

The Catholic Voice

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From the editor's desk

Spring brings new life, and this year it brings a new *The Catholic Voice* to your mailbox. This issue is the opening of a new era for *The Catholic Voice*. On a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December), *The Catholic Voice* will provide an opportunity for you and your loved ones to take a deeper look at our faith and how our neighbors are living that faith. In the tradition of academic or professional journals, *The Catholic Voice* can be a faith journal for its readers.

What about old-fashioned news, you ask? Recognizing that our community's preferences in how they receive content is evolving and to be better stewards of the Diocese of Oakland's resources and mission, we've launched a bi-weekly digital newsletter called *OAK Catholic*. If you're not already receiving it, you can sign up at oakdiocese.org/email-signup.

This coordinated, proactive communication plan for the Diocese of Oakland promotes the mission of the diocese, "To know Christ better and to make Him better known," and the three pillars of Bishop Barber's vision for the diocese:

The Diocese of Oakland is a place where we: Strengthen parishioners' Sunday experience, Embody the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and Form missionary disciples.

As we begin the holy season of Lent, looking forward to the Resurrection, I pray you find encouragement and inspiration in the pages of this issue.

—Helen Osman, associate publisher

Appeal gives tangible expression of *hope*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“If we have generous hearts, and we all take care of God’s people, and we remember the poor, the sick and the suffering, those who have no one to look after them, God will take care of us. I guarantee it.”



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

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, has been bishop of the Diocese of Oakland since May 25, 2013.

I spoke those words near the end of my episcopal ordination and installation Mass on a spring day 11 years ago inside our beautiful Cathedral of Christ the Light. They are words reflecting unending hope in God, a hope that forever – as the saying goes – springs eternal.

As spring stems from winter, the hope of the



Easter season to come stems from the Lenten season we are beginning. In this season, I ask you to respond to the calling we all share in our diocese. By supporting the Bishop’s Ministries Appeal, we are called to catalyze our hope into action and show our communities and the

world that God can be counted on. As Romans 5:5 says, that “Hope does not disappoint.”

“The Christian cannot be satisfied with having hope; he or she must also radiate hope, be a sower of hope,” Pope Francis said a few months ago during a general audience.

“The Jubilee Year of Hope focuses on forgiveness, reconciliation and a fresh start, for setting the oppressed free and delivering the Good News. Your sacrificial generosity turns these words into reality for so many in need in our diocese through the Bishop’s Appeal.”

The first place we find hope is in Jesus Christ. Jesus heals us and comforts us during our trials on earth. And He holds open the door to eternal life for each of us through His resurrection from the dead. "I know that my redeemer lives." (Job 19:23) We find Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and the sacraments of the Church. We also find Him in service to the poor.

“I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES (JOB 19:23) WE FIND JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH. WE ALSO FIND HIM IN SERVICE TO THE POOR.

“

2025 has been declared a Holy Year of Jubilee by Pope Francis. In our diocese we are offering multiple spiritual services for everyone to be with Jesus and experience His forgiveness and His consolation.

Add to this the immense grace to gain a plenary

indulgence freeing us from purgatory and the temporal punishment we deserve because of our sins. Here we will all find hope!

We also plant seeds of hope through our diocesan ministries to the unhoused, the hungry, the sick and the most vulnerable.

The Jubilee Year of Hope focuses on forgiveness,

reconciliation and a fresh start, for setting the oppressed free and delivering the Good News. Your sacrificial generosity turns these words into reality for so many in need in our diocese through the Bishop's Appeal.

Lent meets Easter through the Cross, hope's ultimate symbol. Your gift

therefore becomes a loving action in the springtime of Easter and the Resurrection. It brings Christ's sacrificial love into action as we bear witness of enduring hope. I pray you find yourself on a mission journey as a true pilgrim in this Jubilee Year and blessed by a hope that does not disappoint and a love that endures. †

THROUGH THE SUPPORT YOU GIVE IN THE BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL, OUR DIOCESE PROVIDES REAL HOPE BY:

- Making sure the name of Jesus Christ is known, loved and adored through our parishes, schools and charities.
- Providing meals and support to families struggling in so many ways, offering them the comfort and stability they so desperately need.
- Supporting seminarians and vocations, nurturing the next generation of priests who will guide us in faith and service.
- Offering counseling and resources to individuals facing personal and spiritual challenges, helping them find healing and renewed purpose.
- Enriching the faith formation of our youth, inspiring them to grow in their relationship with Christ and become beacons of hope in their communities.

"If we have generous hearts, and we all take care of God's people, and we remember the poor, the sick and the suffering, those who have no one to look after them, God will take care of us. I guarantee it."

hope

BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL:

An act of unchanging hope, meeting changing needs

The appeal marshals action in the theme of the 2025 Year of Jubilee

BY JAY SORGI



oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal

In a recent general audience, Pope Francis spoke about how the virtue of hope isn't "a passive virtue, which merely waits for things to happen" but "a supremely active virtue that helps make them happen."

The 2025 Diocese of Oakland Bishop's Ministries Appeal (BMA) seeks to activate that hope in each of us with the theme of "Ministries of Hope." Its goal is to catalyze hope's permanent nature into tangible Christian service.

"Over the years, the BMA has evolved to meet changing needs, especially as we continue to recover from the pandemic," said Terri Porter, the diocese's director of advancement.

"In 2025, priority funding will go to areas with the greatest need, such as supporting seminarians, expanding youth programs and increasing outreach to the homeless and marginalized."

This year's BMA acts alongside the 2025 Year of Jubilee in the Catholic Church, one which Porter says is focused on spiritual renewal and restoration. It is funneling donations towards dozens of groups whose missions meld with those Jubilee themes.

"These ministries work to address poverty, promote justice and offer mercy to those struggling in our community," said Porter. "By tying the appeal to the Jubilee, we highlight how our efforts to give and support others are a reflection of God's love and grace."

The diocese recognizes that a growing number of families battle financial issues, so it offers different ways for people to donate within the bounds of what each family or individual can manage.

"Every donation, big or small, makes a significant impact," said Porter.

People can choose one-time gifts online, by check or credit card if that is what their financial bandwidth allows. However, recurring monthly gifts provide ministries of the diocese with continual financial support that empower ministries to plan longer-term.

"For donors, committing to monthly giving helps foster a deeper connection to the diocese, knowing that their consistent support is making a lasting difference," Porter said.

The diocese will recognize and honor every donor, no matter how small. It also offers special thanks for how



TERRI PORTER
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT,
DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

top donors make commitments that foster lasting legacies. 2025 brings the 31st year of the Regina Mundi Society, which began under Bishop John S. Cummins and continues under Bishop Michael C. Barber, S.J.

"The society, named for Our Lady, Queen of the World, the primary patroness of our diocese, honors those who demonstrate exceptional commitment to supporting our diocesan ministries," said Porter. "The society sets an example of service and generosity for people throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties."

But every gift matters, no matter the amount, and every gift to the BMA reflects faith in a hope that the Catholic Church brings daily to those in the greatest need.

And as Romans 5:5 shares: "Hope does not disappoint." †





Diocese of Oakland

MINISTRIES of HOPE

2025 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL

Hope does not disappoint

(Rom 5:5)

The ministries supported by the Bishop's Ministries Appeal answer the Jubilee Year call for pilgrims of hope, by serving those most in need. We provide tangible expressions of hope to the hungry, the homeless, the sick, and the marginalized in the Diocese of Oakland.

Through your generous support, these ministries are empowered to:

- ▶ **Provide meals and shelter to families** struggling to make ends meet, offering them the comfort and stability they so desperately need.
- ▶ **Support seminarians and vocations**, nurturing the next generation of priests who will guide us in faith and service.
- ▶ **Offer counseling and resources** to individuals facing personal and spiritual challenges, helping them find healing and renewed purpose.
- ▶ **Enrich the faith formation of our youth**, inspiring them to grow in their relationship with Christ and become beacons of hope in their communities.

