and Christmas at the Cathedral

The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland
www.ctlcathedral.org

DEC. 3 | OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

1 p.m. Mass with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

DEC. 4 | ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

5:30 p.m. with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

DEC. 8 | FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

12:10 p.m. Mass with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

DEC. 21 | BLUE CHRISTMAS (LONGEST NIGHT)

7 p.m. service with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

DEC. 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m. Mass in Vietnamese

10 p.m. Mass with Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ

with prelude music at 9:30 p.m.

DEC. 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY

8 a.m. Mass in Vietnamese

11 a.m. Mass in English

1:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish †



Photo by Dominique Ghesliere-Mintz

You Can Help Us Feed, Clothe, Shelter and Heal Those in Need This Christmas

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County serves over 80,000 residents in need annually through programs including rental and utility assistance; hot meals and food pantries; free medical and dental care for the uninsured; employment and job training; warm clothing and furniture; and emergency assistance as needed.

In 2022, SVdP distributed over \$1.9 million annually of direct financial assistance and over \$2.3 million annually of in-kind assistance, mostly food, to our most vulnerable families.

If someone is in need of help, please have them call SVdP at (925) 439-5060.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County

Please help your neighbors in need this Christmas by donating by using the envelope in this issue or at www.svdpc-cc.org.

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County,
2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565

501(c)(3) Tax ID: 94-1448577

ORDER OF MALTA CHAMPIONS GALA

Sutter Health Area CEO David D. Clark and Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ were honored by the Order of Malta at the annual Champions Gala. The gala, which celebrated the spirit of the volunteer, also showcased plans to double the size of the Order of Malta Clinic at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland.



Sutter's partnership with the clinic includes the regular visits by the Carol Ann Reed Health Clinic's mobile mammogram unit to the cathedral, where patients of the free clinic are scheduled to receive life-saving healthcare.

"With the Order of Malta Clinic, there are so many things we have in common," Clark said. "When I think about the values of quality and compassionate care and access to primary care services, and I think about what these physicians do, Dr. Javier Diaz and Dr. Tom Wallace, it's wonderful example of collaboration."

Peter Reed, who founded the Carol Ann Reed breast health initiative in response to his grief after the death of his wife, spoke briefly about the motivation and continuing commitment to preventing other families from such sorrow.



In receiving the Silver Chalice Award – which is, indeed, a big silver chalice – Bishop Barber shared the accolades with the audience.

“Thank you very much for your kindness,” he said. “I really don’t deserve this award; you all deserve it because by your generosity and support, you’ve made the clinic possible and every one of you in whatever way you contribute, helps heal and relieve the suffering of someone who comes to our door. I thank you very much.

“And I look forward to what we can do together to expand the clinic, as more and more people come forward that don’t have insurance and we’re able to help them, thanks to you. God bless you all. God reward you.”

Funds raised at the Champions Gala will go a long way toward the plan to double the size of the medical clinic, which will allow the clinic to expand the number of patients served and days it is open. †

BY MICHELE JURICH
Michele Jurich is editor of The Catholic Voice

AMELIA PLUMB PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

“ I LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER TO EXPAND THE CLINIC, AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE COME FORWARD THAT DON’T HAVE INSURANCE AND WE’RE ABLE TO HELP THEM, THANKS TO YOU. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.”

– BISHOP MICHAEL C. BARBER, SJ



The Holy Family and Ours

BY PATRICIA MANIATIS
Patricia Maniatis is a writer, poet and member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Point Richmond.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANIATIS FAMILY

Christmas has always been a joyous celebration in our family. My first Midnight Mass was as a first-grader, chosen by Sister Mary Finbar to carry the Baby Jesus up the aisle during the offertory and not to drop him, but to place him right side up in the manger. Garbed in a white gown and gold wire wings, accompanied by three other “good girls,” we were the angels on that Holy Night. My family: mother, father, baby sister, sat behind in the pews. My mother, most likely, holding her breath, wiping the tears of joy off her cheeks as her nine-year-old firstborn, my brother David, dressed in the red and white altar boy cassock, gave the responses in newly learned Latin.

Many Christmas Eves past. My husband and I were blessed with eight of our very own “babies,” cradled and carried each in turn up the church aisle to be baptized: Children of God.

Christmas was even merrier. Messier. Not with swaddling clothes but baskets of soiled clothes.

