The Power of Radical Kinship is being played out moment by moment in our cities, states, world with the Corona 19 virus. I see cation of people in trying to save need and make hard decisions for.

My time in hospice taught me there like right a way and others are hard yourself for the dignity of the per see day in and day out. Heroes and faces we will never know. This the Risen Christ that we continue to participate! This is Easter and the continuing renewal of our Baptismal Promises.

Each of you also join in this participation with the prayers, connecting to families and students, staying home to keep people safe and donating in ways you can. This is part of the communion of saints— we gather ourselves with those gone before us, those leaving us now and make holy. Keeping going, even when we are tired or discouraged, is what we are called to at this time. Do keep up the “good fight” for all who need to know Jesus is here! Be ministers of the Word, be the Body and Blood of Jesus!

Sacramental Celebrations For Now

In light of the new state orders for staying at home here are some directives to help with the celebration of sacraments from the Office of Worship and the Office of Faith Formation.

INITIATIONS

We were all hopeful that the shelter-in-place would be removed and that we could celebrate the Baptismal Liturgy normally done at the Easter Vigil on the Vigil of Pentecost. With the extended shelter-in-place order, this will not be possible. We are discussing a new common date for initiations. We will let you know what is decided.

CONFIRMATIONS
as well as next year’s group would be Confirmed together in one (very large) ceremony. This is the decision of the pastor in consultation with the Director of Faith Formation, teachers and parents.

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS

The adult Confirmations normally held on Pentecost Sunday at the Cathedral have been cancelled. We are looking for a new date at the cathedral and will let you know as soon as we find it.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Many parishes are asking about First Communions scheduled this Spring. Obviously, until we can gather for Mass again, this will not be possible.

Many parishes have expressed the concern that they have not yet been able to schedule Reconciliation for all the First Communicants. Reconciliation is required before First Eucharist (see a good article about this at https://canonlawmadeeasy.com/2010/04/08/can-children-make-their-first-communion-before-their-first-confession/), and is the norm in the Archdiocese. For those parishes that have not had First Reconciliation, we recommend that they schedule a day when this can be done (again, only when safe to do so and permitted by the civic authorities). A new date for First Communion can then be scheduled.

Archdiocese of San Francisco Guidelines for First Communion

Summation of Requirements for First Communion

Here are dates for the coming year 2020-2021 from the Office of Faith Formation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year PCL Gathering</td>
<td>Sept. 1,2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New PCL Orientation</td>
<td>Sept. 17,2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Adult Confirmation Classes</td>
<td>Nov. 6-7,2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCL &amp; Master Catechist Retreat Day</td>
<td>Dec. 2,2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Adult Confirmation Classes</td>
<td>Apr. 23-24,2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pius X Recognition &amp; Dinner</td>
<td>May 6,2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily and Weekly E-mail Newsletters from the Archdiocese

catholic-sf.org sfarchdiocese.org/hld

During the coronavirus crisis, the archdiocesan newspaper Catholic San Francisco offers a daily e-mail newsletter. “Coronavirus and the Catholic Response” is a brief message, sent each morning, with links to selected news ranging from local to global. Sign-up is free and entails no obligation. Visit the Catholic San Francisco website (above) or simply click here to sign up. The archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity (HLD) offers its weekly e-mailed “social action newsletter” titled Just 3 Things. Each Wednesday morning, the newsletter contains three selected items on issues relating to human dignity, respect for life, justice, ethics, and citizenship. Find unfailingly interesting news, ideas, and priorities in Just 3 Things. Subscription is free. To sign up, visit the HLD webpage here: sfarchdiocese.org/hld.

Benefits Enrollment Reminder: No Action Means No Coverage

May 13 through May 28 Janice Ward 415-614-5526 LaShonda Perry 415-614-5626 retatrust.org Employees, please remember: Between May 13 and May 28 you MUST go online to the Reta Benefits Center website and record your selection of health-care benefits for the coming year. Even if you want to make no changes, you must submit your choices during this period. No action equals no coverage until July 2021. More information will be forthcoming. Please contact Janice Ward or LaShonda Perry in the Human Resources Office with any questions. A flyer is here.