At the heart of this mission stands the Cross, the ultimate symbol of hope and redemption. It reminds us that through Christ's sacrifice, even the greatest trials can lead to the promise of new life. As we carry forward the work of his ministries, we are called to be witnesses to this enduring hope. †

WAYS TO GIVE:



DONATE ONLINE

Scan code below or visit oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal



MAIL A CHECK

Payable to Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland to Diocese of Oakland, 2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: 2025 Bishop's Ministries Appeal

We also accept gifts of stock. For information, contact the Office of Mission Advancement at 510-267-8314.

SCAN HERE TO GIVE ▶



SPOTLIGHT ON

BY CHRISTINE SCHRECK



JUSTICE AND YOUTH

THE FUNDS COLLECTED THROUGH THE BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL (BMA) SUPPORT MORE THAN 70 MINISTRIES AT THE DIOCESAN AND PARISH LEVELS INCLUDING SEMINARIAN EDUCATION, CARE FOR RETIRED CLERGY, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. THESE MINISTRIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF THE DIOCESE IN CRITICAL WAYS, SERVING THE FAITHFUL AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

The many aspects of justice

Justice within faith is deeper than activism, says Kiona Medina, coordinator of Life & Social Justice Ministry for the Diocese of Oakland. Her vision for the ministry is one of concentric circles, which include both preventative and responsive initiatives within society. Both are vital. Preventative justice initiatives strengthen people and communities in ways that lessen the need for responsive measures, such as feeding the hungry and housing the unsheltered.

Wellness initiatives are front and center in Medina's preventative plans. Donations cover stipends to lay professionals who share

their expertise on topics such as nutrition, self-care, safe relationships, Catholic teaching on respect for life consciousness and Theology of the Body.

Andrea Walle is receiving training in how to teach Theology of the Body, funded by the diocese, so that she can give seminars on healthy relationships to young people. Theology of the Body is rooted in the work of St. John Paul II, teaching that the body has a theological purpose as well as a biological one. Humans are created in the image of God, and the body can reveal the meaning of life. It emphasizes love and how to express it in relationships. "We are building a ministry

through her," Medina said.

Medina also aspires to sponsor interested parishioners to be trained by the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers so they can become mental health ministers within their own communities.

Responsive initiatives range from small actions at the parish level to large diocesan programs. Parish initiatives respond to immediate local needs. The food pantry at St. Joachim in Hayward needs non-perishable foods because

70 percent of their clients are homeless. Parishioners at St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore collect backpacks and school supplies for children. Communities at St. Mary's in Walnut Creek and Sacred Heart in Oakland have created garden spaces that help raise awareness for environmental justice.

Medina is also coordinating with local Catholic charitable organizations to assist a Pakistani Catholic family seeking asylum from religious persecution. They have been able to



cover filing fees and assist with paperwork for the family of five – two adults and three teens – as well as helping them find appropriate housing and other necessities.

In immigration forums, attorneys will gather to offer free consultations, education and support for people who need immigration assistance.

Chaplains visit six local jails, offering prayer, spiritual ministry and Mass. “When an inmate receives accompaniment, spiritual care and a human connection to check in and journey with them, that brings out a restorative justice that few others are providing,” Medina said, noting that the diocese’s contract with the jails expires this year and funding would help ensure its renewal.

Through generosity to the Bishop’s Ministries Appeal, Medina seeks to expand the ministry to include more programs on skill building or social work to assist inmates with re-entry into society after incarceration.

Investing in young leaders

Pope Francis talks about the resurrected Jesus as a sign of the Church remaining young in the sense of engaging in an ever-changing world. “Anyone serving in youth ministry gets a front row seat to that,” said Joseph Nufable, diocesan coordinator for Youth Ministry & RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

Youth ministers are missionary disciples handing on



faith to a new generation. It’s a unique challenge in a global digital culture and with youth who grew up in a global pandemic. “There is a deep need for human connection, especially for young people in a digital age. Receiving that from people who care about them is important,” Nufable said. Youth ministers are meeting emotional and spiritual needs.

One of the topics from the recent synod was how to engage the youth as leaders in the present. Nufable and youth ministers around the diocese are seeking to move in the direction of empowering the youth today.

Nufable is focusing on how to help parishes shift to meet the needs of teens. He points to research that suggests relational rather than institutional authority was key to preserving faith in Millennials and the older

half of Gen Z who had, on average, five relationships with mentoring adults.

Nufable is also encouraging parishes to focus on creating and maintaining effective middle school ministries. “Keep those programs strong,” he said. “Put your best people there. Gen Z and Gen Alpha have a sense of identity earlier in life.”

The diocese is investing in young leaders. Nufable hosted a youth leadership summit in 2021 and again in the summer of 2024. About 60 young people participated in spiritual formation and practical training to deepen their identity as a disciple and take the opportunity for ongoing conversion. The spiritual practices included devotions, the sacrament of penance and adoration. The practical component

included training in small group leadership and how to share one’s Catholic witness.

Participants were glad to encounter like-minded youth leaders from other parishes and the chance to learn from each other’s experiences. Since the summit, they have used group chats to collaborate and plan events between parishes.

The youth leadership summit for summer 2025 will be open to all teens.

In the fall of 2025, Nufable hopes to host a convocation for youth ministers, bringing anyone who serves young people together for a day of shared formation, prayer and networking. “We want to thank them for what they do and bring more hope that the Church will exist for years to come,” Nufable said. †

The FACE Advisory Board Cordially Invites You To

An Evening of Scholarship

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Scan QR code to purchase tickets, or to make a donation.
Or visit www.oakdiocese.org/facegala

FACE 2025 Gala

May 3, 2025

Blackhawk Museum
Danville, CA

*
6:00 PM

Reception & Silent Auction

*
7:00 PM

Dinner and Program

*
8:00 PM

Live Auction & Tuiton Pops

*
Please RSVP by April 12, 2025



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Middle School Summer Enrichment Program Saint Mary's College High School



From June 18 to July 3, Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley offers exciting opportunities for rising 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students:

- Academic Enrichment (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM): Strengthen math, language arts, and science skills while building confidence and teamwork in a fun, supportive environment.
- Afternoon Team-Building (12:30 PM - 3:30 PM): Enjoy daily field trips, including sightseeing, creative arts, games, and community service experiences that foster friendships and leadership.
- Sports Camps (12:30 PM - 3:30 PM): Sharpen basketball, volleyball, or fitness skills with expert coaching.

Sign up now at www.smsummer.org—spaces are limited!



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Diocese of Oakland

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Mission San José Diocesan Shrine of St. Joseph

At Mission San José/Diocesan Shrine of St. Joseph, we are passionate about creating a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone can encounter God's love and mercy. Our historic Mission San José is a sacred place where you can deepen your faith, seek the intercession of Saint Joseph, and experience the healing power of God's love.

► Mission Museum Hours of Operation

Our Mission Museum is open to the public and offers a fascinating glimpse into the rich history of our Mission San José. Come and explore with us!

- Wednesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Monday-Tuesday: Closed

► Schedule a Tour or Pilgrimage

Experience the beauty and spirituality of our sacred space. Schedule a tour or pilgrimage to our historic Mission San José Church, Museum, Parish church, and St. Joseph Chapel of Healing. Our friendly Mission Museum Ambassadors will lead you through our sacred and holy grounds and share the inspiring stories and history of the birthplace of our faith here in the Diocese of Oakland. Contact us at:

- Phone: 510-657-1797
- Email: mission@saintjosephmsj.org
- Website: missionsanjose.org †

THIRD ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE

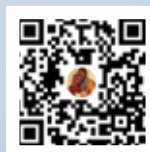
We look to St. Joseph, hope of the sick, whom God placed his beloved Son's life in his hands. May his compassion bring us the comfort of the Divine Presence

This special event promises to be an unforgettable experience of faith, hope, and love. We look forward to the journey with you!