Our children married and had their children. Christmas was family and friends, carols and chaos but celebratory. The dinners and dishes grew in portion. I grew older.

It was on the heels of one Christmas Eve when our whole family went to our parish church of St. Mary Magdalen, leaving the two dozen green and red frosted chocolate cupcakes for an early

Christmas morning dessert on the dining room table that my spirits started to sag. My family, filling the two church pews for that Midnight Mass, was my Christmas gift. Like my own Mother, years before, I was filled with gratitude. JOY.

The kids burst in the front door after Mass to find our lab, Ashley, had got to the cupcakes first.

The glass platter still in place. Licked clean.

With the gift of time and perspective, I realize I was just exhausted when the day after that Christmas, The Feast of The Holy Family, I quietly took the car keys, climbed out the laundry room window and drove up the coast to Jenner By the Sea.

I checked into a motel, had just let my head sink into a crisp, clean pillowcase when a family checked in to the next room. The kids jumped on the beds and squealed. Their parents shouted and shushed them. Their dog barked.

Within ten minutes I was back in our family Volvo. Luckily there were leftovers for dinner.

It was on that solo drive home that I had the quiet time to go back in time. Like Mary, ponder these things, this sacred season in my heart. I searched for what the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph could teach me. Something I could carry with me.

We know much about Jesus in His later years. But Mary did not keep a journal. We have her words, her response to the angel Gabriel, “Behold the Handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to your word.” We also know



Getty Images/alenaleonova

from Scripture that in spite of her own pregnancy, she traveled on a donkey (not in a Volvo) to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Given the closeness of cousins Mary, Elizabeth, Jesus and John, I can imagine many such visits: the comfort the two women felt, sharing stories of their boys.

We know the story of the “family trip” where their only child, pre-teen Jesus, goes missing. We can imagine the fear both Mary and Joseph felt as well as their relief of finding him safely, sitting, teaching in the Temple. But also feel the pang that this 12-year-old boy of theirs was breaking away. He was beginning “His Father’s business.” Family life had changed.

As parents, many of us have felt that pang as our firstborn steps into their college dorm and tells us, “Ok, I’m all set. You can go home now.” We have to trust that we have given our children all that we could to go on this next journey. Like young Jesus, to step into themselves. That they, too, are in God’s hands.

Scripture tells us little about Joseph but *facta non verba*, it is what he does that speaks volumes. He steps up. Assumes responsibility. He is steadfast. Loving. Humble. “Humility is a calm, clear-sighted virtue... It gives us spiritual common sense, enabling us to see and act toward things as they are.” (Father Walter Farrell, OP)

Joseph, both foster father and carpenter by trade, was the role model for young Jesus. I like to imagine he built a table for their family and friends to gather,



to celebrate, to ask for God’s blessing. I add a dog to the picture, patiently waiting for the scraps. His head on Jesus’s lap ...

And the donkey? A metaphor for humility. Sure footed. Able to bear the burden he is given. So chosen: to carry Christ.

I stepped through our front door to find the dining room table set; leftover roast beef ready in a much cleaner kitchen. No one bothered to ask where I had been. “Mom’s home! Can we eat now?” It was when we sat down, held hands to say our family blessing, that I understood the connection of the Holy Family and ours. Jesus himself had given it, “Where ever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of you.”

“May God, who has given us all things, grant us one thing more, a grateful heart.” †



“

May God, who has given us all things, grant us one thing more, a grateful heart.”



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN PINOLE

Before presiding at the noon Mass on Sept. 25, Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ blessed our new Shrine of St. Joseph at St. Joseph Parish in Pinole. About 1,000 people were present at the celebration.

Father Geoffrey Baraan, pastor, and Father Rafal Duda, parochial vicar, were joined at the altar by Father Paul Schmidt, who served as pastor there from 2005 to 2014, and Father Larry Young, pastor of neighboring St. Patrick Church, Rodeo.

A reception featuring food, song and entertainment followed the Mass.

Before Sunday's events, the 75th Anniversary Concert and multicultural celebration drew large crowds.

FROM FATHER GEOFFREY BARAAN'S HOMILY ON SEPT. 18:

Through the inspiration of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary, our community has become a visible sign of God's love in Christ our Savior.

Miracles do happen and sometimes they start from a small beginning. In your case, it started 75 years ago in 1947 on Sept. 25.