Are you taking time to renew or obtain your California Catholic Conference Basic or Master Certification. This is a most important part of our catechetical ministry. Easter is a great time to work on this for you and your volunteers.
Catechist Formation

We are committed to a continuing catechist formation, hence our plan to offer a series of workshops for catechist certification/re-certification this summer. Certainly, these planned workshops will comply with the rules, regulations and guidelines that will be issued by the city and the state regarding in-person gatherings if such will be allowed by June. Whatever modifications we will adopt if in-person gathering will not be feasible, we will let you know (e.g., online learning/presentation). In the meantime, kindly mark your calendars. All the workshops are on Saturdays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>9:30 am to 1 pm</td>
<td>ADSF Pastoral Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>9:30 am to 1 pm</td>
<td>ADSF Pastoral Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>1:00 to 4:15 pm</td>
<td>St. Bruno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>1:00 to 4:15 pm</td>
<td>Mater Dolorosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>1:00 to 4:15 pm</td>
<td>St. Veronica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>1:00 to 4:15 pm</td>
<td>St. Dunstan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The workshops topics and presenters will be on the flyers that will be emailed to you soon.

Beginner's Institute

As in the years past, to assist parish catechetical leaders in orienting their new volunteers in the ministry, we are also planning to offer a series of training sessions for the new and nearly-new catechists. Save the date — we hope to conduct those training sessions on August 1, 8, 15 & 29. The training sessions will also be conducted in Spanish. We will inform you more about this on the June issue of ECHO.

You are invited

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) is inviting all its members to participate in the two week virtual event on May 13-15 and May 19-21 (see flyer below). The two week virtual event features keynotes, workshops, opportunities for prayer and reflection and networking among members.

The theme of the virtual gathering is “Witness” — our calling as Catholic ministry leaders “to stand for something greater” in these uncertain times. “The virtual gathering will remind us of our mission and equip us as bearers of hope, healers of hearts, and companions in pain.”

As a parish catechetical leader in our Archdiocese, you are a member of the NCCL. The Archdiocese, through our Office had already paid for your membership, hence this invitation for you to sign up for this virtual conference.

As mentioned in the flyer you are asked to register for the event. A registration fee of $75.00 is required from those who would like to gain full access of the event and participate in real time. Otherwise as mentioned in the flyer, a portion of each day’s event is also available for free.

We suggest that before you register for the event (whether for fee or free), you register first as a member of the NCCL, if you had not yet done that. As a registered member of NCCL, you will get communications directly from NCCL about the event and other related information related to catechetical ministry. Instructions to register for membership to NCCL is given on page 2 of this issue of ECHO.
Coordinator of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, St. Mark Catholic Church, Belmont

This position is for a part-time (28 hours/week), non-exempt, year-round permanent position.

The CRE/Youth Minister must be a fully-initiated, practicing Catholic, with knowledge of and commitment to the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church. He/she will report directly to the Pastor, and work with him to administer the Parish Religious Education program for students attending public schools.

Job duties and responsibilities include:

- Plan the faith formation and Sacramental preparation for elementary to high school students
- Coordinate student registration and maintain appropriate student records
- Recruit volunteer catechists, coordinate workshops, and encourage training to obtain Catechist certification
- Ensure that the Archdiocese’s requirements and policies for Child Safety are implemented for all program participants (students and volunteers)
- Prepare the yearly Religious Education calendar
- Order textbooks, teaching materials and resources for the program
- Organize and conduct parent meetings and family catechesis sessions
- Be available while classes are in session to provide supervision of students, and serve as a substitute teacher as needed
- Make sure that classrooms are stocked with needed supplies, and ready for class sessions
- Plan Class Masses, and coordinate with Pastor on Sacramental rites for students
- Arrange for Sacramental Preparation Retreats and Youth Group events
- Provide statistics of parish programs annually as requested by the Archdiocesan
- Attend training, workshops, deanery meetings and collaborate with other DRE/CREs, Confirmation Leaders, and Youth Ministers in local area

Qualifications and Requirements:

BA in an appropriate field and/or experience as a catechetical leader
Ability to carry out duties in a timely manner with minimal supervision, have good communication and relationship skills, and readiness to work with clergy, staff members, catechists, parents, students and other parish volunteers
Be willing to accommodate a work schedule that includes evenings, weekends, and parish events
Finger-printed and completion of all requirements mandated by the San Francisco Archdiocese for those working with children
Good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and social media platform.