WHEN: Begins March 14 at 7 p.m. and continues March 15 from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Father Noel Sanvicente and Michael Corsini

REGISTER: saintjosephmsj.org/conference/





Six East Bay parishes combine efforts to help pregnant and parenting mothers

Mothers, including those who carry new life inside them, bear a blessedly special but often hard burden. When adding relationship struggles, economic challenges or other hardships that lead a mother to feel like she is on the margins, the weight can often feel too much to bear.

Six parishes in the Concord, Martinez and Pleasant Hill areas are bringing their parishioners together to collaborate in bearing the practical and spiritual burdens of area mothers through Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN). The parish-level initiative, aided by the Oakland Diocese, is part of a WWMIN national campaign that supports and empowers pregnant and parenting mothers in need.

Describing it as “a program of people who care about people in need,” Father Lawrence D’Anjou, pastor of St. Bonaventure’s Parish in Concord and the vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland said, “We’re there to walk with her on the journey. We want to make the choice to have that child easy for her.”

WWMIN aims to ensure that any mother facing difficult circumstances can turn to their parish for resources.

“Right now, we have over 17,000 parishes in the United States. Everybody in a parish

WALKING with MOMS in NEED



URNS PRO-LIFE CALLING INTO SOLIDARITY, ACTION

BY CHRISTINE SCHRECK AND JAY SORGI | PHOTOS BY CHUCK DECKERT

community should know where women in need can go and how to refer to those places where they can get help,” said Kat Talalas, assistant director for pro-life communications for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The first phase of the six-parish partnership happened at a conference on Sept. 14 at St. Bonaventure’s. Church members there joined parishioners from Christ the King Church in Pleasant Hill, Queen of All Saints, St. Agnes and St. Francis of Assisi churches in Concord and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Martinez. They mapped out the volunteers’ plan to walk with these women on their parenting and pregnancy journeys.

That plan will offer faith-centered friendship and support and connect mothers with community partners who can provide critical pregnancy-related resources and other general social services.

“Create a network of support of people like you and me, volunteers who can just be there for ... her challenging moments, to listen to her story, to find out what she needs. Does she need a ride to a clinic? Does she need counseling? Does she need food or maybe some help to provide a place to live?” said D’Anjou.

Numerous organizations took part in the Sept. 14 conference:

- **Catholic Charities East Bay (cceb.org)**, offering mental health, violence prevention, housing, disaster and emergency relief and immigration services.
- **The Gabriel Project (qaschurch.org/gabriel-project)**, which trains volunteers – angels, as their program describes them – to offer direct service to women enduring crisis pregnancies, while also offering other support, including meals.
- **Options Health in Pittsburg (optionshealth.org)**, a life-affirming clinic that offers no-cost services like pregnancy testing, ultrasound and counseling.
- **Order of Malta Pope Francis Legal Clinic (ctlcathedral.org/pope-francis-legal-clinic)**, whose services include consultation on immigration, landlord/tenant disputes and child custody agreements.
- **St. Vincent De Paul of Contra Costa County (svdp-cc.org/)**, providing daily meals, health and dental clinics, a daytime homeless shelter and other services.

“We want to show God’s love to everyone who walks through our doors,” Options Health Development Officer Kim Smith-Mullin said.

“It really does take a village,” St. Vincent De Paul Contra Costa County Executive Director Claudia Ramirez said. “We all work in collaboration.”

That collaboration has launched a growing base of volunteers into both prayer and action, what Diocese of Oakland Life and Social Justice Coordinator Kiona Medina calls a new form of currency.

“There are groups in the diocese who have time,” said Medina, who said volunteers include retirees and immigrant women. “Volunteering is their gift.”

Medina said that within two weeks of the conference, 20 volunteers took part in the first of what could become a series of mental health training seminars to empower their ministry.

Additionally, from Sept. 25 to Nov. 3, prayer volunteers joined the 40 Days for Life campaign at Planned Parenthood sites in Concord, El Cerrito and Walnut Creek. Medina called the experience a chance to organically build community.

“All of these women have something in common,” she said.

According to Medina, a woman entering the clinic in Concord one morning stopped to talk with the women who were praying outside. She urgently needed a tuberculosis

test for her job, and, although the women had booklets of resources, they were unable to offer an immediate alternative. The experience highlighted the need for help to close the gap in social services.

Only two free life-affirming clinics, Options Health in Pittsburg and another clinic in Oakland, exist within the diocese compared to more than 20 Planned Parenthood locations.

“We need more affordable social services at a closer distance,” Medina said. “There are a lot of parishes in between.”

That’s where Walking with Moms in Need aims to fill the gap, by strengthening bonds at the parish level to meet struggling neighbors’ needs.

“Everybody has something going on,” said Medina.

“We need to see the human fragility in ourselves and others and find common ground, and weave together a tapestry of being pro-life.” †



DO. BELIEVE. BELONG.

Donate: Money is needed to cover the costs of rideshares to life-affirming clinics and updating parish technology to better serve women. Please make checks payable to the Office of Respect Life and Social Justice with “Walking with Mom in Need” in the memo line and mail to 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612.

Take action: Even small actions make a difference. Sign up to make phone calls, accompany a woman to a clinic, offer translation services. Social media management, advocacy and fundraising expertise, and the expertise of retired lawyers and psychologists are also needed.

Learn More: <https://vimeo.com/551691025>

Contact Kiona Medina at kmedina@oakdiocese.org



Jayme Morelli and Jackie Mongalo are program coordinators for Most Holy Rosary Parish’s Gabriel Project, which is part of the Walking With Moms in Need ministry network.



‘RELATIONSHIPS ARE EVERYTHING’: HOW ACE TEACHERS IMPACT OAKLAND CATHOLIC STUDENTS’ LIVES

“That is what makes
it all worth it”

BY CHRISTINE SCHRECK
AND JAY SORGI

Sometimes, they feel like they’re working three full-time jobs. Sometimes, they don’t even have their own designated spaces to teach.

Those are just rocks in the shoes along the cross-country career pathways of Oakland Catholic high school teachers Cam Nash and Grace Riginos. The teenagers who they get to meet, impact and love every day make it worth the journey.

Called in their vocation to Oakland for a two-year teaching fellowship in the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), Riginos and Nash are two of the six ACE teachers assigned to Oakland’s Catholic schools in the 2024-25 academic year.

“Teaching is important, but relationships are everything,” said Riginos, who offers her presence to the young women learning at Holy Names High School. “Get

to know the students and get involved in the school community. Celebrate them inside and outside the classroom.”

Nash and Riginos are two of the ACE Masters’ degree students who have committed to two years of service at under-resourced schools across the United States, all while spending summers taking classes at Notre Dame and gaining experience in South Bend, Indiana’s schools. 34 ACE teachers have served in the Diocese of Oakland in the program’s 14-year history, giving an estimated 12,000 days to these Catholic school students who need positive relationships on their own journeys.

Drawing stars, finding values

One late October day began for Nash by mentoring ninth-graders at Cristo

Rey De La Salle East Bay High School. They each talk one-on-one with Nash. Often, it’s to help get homework done. Sometimes, it’s simply helping steer these young people’s focus on their goals.

But the business analytics major at Notre Dame decided to turn this morning into a Halloween pumpkin-carving day. That’s not outside the realm of Nash’s experience, as the former eagle scout and camp ranger in New Mexico who got degrees in business analytics and economics at Notre Dame also knows his way around carving tools.

Nash doesn’t just juggle teaching Geometry, Algebra 2 and introductory Theology. He juggles rooms. His usual teaching room was out of commission on this day, so like his students, he shuttled between any available classroom to teach.

He started one class of 20 tenth-graders with a question reflective of many that these young people face in life, finding missing values. In this case, it’s not as philosophical – they were simply looking for the missing value in two equal fractions.

In the process of teaching them how to check their answers, he reminds them of the butterfly method, where you cross-multiply, then divide by x. But Nash lets them know there’s more than one way to solve these equations, and lets them know it’s OK to use any one of numerous right ways to get to the answer – the kind of lesson he learned as a business analyst at a Catholic high school in San Diego.