FROM THE HISTORY BOOK:

The first St. Joseph Church was a wooden structure built in 1881. In 1884 it became a mission of St. Paul Church in San Pablo. But in 1923 it became a mission of the newly formed St. Patrick Church in Rodeo. On Sept. 4, 1947, Father Flatley, Pastor of St. Patrick Church wrote Archbishop John Mitty of San Francisco to say that St. Joseph Community could care of itself. On Sept. 25, 1947, St. Joseph Church became a parish.

WE THANK ALL OF OUR PASTORS AND ALL THE PRIESTS THAT SERVED IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY.

Father Denis Glennon (1947-55), Father Joseph Smith (1955-56), Father Thomas Collins (1956-68), Father Patrick Finnegan (1968-72), Father Francis Maurovich (1972-73), Father John Crumlish (1973-79), Father Thomas Gallagher (1979-82), Father Thomas Ryan (1982-88), Father Paddy Bishop (1988-92), Father Ray Sacca (1992-96), Father Michael Galvan (1996-98), Father Quang Dong (1998-2005), Father Paul Schmidt (2005-2014), Father John Direen (2014-16)

Miracles continue to happen here because you believe in the power of love and in your power to make a difference. Through the grace of God, in spite of your own imperfection, you have built a kingdom of God in which God's love is revealed and experienced. Thank you!

Now I am part of this experience, of this grace moment.

Our anniversary celebration will help us recall that humble beginning. God planted the seed and it grew to be a sign of the presence of God.

Mother Teresa said, "The small things that we have, when offered to God and done in the name of love and compassion, are multiplied and provide for the world what is needed."

You have offered your small gifts of love through sharing of your time, talent, and treasure – and they made a big difference in the life of the people.

Thank you for being an instrument of inspiration, for the ordinary miracles you have performed that yielded to extraordinary results for the world. †



◀ Mass at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Castro Valley, circa 1956.



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH IN CASTRO VALLEY

The centerpiece for the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Castro Valley was a bilingual noon Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ on Sept. 18. The Mass was followed by a Fiesta Mexicana lunch provided by the parish's Hispanic community. Branch #343 of the Italian Catholic Federation provided a ravioli dinner the night before.

The festivities continued the following weekend with a small car show and a live concert featuring the Rev Tones and the Night Owls.

A Family Fun Day concluded the event.

Our Lady of Grace Parish in Castro Valley was established on Sept. 19, 1947. Its first Masses were held in a temporary hall on Baker Road. Mass in its newly completed building on Anita Avenue was celebrated on Easter Sunday 1948.

By the early 1950s, the rapid growth of the parish made it clear that a larger facility, including a school, was necessary. But the church only had \$8,000 in the bank and the archbishop would not loan the additional \$458,000 needed to build a larger church and a school.

Therefore, 400 parishioners, under the leadership of then pastor Father Patrick J. Stack, took on the task of a \$450,000 capital campaign.

Our Lady of Grace School was opened in September 1955; the TK-8 school is still a vibrant and integral part of the parish. The current church on Somerset Avenue opened in 1957 along with a new convent on Anita Avenue.

But the Church is more than just buildings; it is people. Over the years, thousands have found Our Lady of Grace Church to be a place of faith, hope, love and community.

As author and parishioner Mark Cotta Vaz writes in his new book about the parish, to be released later this year: "In a spiritual community, one's life becomes a process of cultivating divine growth, allowing its good fruits to take root and blossom in the world. Like an athlete, we train to run the race, but in the mystery of one mystical body, our spiritual growth is not solely about transforming and disciplining ourselves alone, but in humbly realizing that we cannot prepare for and achieve something as mysterious as eternal life on our own." †



Celebration photos by Steven Kwok

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND LITURGICAL OBSERVATIONS IN 2023

**Sunday Readings:
Year A**

**Weekday Readings:
Cycle I**

November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent
New Liturgical Year

December 8
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation

December 12
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Gloria (no Creed)

December 25
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Sunday Observance this year

January 1, 2023
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Sunday Observance this year

January 8
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Cathedral Titular Feast

January 24
Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Secondary Patron
Obligatory Memorial in the Diocese

February 22
Ash Wednesday
(Not a Holy Day)

February 25
Rite of Election
11 a.m. & 2 p.m. at the Cathedral

April 4
Tuesday of Holy Week
11 a.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