If you are looking for parish catechetical leaders the Office of Faith Formation will be glad to advertise for you and put it in our webpage. Contact: arbucklec@sfarch.org

Vatican Publishes Papal Prayers and Talks on Pandemic
The Vatican has published a downloadable beautifully formatted PDF booklet that gathers together many of the public addresses and prayers made by Pope Francis in recent months with regard to the coronavirus pandemic. The Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See has posted on its website the book, entitled “Strong in the Face of Tribulation,” containing prayers, supplications and the Pope’s homilies as “a sure support in time of trial.”
News from Karen on programming

I have been in touch with the folks at VIRTUS and unfortunately, they have not developed nor are they planning on developing lessons that can be taught at home by the parent via “distance learning.” However, everyone affiliated with the safe environment programs - all the way up to the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection as well as the company which administers our annual Archdiocesan audit - understands the current situation and that not all schools or parishes had the opportunity to complete student training. Failure to complete student training this year will not adversely affect compliance, but the information still needs to be recorded. Any questions or clarification regarding student training may be directed to Karen Guglielmoni at either guglielmonik@sfarch.org or kguglielmoni@stveronicassf.com.

This leaves the parish and school programs with three options:

1. If your parish or school program had already completed the student lessons but the information is not yet recorded on the VIRTUS website, please have the VIRTUS administrator login and record the student training ASAP. Thank you to the nearly 70 parish and school sites who have already recorded their students training lessons for 2019-20!

2. If your parish or school program had not completed the student lessons, you are welcome to send me the total number of students enrolled in your program for this year and I will go ahead and put it into VIRTUS for you. It is not necessary to send the grade breakdown, just the name of the parish or school program and the total number of students enrolled.

3. Alternatively, the VIRTUS administrator can go ahead and log in to VIRTUS and put in the information. If that is the case, here’s the info the administrator would enter into each field:

   - Program name: leave blank or put in “unable to train this year”
   - Where the training occurred: choose the name of your parish or school program from the drop down
   - School type: choose from the drop down
   - When the training was conducted: put in the date you are entering the information
   - Who: the name of the person completing the record
     - Age/grade: choose “not specified”
     - Lesson number: choose “not specified”
     - Number of children trained: enter “0”
     - Number of children opted out: enter “0”
   - Number of children absent: enter the total enrollment for your program
   - Total number of children: this will autofill
   - Comments: enter “Due to COVID-19 precautions, we were unable to train this year before distance learning protocols were put in place” or some similar explanation.

   The final part changed recently!!!

   Click on “record training” and AGAIN click on “record training” on the next screen to complete the record ...

   OR click on “create acknowledgement and record training”, print out the info you have entered for the parish or school records, and then click on “record training” on the next screen to complete the record.

   Either way, make sure to click on the final “record training” or it won’t be recorded :)

I hope this helps and that everyone is doing well! Thanks for all of your efforts in keeping our students safe J Karen

We are all receiving spiritual communions at this time. Here is some wonderful information on the practice.

According to Saint Thomas Aquinas spiritual communion consists of “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.”

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You” (From sacredheart.com).

The prayer of spiritual communion – which may even be made without words in the yearnings of our heart – shows our deep hunger for the Eucharist; it further shows our deep desire to be united to the Eucharistic life of Christ; it shows, as well, our profound love for the Sacrament of Love!
Some of our Parish Catechetical Leaders as we gather and share with Zoom

The Office of Faith Formation Staff are meeting with the various deanery groups on a regular basis to share best practices and work out situations that come up.
A great opportunity for Catechist Formation.
Send out the Word.
It is good news.