They may someday forget the butterfly method. They more likely will remember Nash’s lesson of knowing they can choose one of mul-



“

IT'S EASY TO FEEL
LIKE IT'S NOT
GOING YOUR WAY
AND FOCUS ON THE
STUDENTS WHO YOU
AREN'T REACHING OR
LESSONS THAT DON'T
HIT AS PLANNED.”

— CAM NASH

'Relationships are everything'

tiple objectively right ways to solve a problem they face in life.

Next, Nash shared a vocabulary lesson about geometrically similar figures, underlining his iPad with emphasis on the definition's most important words. Instead of lines, he asked his students to draw a star next to a key example.

A student joked, "I have to draw a picture of you, Mr. Nash, because you're a star."

Stars sometimes lose luster, and teachers sometimes make mistakes. Later in class, Nash made a mistake in solving an equation. When students pointed out his misstep, he took their correction, fixed the error, and with smooth direction, moved on from the error. Perhaps he's teaching his students to emulate that when they stumble. Those student stumbles happen in his class, and he doles out discipline with required firmness and with good-naturedness. Rather than scream at a rowdy group who was asked to break off and work on trial problems, he sat down with them to keep them on task.

In addition to classroom interaction, lesson preparation and grading, Nash coaches boys volleyball

and supervises National Honor Society peer-to-peer tutoring. In these long but rewarding days, he tries to implement what he calls the best piece of advice he ever received: Embracing positive affirmations, focusing and building on what goes well.

"Teaching is hard," Nash admits. "It's easy to feel like it's not going your way and to focus on the students who you aren't reaching or lessons that don't hit as planned."

Teaching *Little Women*, empowering women to grow

Riginos, a former nanny and a graduate of Charlotte, North Carolina's Catholic schools, easily relates to the all-girls atmosphere at Holy Names. She got her undergraduate English degree with an anthropology minor at all-women Barnard College in New York.

"Being in an all-women school gave me confidence as a woman.... I felt empowered to share," said Riginos. She considers Holy Names, where she teaches freshman and sophomore English, a natural fit.

"There is a fearlessness in the air. They are strong, intellectual young women."

Riginos has shaken off some of her potential fears after more than a year of experience at Holy Names. She already knows many of her second-year students and is finding that one of her joys stems from expanding her relationship with them into a second year.

That relationship allows for making mistakes, both for herself and for her students in the welcoming environment she has created for them..

"Mispronunciations are allowed and encouraged," she says when a student makes an error while reading aloud.

A bust of Shakespeare with thin rose-colored glasses perched on his head sits in a front corner of the classroom next to a pink disco ball. The desks are arranged in clusters that encourage peer discussion. In a class of 10, the girls occupy the two clusters at the front of the room.

Class on this Friday morning began with Kahoot!, an online educational gaming platform. The topic for this quiz is practicing adjective phrases. After each question, unless there are 100% correct answers, Riginos reviews

the sentences to reinforce understanding."

After the activity, class shifts to the book the sophomores are currently reading, *Little Women*, the Louisa May Alcott novel from the 19th century about four sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March and their own coming of age.

Although Riginos is teaching the book for the first time, she wrote her thesis on it. Titled "Rejecting Miss March," her writing focused on Jo's rejection of societal expectations for women of the era and the freedom girlhood gives her. The unit focuses on the transition from girlhood to womanhood in both the time of publication, 1868, and now – at a time her students are making that very same transition.

When given time to talk in groups, the girls dove right into spirited discussion, prompting Riginos to comment, "You guys are acting like the March sisters right now," to a particularly lively group.

They discuss the ways girlhood has changed as a result of social media. One student calls Amy "Instagram Amy," a commentary on Amy's desire to follow

trends and be seen as an adult in society.

Another offers up this observation about current affairs: “Young girls are trying to grow up, and women are trying to recapture girlhood.”

While the young students Riginos and Nash mentor are growing up, discovering themselves and where God resides within it all at these Oakland Catholic schools, these two Notre Dame Masters’ students are immersing themselves in teenage girlhood and boyhood – and discovering their own reason, their calling and their impact.

They all come in relationship with the students they share their lives with every day.

“That,” said Nash, “is what makes it all worth it.” †

“

“THERE IS A FEARLESSNESS IN THE AIR. THEY ARE STRONG, INTELLECTUAL YOUNG WOMEN.”

– GRACE RIGINOS



CHRISTINE SCHRECK
*is a staff writer for
The Catholic Voice*

JAY SORGI
*is a staff writer for
The Catholic Voice*

Jubilee 2025



BY NICOLE O'LEARY, SENIOR EDITOR, FAITH CATHOLIC

What is a Jubilee Year?

- ▶ A Holy Year dedicated to the forgiveness of sin, conversion and joyful celebration.
- ▶ The word “jubilee” comes from the Hebrew word yobel, which refers to the ram’s horn used to announce a jubilee in the Old Testament.

Old Testament origins

God told Moses that every 50th year was to be set aside for the return of absent members to their households, the restoration of land to its owners, the release of Hebrew slaves and the forgiveness of debts.

This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when every one of you shall return to his own property, every one to his own family estate.

(Lev 25:10)

Like the sabbath, which took place on the seventh day of each week, the jubilee was a time for the Israelites to reestablish a proper relationship with God and with one another.

Tradition continues in Christianity

- ▶ Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Christian jubilee in A.D. 1300, granting the full remission of sin for those who confessed their sins and made a pilgrimage to St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

- ▶ The Church first celebrated jubilee years every 100 years. This was eventually shortened to every 50 years and then every 25 years.

Recent Jubilee years

- ▶ **1950:** During this Holy Year of 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven.
- ▶ **1975:** This Holy Year of reconciliation was proclaimed by Pope Paul VI.
- ▶ **1983:** Pope John Paul II proclaimed a special jubilee year in 1983 to celebrate the 1,950th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- ▶ **2000:** Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.
- ▶ **2015:** Pope Francis declared an extraordinary jubilee for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council. The jubilee was dedicated to mercy.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee 2025 was proclaimed by Pope Francis in the Papal Bull *Spes Non Confundit* (“Hope does not disappoint”).

“The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident

trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation.” (Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit* 25)

The jubilee began in Rome on the vigil of the Lord’s Nativity on Dec. 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica, and in local dioceses on Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 29. It will conclude in local dioceses the following Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 28, 2025, and in Rome on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 6, 2026, with the closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica.

Hallmarks of the Jubilee

- ▶ **Jubilee Indulgence:** Special graces for the forgiveness of sins are made available during the Jubilee Year. The faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence – remission of all temporal punishment (time in purgatory) for sin– by meeting the normal conditions (confession, holy Communion, prayer for the pope’s intentions, and no attachment to sin) and by participating in one of the following activities:
 - **Pilgrimages:** The four major basilicas in Rome are the main pilgrimage destinations, but pilgrims may also go to the Holy Land, their diocesan cathedral or other officially designated locations. A full list of pilgrimage locations and events for the Oakland Diocese is available at <https://oakdiocese.org/jubilee-2025>.
 - **Pious visits to sacred places:** At these locations, the faithful are to engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, among other spiritual practices.

• Works of mercy and

penance: The faithful are to perform the spiritual or corporal works of mercy or carry out works of penance, such as abstaining from meat on Fridays.

• **Holy Doors:** The pope opens the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica at the beginning of each jubilee year. Passing through the holy doors symbolizes the pilgrim’s journey of conversion.

