Death & Dying

Church teaching on cremation
- See page 10

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal relies on us — See page 3
Questions and answers about Lent and Lenten practices

From usccb.org

Q. Why do we say that there are 40 days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.

A. It might be more accurate to say that there is the “40-day fast within Lent.” Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The 40-day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

Q. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays?

A. Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

Q. I understand that Catholics ages 18-59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but what exactly are the rules for these fasts?

A. Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

Q. Are there exemptions other than for age from the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

A. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.
The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal relies on help from all of us

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

It is very possible you have heard this plea: “Support the works of mercy.”

Leaders of the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal hope the message is familiar as it promotes the annual campaign.

Citing the theme of “Living our Faith through Acts of Charity,” Catholic Foundation Interim Director Ernie Nedder noted that when it comes to performing the works of mercy, the Diocese can address broader needs that individual parishes cannot. “We rely on the support of Catholics in those parishes to provide the resources to perform those works of mercy.”

Whether it is the $500,000 the Appeal disburses to Catholic Community Services, or the $250,000 it sends to sustain poor parishes, Nedder said the Appeal’s success all starts with the relationship that Catholics have with their own parish.

Nedder noted that many parishes run food pantries or provide holiday meals. The Knights of Columbus also support those and other local works of mercy. However, parishes meeting community members’ immediate physical needs may defer plant maintenance or be unable to financially afford large unexpected capital expenses.

“We need to help those parishes and the challenges they face,” Nedder said.

Contributions to the Appeal also pay for other significant expenses, including tuition for seminarians, which costs about $40,000 per year.

Prison ministry and support for families who find themselves unexpectedly homeless are also ministries that receive strong diocesan support, Nedder added.

“The wonderful thing about our communities is how the people trust their pastors,” he said. The success of the Appeal depends upon the success of that relationship.

Nedder acknowledged that some US dioceses have had to deal with negative headlines arising from a new wave of reports involving clergy sex abuse. However, in the Diocese of Tucson, not only have the bishops, priests and lay leaders been pro-active on the issue, but the Appeal also funds the Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection, more commonly known as the Protection Office. Among its other responsibilities, that office trains parish and ministry leaders and provides educational materials on safe environments for all people in their care, ranging from children to vulnerable adults.

“We want to make sure that all children, youths and vulnerable adults are safe,” Nedder said.

He said he was confident that the 2019 Appeal would succeed because Catholics around the Diocese recognize the importance of the services the diocesan Church provides.

“The people of God are the Church,” Nedder said.

The 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal fell just below goal, with $3,997,304, after three straight years of increases. In 2017, aided by several bequests, the Appeal finished at $4,268,384. That followed the 2016 and 2015 Appeals, which came in at $4,037,140 and $4,003,024, respectively.

For more information about the Appeal and parish goals, visit cathfnd.org.

Fr. Juan Carlos Aguirre and Fr. Marco Carrasco

Invite you on a pilgrimage to

The Holy Land & Italy
San Martin de Porres Parish Sahuarita, AZ
Sacred Heart Church Nogales, AZ

May 6 - 18, 2019

$3,750.00 per person with trip originating from Phoenix
(Includes mandatory airfare taxes and fees)

For more information contact:
Jim Harris: (520) 784-3607 | jharris091686@msn.com

or

Crown of Bethlehem
Stavros Salianos: (520) 909-7166 | stavros@crownofbethlehem.com

For additional information, please visit: www.sanmartinsahuarita.org/pilgrimage.html

The Diocese of Tucson, its parishes or ministries do not support or advocate on behalf of this tour company and are not liable for its actions. Consumers are encouraged to research all tour packages and cancellation details before making business decisions.
The Diocese of Tucson Renewal Committee will hold its monthly “Alive in Christ” event with the theme “Our Spiritual Battle.” All are welcome to joyfully praise and worship with song, Scripture readings and words. For more information, call Gloria at (520) 237-7060 or visit tucsonccr.org.

National blogger speaking at St. Thomas
Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m., St. Thomas Church, 5150 N. Valley View Road, Tucson
Blogger Lisa Hendey delivers a model for busy families partnering with their parish, school and communities, providing tools to more efficiently form the faith of their children, including how to relate lovingly with teenagers, young adults and adult children who separate themselves from the Church. “The Sacred Balancing Act: Busy Lives and Family Spirituality” is the second in the Lutheran Lecture Series sponsored by the Jordan Ministry team. Hendey is founder of CatholicMom.com, a bestselling author of books for adults and children and serves as editor-at-large for Ave Maria Press. For more information, visit JordanMinistry.org or call (520) 623-2563.