RCL Benziger wants to support you in these difficult times, so we are offering free online access for 60 days to our Echoes of Faith Emmaus Edition.

Echoes of Faith Emmaus Edition allows catechetical leaders to focus on developing relationships while enabling catechists to engage with content in a time, location, and method best suited for them, integrating digital formation and creating networks of faith-filled catechists.

RCL Benziger proudly supports you through faith-based and academic curriculum and programs. We are dedicated to providing the most beneficial learning experiences for students through our complete array of print and digital resources.

Contact your sales representative to set up your free access today!
BE A WITNESS OF HOPE
Fraternal greetings to all of you during this Easter Season!

As I write this message, we are all going through a worldwide crisis of Covid-19 (Corona Virus). We are experiencing so much suffering, fear and anxiety as the number of deaths increase. With the increase of unemployment and insecurity about the future we just don’t know where all of this will take us. We are fragile yet not helpless as we find strength in God and one another, living in solidarity in the midst of our pain.

In the midst of this crisis we do not lose Hope in the Risen Jesus. Just as we are living through this crisis, we are also celebrating Easter season remembering how the early followers of Jesus moved out of their fear to be witnesses of Hope.

We are fragile but not helpless: change is possible because of the outbreaks of Hope offered during this extraordinary time:

In April we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the 5th Anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Care for our Common Home”

In May we celebrate International Workers’ Day, Mother’s Day and Pentecost

In June we celebrate Father’s Day

In July we celebrate Independence Day

Celebrating these outbreaks of Hope and all that they represent we give witness to Joy in the midst of fear. The door is open for us to enter into a new moment because another world is possible:

where we live connected and in communion with each other

where there are no boarders when it comes to pain and a virus

where we are not alone but interdependent

where we feel the need for a God-with-us and the need for each other.

To nurture these outbreaks of Hope there will be many opportunities to learn and reflect on all that we have gleaned from these days of quarantine and social distancing as well as turning to God and one another.

My dear friends and collaborators, give witness to Hope!

Peace and All Good,

Sister Graciela Martinez, osf

A message from Sister Graciela

SER TESTIGO DE LA ESPERANZA
¡Saludos fraternos a todos ustedes en esta temporada de Pascua!
En este momento al escribir este mensaje estamos pasando por una crisis al nivel mundial- Covid 19. Hay mucho sufrimiento, miedo, ansiedad por todas las personas que han fallecido, el desempleo y la inseguridad del futuro que no sabemos donde nos va a llevar. Somos frágiles, pero no indefensos porque esto nos esta llevando a un acercamiento con Dios mas profundo y una solidaridad en nuestro dolor.

En medio de esta crisis no perdemos nuestra esperanza en Jesús Resucitado. Igual como estamos viviendo en una crisis, estamos celebrando este tiempo Pascual donde los primeros seguidores de Jesús salieron de su temor para dar testimonio de la Esperanza.

Somos frágiles, pero no indefensos: el cambio es posible por los brotes de esperanza que este tiempo nos ofrece:

En abril celebramos 50 anos de “El Día de la Madre Tierra,” el quinto aniversario de la encíclica “Nuestra Casa Común” de Papa Francisco y el Día de los Niños

En mayo celebramos el Día del Trabajo, el Día de las Madres y Pentecostés

En junio celebramos el Día de los Padres

En julio celebramos el Día de la Independencia

Al celebrar estos brotes de esperanza son testimonio de la alegría ante el temor. La puerta esta abierta para entrar a una nueva era donde otro mundo es posible:

donde vivimos en comunión y conectados

donde no hay fronteras cuando tiene que ver con virus y el dolor

donde no estamos solos tanto como interdependientes

donde estamos viendo la necesidad de un Dios cercano y de necesitarnos unos a otros.