• **Papal Basilicas:** The pope will open the Holy Doors of the four main churches (called “major basilicas”) in Rome: St. Peter’s Basilica, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

How to participate in Jubilee 2025

- ▶ **Participate in a local celebration of the jubilee.** In the Diocese of Oakland, the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland and Mission San Jose in Fremont are permanently designated sites for every day of the 2025 Holy Year. Furthermore, to make the Holy Year pilgrimage indulgence available to as many as possible, Bishop Barber has designated several churches and chapels as “Designated Pilgrimage Sites” for one day only. For the full list and schedule, visit <https://oakdiocese.org/jubilee-2025>.
- ▶ **Make a pilgrimage to Rome.** Some dioceses, parishes and other organizations will be coordinating pilgrimages, but you may also go on your own.
- ▶ **Obtain the Jubilee Indulgence through another means** (works of mercy and penance, making a pilgrimage to your cathedral, etc.).
- ▶ **Serve as a jubilee volunteer.** Applications available online.
- ▶ **Pray for the pope, the Church and all who take part in the jubilee. †**



JUBILEE OF HOPE

When we sin, we commit an offense against God, who is infinite. Thus, the debt [of punishment] we incur is infinite. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, our sacramental confession, prayers, sacrifices and good works restore our relationship with God and remove the eternal punishment we owe. That is, we make satisfaction in this life, but any debt that remains at the time of our death must be paid in purgatory – where our souls are purified before entering heaven. Consequently, the treasury of Jesus’ merits, combined with those of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all of the saints, is waiting to be distributed to the faithful. Jesus established the Church, with the pope at its helm, to be the steward of these merits. Indulgences are one way the Church accomplishes this.

When, under the right conditions, we carry out an action to which the Church has attached an indulgence, we are drawing on the graces Jesus has already won for us and which He wishes the Church to dispense. How generous, how magnanimous, is God! His desire to be with us is so great that He directs the Church to help us arrive as quickly as possible at eternal life with Him.

- ▶ **Partial indulgences** remove some temporal punishment.
- ▶ **Plenary indulgences** remove all temporal punishment.

How do I obtain a partial indulgence?

To gain a partial indulgence, we must:

1. Have the intention to gain the indulgence.
2. Perform the work specified in the manner prescribed. For example, devoutly making the sign of the cross has a partial indulgence attached to it (yes – it’s true!).

How do I obtain a plenary indulgence?

To gain a plenary indulgence, we must fulfill the requirements for gaining a partial indulgence, and we must also:

1. Receive the sacrament of confession (usually within several days of performing the prescribed work).
2. Receive holy Communion (usually on the day of performing the prescribed work).
3. Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (usually by reciting an Our Father and a Hail Mary).
4. Be completely detached from our sins (including venial sins). If we are not completely detached, we may still receive a partial indulgence.

What are some examples of plenary indulgences we can receive every day?

Praying the rosary as a family, in a group or with the Holy Father (including on the radio or television), spending 30 minutes praying before the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Stations of the Cross, and reading Scripture for 30 minutes.

Can I give my indulgences to someone else?

Yes! But not to someone who is still alive. We can apply our indulgences to the Holy Souls in purgatory. This is a work of mercy for which they will be very grateful. †

Become a pilgrim of hope

OBTAINING THE JUBILEE INDULGENCE IN 2025

BY NICOLE O’LEARY, SENIOR EDITOR, FAITH CATHOLIC

In his proclamation of the Jubilee of 2025 *Spes non confundit* (“Hope Does Not Disappoint”), Pope Francis announced an indulgence that would be available to the faithful during the Jubilee year. The indulgence, he explained, would be “a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God’s mercy.” In this column, we offer a brief explanation of indulgences and how we can access this great treasury of mercy – both during the Jubilee and for years to come.

What is an indulgence?

- ▶ “An indulgence is the remission in the sight of God of the temporal punishment due for sins, *the guilt of which has already been forgiven*. A member of Christ’s faithful who is properly disposed and who fulfills certain specific conditions, may gain an indulgence by the help of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints.” (Canon 992)
- ▶ “An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it partially or wholly frees a person from the temporal punishment due for sins.” (Canon 993)

Jubilee Year opens at Cathedral

BY HELEN OSMAN AND CINDY WOODEN | PHOTOS BY JUSTIN CARDONA

PILGRIMS FROM PARISHES THROUGHOUT THE OAKLAND DIOCESE FILLED THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT WITH A STANDING-ROOM ONLY CROWD ON SUNDAY, JAN. 19, TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE AND THE RECEPTION OF A HISTORIC CROSS AT THE CATHEDRAL.



Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. “During the Holy Year,” the Pope has prayed, “may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God’s love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!”

The concept of jubilee is outlined in Leviticus 25. Catholics are encouraged to focus on the principles of jubilee justice, which emphasizes reconciliation and restoration of right relationships.

The Catholic Church has been celebrating jubilee years consistently since 1300. Over the centuries, many customs and rituals have become part of jubilee year observances, including the establishment of holy doors, special pilgrimage sites and gatherings. For this Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Francis asked each diocese to establish a Holy Cross as a focus of attention, reverence and devotion.

On Sunday, a group of parishioners from Mission



San Jose and their pastor, Father Anthony Huong Le, accompanied the Foundation Cross from Mission San Jose to the Cathedral. The Foundation Cross, made by local indigenous Catholics and Franciscans at the end of the 18th century, was blessed by Bishop Barber as the Oakland Diocese’s Holy Cross.

The Mission of San Jose is the earliest site of Catholic activity in what is now the Oakland Diocese. “So this is the very first sign and symbol of the holy Catholic faith in our diocese, going back to 1797,” Bishop Barber explained, “around which the mission would grow with more than 2,000 baptized in sight of this Cross – and in turn all the 84 parishes and hundreds of



thousands of Catholics in the next 228 years.”

Pope Francis’ request of all dioceses around the world to designate a Holy Cross reminds us “the Cross

is the sign of infinite Love,” Bishop Barber said.

“We participate in the salvific power of the Cross by being baptized,” he explained. “Through being baptized into the death of Jesus, we are also baptized into His resurrection. That’s the joyful part!”

For centuries a feature of holy year celebrations has been the indulgence, which the church describes as a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for their sins.

“Every sin ‘leaves its mark’” even after a person has received forgiveness and absolution through the sacrament of reconciliation, Pope Francis wrote in the document proclaiming the



Holy Year. “Sin has consequences, not only outwardly in the effects of the wrong we do, but also inwardly, inasmuch as ‘every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death, in the state called Purgatory,’” he wrote, quoting the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. (CCC 1472) †



During the Holy Year, may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God’s love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!”

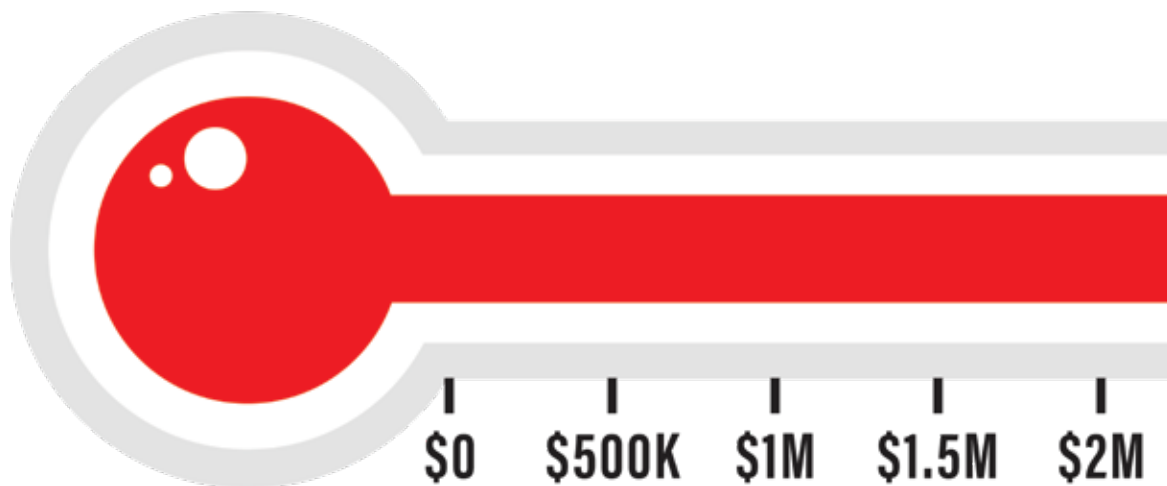
– POPE FRANCIS, BULL OF INDICITION OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025



MANY MINISTRIES
ONE CHURCH
BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL 2024

Thank you!

BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL EXCEEDS GOAL FOR 2024



THE 2024 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL (BMA) ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR PARISHIONERS AND THE DEDICATION OF OUR DIOCESAN LEADERS. THIS YEAR'S APPEAL EXCEEDED ITS FUNDRAISING GOALS, ALLOWING US TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ESSENTIAL MINISTRIES. THE SUCCESS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE GROWING AWARENESS OF THE APPEAL'S IMPORTANCE, THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF PARISH LEADERS AND THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED ACROSS THE DIOCESE.

As of Jan. 23, contributions to the Bishop's Ministries Appeal total \$3,280,995.82, or 109.36% of the \$3M goal. The 35 parishes that met or exceeded their goals account for slightly more than half of that total.

Over the years, the BMA has evolved to meet changing needs, especially as we continue to recover from the pandemic. We have seen key milestones like expanding

youth programs and supporting the education of seminarians. These successes are possible because of the funds raised through the appeal and the strong commitment of our parishioners.

A crucial element of this success is the role of parish leaders. They help educate and inspire their communities to give, ensuring the ministries funded by the BMA continue to thrive.



\$3 MILLION

GOAL!

\$2.5M | **\$3M**

[As of January 23, 2025]

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE 35 PARISHES, WHO EXCEEDED THEIR GOALS FOR 2024!

- St. David of Wales Parish
- St. Monica Parish
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish
- St. Patrick Mission Parish
- Cathedral Parish of Christ the Light
- St. Anthony-Mary Help of Christians Parish
- St. Rose of Lima Parish
- St. Callistus Parish
- St. Ambrose Parish
- St. James the Apostle Parish
- St. Benedict Parish
- St. Isidore Parish
- St. Margaret Mary Parish
- Our Lady of Grace Parish
- Holy Spirit-Newman Hall Parish
- Holy Spirit Parish, Fremont
- St. Bede Parish
- St. Anne Parish, Byron
- St. Patrick Parish, Rodeo
- St. Bernard Parish
- St. Anthony Parish, Oakley
- St. Joseph Parish, Fremont
- St. Bonaventure Parish
- St. Felicitas Parish
- St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish
- Queen of All Saints Parish
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
- St. Jarlath Parish
- Santa Maria Parish
- St. Cornelius Parish
- St. Joseph Parish, Pinole
- Divine Mercy Parish
- Church of the Good Shepherd Parish
- St. Mark Parish
- St. Peter Martyr Parish



LEARN MORE
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MANY MINISTRIES ONE CHURCH

BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL 2024

**YOUR GENEROSITY AIDS, COMFORTS,
AND SUSTAINS NUMEROUS PEOPLE
IN OUR DIOCESE**

RETIRED CLERGY | YOUTH | CATHOLIC SCHOOLS | SEMINARIANS
ENGAGED COUPLES | ACTS OF MERCY AND CHARITY

2024 BISHOP'S MINISTRIES APPEAL PARISH TOTALS*



**SCAN HERE
TO GIVE**



Due to the generosity of more than 6,000 Catholic households in the Oakland Diocese, more people can know Christ better."

The Bishop's Ministries Appeal ensures that our diocese is a place where we:

- Strengthen parishioners' Sunday experience,
- Embody the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and
- Form Missionary Disciples

PARISH	2024 GOAL	FUNDS RAISED/ PLEDGES	NUMBER OF DONORS	% OF GOAL
St. David of Wales Parish	\$13,500.00	\$41,716.00	34	309.01%
St. Monica Parish	\$35,700.00	\$87,160.54	151	244.15%
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish	\$9,800.00	\$18,570.00	77	189.49%
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$900.00	\$1,529.00	7	169.89%
Cathedral Parish of Christ the Light	\$28,800.00	\$48,550.40	72	168.58%
St. Anthony-Mary Help of Christians	\$16,600.00	\$27,373.00	10	164.90%
St. Rose of Lima Parish	\$6,000.00	\$9,866.10	27	164.44%
St. Callistus Parish	\$19,800.00	\$31,755.00	141	160.38%
St. Ambrose Parish	\$10,500.00	\$16,770.12	24	159.72%
St. James the Apostle Parish	\$23,400.00	\$36,074.48	80	154.16%
St. Benedict Parish	\$12,200.00	\$18,420.09	14	150.98%
St. Isidore Parish	\$116,700.00	\$175,076.55	118	150.02%
St. Margaret Mary Parish	\$21,900.00	\$29,729.37	19	135.75%
Our Lady of Grace Parish	\$29,000.00	\$38,904.24	105	134.15%
Holy Spirit-Newman Hall	\$39,500.00	\$51,359.99	60	130.03%
Holy Spirit, Fremont	\$99,400.00	\$128,501.72	364	129.28%
St. Bede Parish	\$37,800.00	\$47,464.78	29	125.57%
St. Anne, Byron	\$26,800.00	\$32,073.31	67	119.68%
St. Patrick, Rodeo	\$42,400.00	\$48,263.51	165	113.83%
St. Bernard Parish	\$9,500.00	\$10,653.75	21	112.14%
St. Anthony Parish	\$21,100.00	\$23,442.70	47	111.10%
St. Joseph, Fremont	\$72,000.00	\$79,973.08	144	111.07%
St. Bonaventure Parish	\$86,300.00	\$95,736.72	244	110.93%
St. Felicitas Parish	\$34,300.00	\$38,040.52	123	110.91%
St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish	\$34,900.00	\$37,775.00	222	108.24%
Queen of All Saints Parish	\$36,600.00	\$39,433.03	167	107.74%
Immaculate Heart of Mary	\$70,800.00	\$75,958.25	153	107.29%
St. Jarlath Parish	\$16,200.00	\$16,900.00	28	104.32%
Santa Maria Parish	\$34,700.00	\$36,021.59	55	103.81%
St. Cornelius Parish	\$27,500.00	\$28,545.00	7	103.80%
St. Joseph, Pinole	\$55,000.00	\$56,947.14	238	103.54%
Divine Mercy	\$24,450.45	\$25,250.00	17	103.27%
Church of the Good Shepherd	\$35,600.00	\$36,745.65	47	103.22%
St. Mark Parish	\$17,200.00	\$17,400.00	3	101.16%
St. Peter Martyr Parish	\$23,600.00	\$23,648.00	8	100.20%
St. Clement Parish	\$32,400.00	\$31,962.76	87	98.65%
Sacred Heart Parish	\$9,100.00	\$8,588.36	32	94.38%
St. John Vianney Parish	\$73,000.00	\$68,358.10	90	93.64%
St. Catherine of Siena Parish	\$23,000.00	\$21,519.98	66	93.57%
St. Anne, Union City	\$43,600.00	\$40,678.87	193	93.30%
St. Joan of Arc Parish	\$98,000.00	\$90,337.50	202	92.18%
St. Philip Neri-St. Albert Parish	\$32,500.00	\$29,254.40	56	90.01%
St. Agnes Parish	\$43,200.00	\$36,625.02	78	84.78%



*Totals as of 1/23/25. For more information, visit oakdiocese.org/bishops-ministries-appeal.