April 8
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
Sunset is 7:38 p.m. this year

April 9
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Sunday Observance

May 21
Solemnity of the Ascension
Sunday Observance

May 25
10th Anniversary of Bishop Barber's Episcopal Ordination and Installation as Diocesan Bishop
12:10 p.m. Solemn Mass at Cathedral

May 28
Pentecost Sunday
End of Easter Season

June 4
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Sunday Observance

June 11
Solemnity of Corpus Christi
Sunday Observance

June 16
Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Proper Mass/Gloria/Creed

June 24
Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Proper Mass/Gloria/Creed

August 15
Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation
Proper Mass/Gloria/Creed

August 22
Our Lady Queen of the World, Principal Patroness of the Diocese
Obligatory Feast/Gloria (No Creed)

September 8-9
Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress
Spanish

September 15-16
Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress (English)

September 25
Anniversary of Dedication of the Cathedral
Obligatory Feast in all Parishes
Solemnity in Cathedral only

November 1
Solemnity of All Saints
Holy Day of Obligation

November 2
All Souls
Observed

OFFICIAL SCHEDULE

DEC. 3
Diocesan Events in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:40 a.m. Pilgrimage begins at St. Louis Bertrand Parish, Oakland
11 a.m. Mass, St. Elizabeth Parish, Oakland
1 p.m. Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

DEC. 4
10 a.m. Mass and "Mission Stories" Book Signing with Father Augustine Joseph, Newman Hall/ Holy Spirit Parish, Berkeley
5 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

DEC. 6
10 a.m. Priest Personnel Board
1 p.m. Presbyteral Council

DEC. 8
12:10 pm Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary and appreciation to Pope Francis Legal Clinic Volunteers, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

DEC. 9
4 p.m. Christmas Celebration for the Priests of the Diocese, Bishop's Residence

DEC. 10
10 a.m. Simbang Gabi Kick Off Mass, All Saints Catholic Church, Hayward

DEC. 11
9:30 a.m. 70th Anniversary Mass, St. Perpetua Parish, Lafayette

DEC. 13
10:30 a.m. College of Consultants, Chancery Offices, Oakland

DEC. 14
Day of Recollection for the Presbyterate of the Archdiocese of San Francisco

DEC. 17
3 p.m. Ordination to the Diaconate, Old Mission San Jose, Fremont

DEC. 18
Christmas Mass with Inmates, Santa Rita Jail, Dublin

DEC. 20
Mass and Lunch with Diocesan Seminarians, Bishop's Residence

DEC. 21
5:30 p.m. Longest Night / Blue Christmas, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

DEC. 24
10 p.m. Solemn Christmas Eve Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

DEC. 25
11 a.m. Solemn Christmas Day Mass, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL MASS

WHEN:

December 3, 2022, 11 a.m.

WHERE:

<https://1977-Catholic-Funeral-and-Cemetery-Services.livecontrol.tv/5be786c>

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Remembering those who we have laid to rest in our Catholic Cemeteries during the month of Sept. 2022.

† HOLY SEPULCHRE

Kenneth Baber
Clayton Bailey
Antonia Barragan
Victoria Barron
Carl Berch
Arnold Bronzini
Betty Brusseau
Arthur Calvao
Mary A. Calvao
Mary P. Calvao
Agustine Canas
Jose Cardenas
Michelle Cecil
John Cerruti
Genoveva Cruz Melchor
Kong Yong Fan
Carl Fox
Lynn Franks
Mary Franks
Shirley Freeman
Mary Gannon
Selena Garcia
Helen Gorgees
Louise Grayson
Joan Grazzini
John Guerrero Martinez
Jerry Hale
William Heintz
Victor Hernandez
Kathryn Hodge
Sillia Lalau
George Leberfing
Maricela Magana
Nena Mapalad
Genaro Maravilla
Caridad Maseda
Gilbert Mesa
John Miles
Lydia Mondragon
Ronald Moniz
Ima Morelos
Ricardo Navidad
Antal Nemeth
Loau Nguyen
Trien Nguyen
Marilyn Pasqual
Dolores Peoples
Coren Rivera
Sarah Rodriguez
Dora Rojas
Samantha Rose
Isaiah Sanchez
Ernesto Sandoval
Blanca Saultz
Robert Smart
Maria Luisa Sousa
Jubilee Taufetee
Terry Tavares
Albert Taylor
Rosemarie Underwood
Susana Vasquez
Lesterene Viera