Para alimentar estos brotes de esperanza va a ver oportunidades de aprender y reflexionar lo que hemos aprendido en estos días de cuarentena y de distancia social igual de acercamiento con Dios y a unos y otros.

Estimados colaboradores y colaboradoras, seamos testigos de Esperanza.

Paz y Todo Bien,

Sister Graciela Martínez, osf
Reflexión para la semana

“Ve a los límites de tu anhelo”

Ve a los límites de tu anhelo
Dios nos habla a cada uno de nosotros porque Dios nos crea, luego camina con nosotros en silencio en la noche.
Estas son las palabras que oímos vagamente:
Tú, enviado más allá de tu recuerdo, ve a los límites de tu anhelo. Encármame.
Enciéndete como una llama
Y haz grandes sombras en las que pueda desplazarme.
Deja que todo te suceda:
belleza y terror.
Sólo sigue adelante, ningún sentimiento es definitivo.
No te permitas perderme.
Cerca de allí está la ciudad que llaman vida. La reconocerás por su seriedad.
Dame la mano.
-- Rainer Maria Rilke
de Rilke’s Book of Hours I, 59 p. 88

No temas, que yo estoy contigo;
No te angusties, que yo soy tu Dios
Te fortalezco y te auxilio y te sostengo con mi diestra victoriosa.
— Isaías 41:10

Las noticias de estos días están llenas de imágenes de belleza y terror. ¿Qué evocan esas imágenes en ti?
¿A qué podrían estar invitándome o invitándonos esos sentimientos?
Mi más profundo anhelo por el mundo en estos momentos es...
¿Cómo podría o podríamos encarnar a Dios en estos tiempos difíciles?

Oración final

Aquél que, actuando eficazmente en nosotros, puede realizar muchísimo más de lo que pedimos o pensamos. Amen. Carta a los Efesios 3:20
Extraño compartir con ustedes en persona como lo hacíamos durante nuestras sesiones de clases. Las conferencias y convivencias nos han ayudado mutuamente a crecer en nuestra fe y como comunidad. Sabemos que estamos en otro momento que aunque es temporal, extrañamos la cercanía de hermandad. No se puede perder tiempo sin llenarnos de Dios a través de nuestra reflexión y estudio.

Para su información

Les ofrecemos oportunidad de estudiar en este tiempo que están protegiéndose en sus casas.

Mayo: TESTIGOS

Descripción del Evento

**Testigos**, es un curso de dos semanas virtual del 13 al 15 de mayo y 19 al 21 de mayo. La registración es de $75.00 por todo el curso.

Somos testigos de un mundo que sufre y está adolorido en estos tiempos inciertos, haciendo historia. Somos llamados, como líderes del ministerio católico, a ser firmes creando algo más grande. Seamos portadores de la esperanza, sanando corazones, siendo compañeros en el dolor. Somos testigos de la buena noticia que es Jesucristo.

**We have been witnesses to a suffering and hurting world in these uncertain times, to history in the making. Now we are being called, as catholic ministry leaders, to stand for something greater. Let us be bearers of hope, healers of hearts, and companions in pain. Let us be a witness to the good news that is Jesus Christ.**

download our flyer.

Curso por venir para nuevos Catequistas

Se está viendo la posibilidad de un curso para nuevos catequistas y para catequistas que desean actualizarse y mejorar su habilidad de enseñar catequesis. Este curso sería durante el mes de Agosto en el salón de la Arquidiócesis. Si no se puede tener el curso presencial lo tendremos virtual. Los catequistas que estén interesados en este curso, se pueden comunicar con la Hermana Graciela Martínez en la oficina de formación de Fe. (martinezg@sfarch.org / 1415-614-5653 / 1415-614-5650)
Retiro
Estimables catequistas el retiro del 6 de junio se ha cancelado por el peligro que se da con el covid-19 (coronavirus). Lo siento mucho porque es en estos momentos cuando necesitamos estar en oración y reflexión, acompañándonos unos a otros. Les mandare un correo electrónico a todos ustedes que se registraron para darle mas información. Gracias por su paciencia y compresión.