PARISH	2024 GOAL	FUNDS RAISED/ PLEDGES	NUMBER OF DONORS	% OF GOAL
St. Louis Bertrand Parish	\$15,900.00	\$13,347.00	12	83.94%
St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito	\$23,400.00	\$19,522.50	57	83.43%
St. Jerome Parish	\$14,200.00	\$11,795.00	38	83.06%
Transfiguration Parish	\$33,600.00	\$27,725.42	58	82.52%
St. Charles Borromeo Parish	\$55,300.00	\$44,745.66	84	80.91%
St. Stephen Parish	\$15,500.00	\$11,974.41	18	77.25%
St. Joseph the Worker Parish	\$11,600.00	\$8,903.00	12	76.75%
St. Anne, Walnut Creek	\$28,600.00	\$21,826.95	48	76.32%
St. John the Baptist, San Lorenzo	\$36,000.00	\$26,910.14	75	74.75%
St. Elizabeth Parish	\$32,200.00	\$24,051.00	13	74.69%
St. Theresa Parish	\$35,800.00	\$25,872.05	69	72.27%
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish	\$35,900.00	\$25,096.44	91	69.91%
Our Lady Queen of the World Parish	\$19,600.00	\$13,333.00	75	68.03%
St. Leander Parish	\$40,600.00	\$27,296.32	52	67.23%
Christ the King	\$86,800.00	\$57,645.88	102	66.41%
St. Raymond Penafort Parish	\$75,700.00	\$48,915.52	123	64.62%
St. Joseph Basilica Parish	\$51,000.00	\$32,247.42	50	63.23%
St. Mary Magdalen Parish	\$27,700.00	\$16,931.31	58	61.12%
Our Lady of Mercy Parish	\$6,400.00	\$3,900.00	13	60.94%
St. Edward Parish	\$52,500.00	\$31,830.00	100	60.63%
St. Barnabas Parish	\$15,000.00	\$9,075.00	25	60.50%
St. Augustine Parish	\$12,800.00	\$7,500.00	14	58.59%
Catholic Community of Pleasanton	\$117,500.00	\$65,086.22	204	55.39%
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	\$16,200.00	\$8,965.00	12	55.34%
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish	\$34,500.00	\$19,023.95	78	55.14%
St. Joachim Parish	\$35,900.00	\$19,750.00	114	55.01%
St. Mary Parish	\$60,900.00	\$32,352.52	66	53.12%
All Saints	\$55,000.00	\$27,025.40	67	49.14%
Corpus Christi, Fremont	\$17,800.00	\$8,737.26	31	49.09%
Most Holy Rosary Parish	\$72,100.00	\$32,608.32	89	45.23%
St. Leo Parish	\$17,900.00	\$7,891.48	21	44.09%
Church of the Assumption	\$28,300.00	\$12,256.00	36	43.31%
St. Perpetua Parish	\$46,400.00	\$19,341.00	54	41.68%
St. Francis of Assisi Parish	\$47,700.00	\$19,811.00	58	41.53%
St. Michael Parish	\$77,500.00	\$32,020.00	89	41.32%
St. Paul Parish	\$26,500.00	\$8,770.00	31	33.09%
Corpus Christi, Piedmont	\$39,300.00	\$10,400.00	31	26.46%
St. Columba Parish	\$23,600.00	\$3,270.00	9	13.86%
St. Patrick, Oakland	\$9,900.00	\$125.00	2	1.26%
Unknown Parish	\$0.00	\$584,155.03	49	

TOTALS* *As of January 23, 2025 **\$3,000,000.00** **\$3,239,279.82** **6,086** **107.98%**

MORE WAYS TO GIVE:



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All contributions to the Bishop's Ministries Appeal are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. †



The history of Lent

What did fasting used to look like?

The Lenten season, which is the preparation for Easter, has been observed from the onset of the Church, although there have been inconsistencies with duration and practices. The Council of Nicea, 325 A.D., established Easter's fluid date as the Sunday following the first full moon of the vernal equinox. In 461 A.D., Pope St. Leo established the duration of the Lenten season as 40 consecutive days before Easter. Pope Gregory the Great, in the sixth century, added the dispensing of ashes the preceding Wednesday (Ash Wednesday), making Lent 46 days. Sundays were considered feast days and were not included in the count.

Initially, all forms of meat, fish and animal products were excluded for the entirety of Lent. People were allowed one meal per day, after 3 p.m. In the 1400s, that time was revised to noon. Eventually, a small snack was included to sustain energy. Over time, fish, meat and eventually dairy products were allowed. However, fasting was required all 40 days. It wasn't until 1966 that fast days were reduced to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday only.

Why do we have penitential seasons?

Jesus gave the example of a penitential retreat, spending prayerful time in the desert preparing for his ministry, reflecting on God's will, and determining how he'd freely make that happen. Penitential seasons offer us this same opportunity: to withdraw from our routines and evaluate our spiritual progress or regression. We do this through reflection and repentance, which enable us to identify our weaknesses and make reparation to amend our sinful ways. Penitential seasons create time to reflect on our need to make God the focal point of our lives. The result can be spiritually rewarding.

What are the current rules for Lent?

All Catholics, ages 14 and older, are bound by the law of abstinence. Abstinence means refraining from the consumption of meat (land animals) on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. Why Friday? To unite ourselves with Jesus' sacrifice, made for us on Good Friday.

All Catholics, ages 18-59, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is defined as eating one full, meatless meal on prescribed days. Bits of food can be taken at other traditional meal times though their combined total should not equal a full meal.

Penitential practices, like fasting and abstinence, are intended to refocus our thoughts and intentions toward God. Lent's 40 days include Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday (the Lenten fast continues until Holy Saturday), not including Sundays. Sundays are optional but encouraged. For health reasons, the infirm, ill, and pregnant or nursing mothers are exempt.

Three other Lenten disciplines are prayer (daily conversation with the Lord), fasting (from behaviors which detract from our relationship with God), and almsgiving (sharing our resources, ensuring the basic needs of human dignity).

Why purple?

Colors powerfully convey unspoken messages and evoke emotions. Scriptural accounts share that Jesus was robed in purple to mock his implied royalty as king of the Jews. The pain of his passion and crucifixion became associated with this color. Purple reminds us that Lenten days are times of repentance and atonement, of acknowledging how our selfish desires continue to suppress and crucify the goodness of God today.

Why don't we sing the Gloria or say Alleluia during Lent?

The Gloria is a joyful hymn of praise thanking God and recognizing Jesus as the Lamb of God. The Alleluia is another exclamation of praise. While we literally know Jesus has risen and set us free, during Lent, we focus expectant anticipation of these events to come.

Lent is a time to revisit Old Testament events leading to Christ's mission and the salvation of humanity. It's a time of facing the human struggles impeding our own resurrection. Refraining from joyous hymns of exultation maintains Lent's penitential mood.

Why 40 days?

The number 40 has ecclesial significance: Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai before receiving the 10 Commandments; Jesus spent 40 days in prayer and fasting prior to beginning his ministry. So, too, we spend 40 days preparing to do God's work. †



Living our faith out loud during Lent

In my encounters with leaders in the Church, the conversation has increasingly focused on the shift in the Church to a modern apostolic age. Christianity isn't the default societal norm anymore, and that means it's time to step up. What the world needs now are bold, faith-filled witnesses – people who stand firm in their beliefs, even when it's not popular. It's not so different from the earliest days of the Church when Jesus sent the apostles out to “go and make disciples.” In apostolic times, the way of Christ can be countercultural, and even shocking to many. It strikes me that this season of Lent can be a bit of an “Apostolic Age bootcamp” for us to embrace boldness for Christ and examine our level of comfort as leaders who live our faith publicly in these three areas:

Are you willing to wear it?

Whether it's wearing ashes on Ash Wednesday or refraining from eating meat on Fridays, living as Catholic leaders today might raise some eyebrows and invite some questions, or even criticism. Do you tend to shy away from the attention these practices might draw or welcome the questions as an opportunity to deepen the conversation? Do you know that the attention often isn't on you personally, but on the viewer who sees Christ represented in some way and is invited by that toward self-reflection?

Self-sacrifice vs. Self-centeredness.

Jesus' example of loving, servant leadership was radical 2,000 years ago and looks just as radical when we follow his model today. How do you lead with humility, joy and self-sacrifice oriented toward the good of the other rather than the self-focus the world emphasizes? The world glorifies self-promotion, but Christ calls us to promote his kingdom.

Say “no” to say “yes.”

When we say “no” to the small things we choose to give up for Lent, we're creating the space and discipline to say “yes” just a little bit more to what God has for us. What will you give up this Lent, and how will you invite the Lord to fill that space a little bit more? An apostolic leader is one who is courageous in practice at home just as they are in the streets.