Josephine Weber
Helen Wieckowski
Ricardo Zazueta

† QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Isidore Adaikalaraj
Evelyn Bellagamba
Lorenzo Betti
Timothy Bonnel
Michael Boykin
Takako Brophy
Michael Corniskey
Vivian Costanza
Jean Duka
Kurt Eriksen
Susan Faust
Barbara Gorman
Candace Hammer
Melissa Heitkamp
Nicola Ingrande
William Jackson
Martha Jagggers
Leslie Jagggers
Bernadette Jensen
Donald Kincheloe
Lucille Madrid
Maria Magdalena
Setiawan Martosuhardjo
Emil Melloni
JoAnne Nelson
Gia My Monica Nguyen
Marie O'Driscoll
Peter Pedersen
Yvonne Piona
Suzanne Rader
Sara Randall
William Risch
Luis Rolandelli
Beatrice Sanchez
Glenn Shannon
Rosaura Slean
George Soares
Moris Solorzano
John Steff
John Stewart
James Sweetser
Janis Taylor
Rosalinda Tejada
Marian Wohlfrom

† HOLY CROSS

Steven Randy Abono
Diane Marie Aiello
Mary Ambrosino
Kent Bagnaschi
Lucy Bagnaschi
Carol J. Chiapapara
Guillermo Cifuentes
Emilia Cifuentes
Shirley Marie Davies
Jose David Duenas
Stanley David Fernandez
Michael Craig Grillo

Harold Galletti
Julia Isabel Hewlett
Oliver Trabajo Jotojot
Dorothy J. Lamendola
Espirita B. Lozande
Miguel Jose Madrigal
Marjorie Joann Mcnally
Dolores Marie Monnens
Matthew Alberto Ortega
Jess R. Quesada
Joseph Albert Rodregus II
Angelina D. Sorci
Maryann Torres
Lucy Marie Yera.
Olivia Young
Ardell David Zimmer

† ST. JOSEPH

Eleanor E. Abel
Angelina S. Alexander
Rosemary Archuleta
Michael A. Arena
Anthony M. Arena
Maureen F. Bilibrey
Carlos A. Borja
Evelyn M. Canepa
Willie De La Torre
Donna K. Delgado
Manuel Delgado Sr.
Jenny A. Fantin
Severino B. Gateb
John Givogri
Rafael Gomez
Samuel Hernandez
Echegoyen
Donald D. Kelly
Josephine A. Koll
Sara Marroquin
Merle E. Martin
Helen L. Nelson
Delia Ramirez Alvarez
Rusel A. Ramos
Mechele Ricchiuto
Abigail Rivera
Oswaldo Segura
Carmina Souza
Diane L. Tigh
Hubert E. White

† ST. MICHAEL

Guillermo M. Carmona Jr.
Joven Saballa Castanos
Alexander Fregoso
Jack Raymond Gilbert
Patrick Earl Marshall
Amalia Rabbat
Elaine Mary Rogers
Martha M. Sandoval
Agnes Dorothy Verhasselt
Yuan Xiang Xu
Lucy Zuniga

† ST. AUGUSTINE

Matthew Donald Magoon
Richard Martin
Nancy Meadows
Carl Michelotti
Deanna Sanders

† ST. MARY

Alejandria Amon
James Anderson
Emiliano Casares
John Caybut
Gregorio Contreras
Jose Freitas
Suda Hickethier
William Jones Sr.
Jorge Lopez Chill
Visesio Moa
Richard Nivens
Sandy Pon
Bonnie Scott
Eleanor Smith
Rahel Solomon
Manuel Sontoyo
Nancy Sweetland
Aurora Trapani
Mary Warren
Shirley White

† CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

Lucila Batto
Josephine Buianoff
Teresita Santos

Start planning today:

Funeral | Cremation | Cemetery | Family Estates



Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland
2121 Harrison St #100
Oakland, CA 94612



**DIOCESE OF
OAKLAND**



EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL CONGRESS

THEME:

“I am with you always.”

– Mt 28:20

Cathedral of Christ the Light

- **Sept. 8-9, 2023 (Spanish)**
- **Sept. 15-16, 2023 (English)**

For additional information on how to register or get involved, email: revival2023@oakdiocese.org