Charismatic renewal gathering at Sacred Heart
Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 601 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson
Charismatic renewal gathering at Sacred Heart Church, 601 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson. The Diocese of Tucson Renewal Committee will hold its monthly “Alive in Christ” event with the theme “Our Spiritual Battle.” All are welcome to joyfully praise and worship with song, Scripture readings and words. For more information, call Gloria at (520) 237-7060 or visit tucsonccr.org.

Blogger Lisa Hendey delivers a model for busy families partnering with their parish, school and communities, providing tools to more efficiently form the faith of their children, including how to relate lovingly with teenagers, young adults and adult children who separate themselves from the Church. “The Sacred Balancing Act: Busy Lives and Family Spirituality” is the second in the Lutheran Lecture Series sponsored by the Jordan Ministry team. Hendey is founder of CatholicMom.com, a bestselling author of books for adults and children and serves as editor-at-large for Ave Maria Press. For more information, visit JordanMinistry.org or call (520) 623-2563.

St. Margaret Mary holds Lenten fish dinners
Fridays in Lent, 4-7 p.m., St. Margaret Mary Parish, 801 N. Grande Ave., Tucson
The menu varies weekly, with the dinners sponsored by various parish ministries. All proceeds from the sales benefit the parish. For the menu items each week, call the parish as 622-0168.

“My Broken Christ” to play at San Miguel
Saturday, April 27, 4 p.m. (English) and 7 p.m. (Spanish), San Miguel Catholic High School, 6601 S. San Fernando Road, Tucson
“My Broken Christ,” a one-man play, will be sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Parish. It is based on a book by Jesuit Father Ramon Cue. Tickets range from $10-$50 and can be purchased online at Eventbrite.com/O/Our-Lady-of-Fatima-Parish-18499057248.

St. Helen’s sets scriptural prayer service
Monday, March 25, 7-8 p.m., St. Helen of the Cross Parish, 205 W. 8th St., Eloy
The parish celebrates the Annunciation with “Behold Thy Mother,” a holy hour of prayer, contemplation and celebration. The service will be preceded by an opportunity for reconciliation and eucharistic adoration. The event will be led by the pastor, Father Alonzo Garcia. The celebration includes singing by the choir, Scripture readings, praying a special “Ave Maria” scriptural rosary and a special pre-Easter homily. During the celebration, 10 people will sit at the altar and take turns reading Scripture and then pray a Hail Mary. The process will be repeated for each of the Joyful mysteries. Three Hail Mary’s will be prayed in Spanish. After each decade, the choir will sing a short version of Ave Maria. “Behold Thy Mother” was created to bring the rosary to the next level. It marks the capstone of a yearlong program promoting the rosary to parishioners.

DIOCESAN EVENTS
Charismatic renewal gathering at Sacred Heart
Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 601 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson
The Diocese of Tucson Renewal Committee will hold its monthly “Alive in Christ” event with the theme “Our Spiritual Battle.” All are welcome to joyfully praise and worship with song, Scripture readings and words. For more information, call Gloria at (520) 237-7060 or visit tucsonccr.org.

National blogger speaking at St. Thomas
Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m., St. Thomas Church, 5150 N. Valley View Road, Tucson
Blogger Lisa Hendey delivers a model for busy families partnering with their parish, school and communities, providing tools to more efficiently form the faith of their children, including how to relate lovingly with teenagers, young adults and adult children who separate themselves from the Church. “The Sacred Balancing Act: Busy Lives and Family Spirituality” is the second in the Lutheran Lecture Series sponsored by the Jordan Ministry team. Hendey is founder of CatholicMom.com, a bestselling author of books for adults and children and serves as editor-at-large for Ave Maria Press. For more information, visit JordanMinistry.org or call (520) 623-2563.

PIMA SOUTH VICARIATE
St. Margaret Mary holds Lenten fish dinners
Fridays in Lent, 4-7 p.m., St. Margaret Mary Parish, 801 N. Grande Ave., Tucson
The menu varies weekly, with the dinners sponsored by various parish ministries. All proceeds from the sales benefit the parish. For the menu items each week, call the parish as 622-0168.