Living as Catholic leaders in our world today requires more and more courage, humility and willingness to stand out, especially when it's not the popular norm. May this Lent be a time to practice being a visible witness of Catholic leadership the world so deeply needs! †



DAN CELLUCCI
is the CEO of the Catholic Leadership Institute.

BISHOP JOHN CUMMINS, SECOND BISHOP OF OAKLAND, DIES DEC. 3. 2024



Most Rev. John Stephen Cummins, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Oakland, died peacefully Dec. 3, 2024, in Oakland.

Bishop Cummins was 96 and leaves a legacy of service to the people of God through his priesthood and episcopacy. The longest serving bishop of Oakland, he also directed the California Catholic Conference and filled several leadership positions with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the areas of migration issues, laity, liturgy and ecumenical outreach.

"Our diocese has lost a father, grandfather, shepherd and true priest of Jesus Christ," said Bishop Michael C. Barber, S.J. "May Christ the Good Shepherd welcome Bishop John into the eternal reward prepared for him who served the flock of Oakland so well."

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN CARDONA

BISHOP JOHN STEPHEN CUMMINS

Priestly Ordination: Jan. 24, 1953

Episcopal ordination: May 16, 1974

Installed as Bishop of Oakland: June 30, 1977

Retired: Oct. 1, 2003

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

-Amen-

Please visit <https://www.oakdiocese.org/bishop-john-cummins-memorial> for full coverage of Bishop Cummins' funeral services and memorials.



In Remembrance



DOMINICAN SISTER GIULLII ZOBELEI

1932-2024

Dominican Sister Giullii Zobelei, formerly known as Sister Michael Marie, died in Fremont, on Dec. 29, 2024. She was 92 years old and in the 70th year of her religious profession.

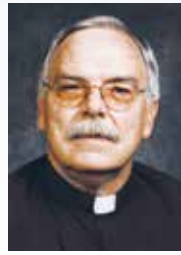
Giullii Zobelein was born to Richard Zobelein and Virginia Giullii on July 14, 1932, in Los Angeles. She had a younger sister, Elisa, and a younger brother, Rick. Giullii attended Cathedral Chapel Elementary School in Los Angeles through sixth grade. For grades 7-12, she was enrolled at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, La Canada Flintridge, where she met the Dominican Sisters.

In 1951, Giullii entered the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. One year later she entered the novitiate and received the name Sister Michael Marie. On June 20, 1953, she made her first profession of vows as a Dominican Sister.

Sister Giullii's life expresses the rich breadth of Dominican ministry. For ten years, 1956-1966, she served half a day as teacher at St. Mary of the Palms, Mission San Jose, and then half a day as printer at Mater Dei Press, the Congregation's printing press. Continuing her work as printer, she taught at St. Joseph School, Mission San Jose, part-time from 1966-1968. In 1968, she became a full-time printer at the Motherhouse. During these years she became a prize-winning photographer, which enabled her to collaborate in illustrating booklets on St. Teresa of Avila, St. Catherine of Siena and Bartolome Las Casas, the first bishop of Chiapas.

Her ministry over the decades included serving indigenous communities in Chiapas, teaching religion to high schoolers in Los Angeles, volunteering at Los Angeles Men's Central Jail, being an interpreter for QueensCare, a faith-based program that provides healthcare to needy families and volunteering for Partnership for Re-Entry Program (PREP), a restorative justice program in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Later that year, she moved to the Motherhouse in Fremont, where she volunteered at St. Joseph Parish and at Fremont Kaiser Hospital, as a eucharistic minister for the sick.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Jan. 15 at the Dominican Sisters Motherhouse Chapel, with burial at God's Acre, the sisters' cemetery at the Motherhouse. †



FATHER WILLIAM JOHNSON

1947-2024

Father William "Bill" Johnson, a native of southern California who came to the East Bay area to serve as a pastor and hospital chaplain, died Dec. 17, 2024. He was 77.

Born on July 3, 1947, in Alhambra and raised in southern California, Father Johnson was preceded in death by his parents, Beatrice and William Johnson, and is survived by his brother John Quinn Sr. (Bing), sister Nolene (Mickey) Frederiksen (Dick), brother Dale Johnson (Alma) and sister Kathy Calvano as well as his seven nieces and nephews.

Father Johnson attended Don Bosco High School in San Gabriel, which was where he returned to teach mathematics as a young man. He also taught at Loyola High School in Los Angeles and won the respect and admiration of many of his students for his ability to teach math with ease and support the academic and spiritual growth of his students. He remained friends with many of his former students throughout his life.

Although he briefly entered both the Salesian and Jesuit orders, he ultimately determined the charism of a diocesan priest was his true vocation. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 9, 1983, in the Diocese of Oakland. His ministry included being parochial vicar of St. Perpetua Parish in Lafayette 1983-1986, parochial vicar of St. Anthony in Oakland 1983-1990, parochial vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish in San Lorenzo 1990-1991, and parochial administrator of St. Augustine Parish in Oakland 1992-1997.

In 1999 Father Johnson began his hospital ministry, serving as chaplain at several hospitals in the East Bay from 1999 until his retirement in 2017. It was in this final ministry that Father Johnson felt especially called to serve those who needed to feel the presence of God through a compassionate listening ear, gentle counsel and sacramental healing. These years brought him joy and fulfillment, and he touched many lives through his work as a hospital chaplain, even while he remained active in parish ministry at St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg and Queen of All Saints in Concord.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, Jan. 27, 10:30 a.m. at Christ the King Church, 199 Brandon Road in Pleasant Hill, with burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. †

MILESTONES



Former San Francisco Giants executive **MARIO ALIOTO** is the new chief executive officer of Catholic Charities East Bay, effective Jan. 13, 2025. He succeeds interim CEO and chairman of the board Jim Fiedler. Alioto, a graduate of St. Mary's College of Moraga, recently completed a 40-year career in the front office of the San Francisco Giants, where he held several positions over the span of his career. In his most recent role as executive vice president, business operations, Alioto was responsible for the organization's revenue generation, marketing and advertising, retail and broadcasting areas. He also served for many years on the Giants Community Fund Board.

PAULA PARISI has been appointed acting director of Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services, effective Feb. 1.



We'd like to celebrate milestones with our readers!

If you have a special milestone you'd like to share, please email hosman@oakdiocese.org. Submissions made by other means (phone, text, social media, etc.) will not be accepted, and we can't guarantee all submissions will be included.

REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE BY CHURCH PERSONNEL

Anyone wishing to report any allegation of sexual misconduct by any clergy or diocesan employee should contact the local authority, i.e. police or sheriff's department, and also Rick Medeiros, the Chancellor/Victims Assistance Coordinator of the Diocese, at RMedeiros@oakdiocese.org. Survivors may contact our Survivor Advocacy Office at 510-267-8344.

CRYPTS FOR SALE

FOR SALE BY OWNER. Helena Ramos is selling a crypt at St. Mary's Catholic cemetery in Oakland. Please contact her at 925-890-1475 for details.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. Single Crypt Cathedral of Christ the Light Mausoleum. Attractive purchase terms. Processing via Escrow.com. New owner to sign contract with CFCS Oakland. Available pre-need only. See detailed listing on thecemeteryexchange.com or call 341-233-8763.



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Precious Lives Program

Honoring Every Life with Compassion and Faith

The **CFCS Precious Lives Program** is a mission of love and support, fully covering the cost of burial services for families facing the heartbreaking loss of a child. This ensures that grieving families can focus on faith, healing, and their loved ones without the added financial stress during this incredibly difficult time.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." — Matthew 5:4

"I first heard about Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services seven years ago when I lost my baby at five months pregnant. It was devastating for me, my husband, and our 2-year-old son. The hospital told me I couldn't bring my baby home, which broke me.

The next day, a social worker told me about a cemetery that helps families like mine by providing a place to lay our baby to rest at no cost. When I called, Ana and funeral director Chris guided me through the process with compassion.

I am so grateful to CFCS and the Diocese of Oakland for this beautiful program—giving families like mine a place to visit, grieve, and begin healing."

— CHRISTINA



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