‘My Broken Christ’ to play at San Miguel
Saturday, April 27, 4 p.m. (English) and 7 p.m. (Spanish), San Miguel Catholic High School, 6601 S. San Fernando Road, Tucson
“My Broken Christ,” a one-man play, will be sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Parish. It is based on a book by Jesuit Father Ramon Cue. Tickets range from $10-$50 and can be purchased online at Eventbrite.com/O/Our-Lady-of-Fatima-Parish-18499057248.

PIMA EAST VICARIATE
Contemplative prayer group at St. Pius X
Mondays, March 4-April 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Pius X Parish, 1800 N. Camino Rio Decimo, Tucson
For more information, call the parish office, (520) 885-3573.

St. Helen’s sets scriptural prayer service
Monday, March 25, 7-8 p.m., St. Helen of the Cross Parish, 205 W. 8th St., Eloy
The parish celebrates the Annunciation with “Behold Thy Mother,” a holy hour of prayer, contemplation and celebration. The service will be preceded by an opportunity for reconciliation and eucharistic adoration. The event will be led by the pastor, Father Alonzo Garcia. The celebration includes singing by the choir, Scripture readings, praying a special “Ave Maria” scriptural rosary and a special pre-Easter homily. During the celebration, 10 people will sit at the altar and take turns reading Scripture and then pray a Hail Mary. The process will be repeated for each of the Joyful mysteries. Three Hail Mary’s will be prayed in Spanish. After each decade, the choir will sing a short version of Ave Maria. “Behold Thy Mother” was created to bring the rosary to the next level. It marks the capstone of a yearlong program promoting the rosary to parishioners.

PINAL WEST VICARIATE
Representatives from St. Odilia Parish in Tucson were among the participants in the annual March for Life in Tucson on Jan. 19. About 900 attended the annual Respect Life Mass celebrated in St. Augustine Cathedral, preceding the march.

Bishop’s Calendar – MARCH 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Confirmation, St. Jude Church, San Luis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 p.m. - “Alive in the Savior” Award, Jordan Ministry Team, Viscount Suite Hotel, Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Ongoing formation for priests, Redemptorist Renewal Center, Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11 a.m. - Catholic Foundation, 2019 Grant Award ceremony, TEP Building, Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Noon - Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Noon - Mass, Catholic Community Services, Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11 a.m. - Confirmation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3 p.m. - Rite of Election - St. Augustine Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>Newly-ordained five years of less mentoring program, Redemptorist Renewal Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>10 a.m. - Mass for the Kino Heritage Society, St. Augustine Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>Catholic Rural Life strategic planning retreat in Minneapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>11 a.m. - Confirmation, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>9 a.m. - Confirmation, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Superior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>2 p.m. - Confirmation, St. George Church, Apache Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 p.m. - Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, semiannual meeting, Skyline County Club, Tucson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grace Lohr  
Guitarist and vocalist well-known in Diocese

Born Dec. 6, 1961, to Juan and Angelita Amaro, she attended the University of Arizona.

Lohr had also served as an assistant to diocesan Pastoral Services Director Dominican Sister Lois Paha, and as parish music director at St. John the Evangelist, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Odilia’s.

She was an assessor for the County Assessor’s Office and she was a private assessor. She was also a driver for Uber and Lyft.

She is predeceased by her mother and a brother Jorge. She is survived by her father, her husband Charles and son Patrick. She is also survived by brothers Juan, Dan, Estevan and Alex; sisters Angela Murrieta, Yolanda Martinez, Josie Anna, Alicia Garaygordobil and Lourdes Leon; and many nieces and nephews.

A vigil was held Feb. 7 in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church followed the next day with a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment will be at Holy Hope Cemetery at a later date.

Ad deadliness for the Catholic Outlook

Reservations: First of the month prior to issue
Final copy: Tenth of month prior to issue
For more information, call 838-2562 or email mbrown@diocesetucson.org

Proximo Travel

Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths

Prices starting at $2.499 ~ Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE with Airfare from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

www.proximotravel.com  508-340-9370
Hablanos Español  865-842-8001
anthony@proximotravel.com  Call us 24/7

The Diocese of Tucson, its parishes or ministries do not support or advocate on behalf of this tour company and are not liable for its actions. Consumers are encouraged to research all tour packages and cancellation details before making business decisions.

Joe’s Pancake House Family Restaurant

2 pancakes, 1 egg, bacon, or sausage $3.29
French Toast, 1 egg, 2 bacon or sausage $3.99
1 egg, bacon or ham or sausage home fries & toast $2.99
(Breakfast Specials Mon. - Fri.)
Lunch Specials Mon. - Fri. $6.95
Mon. - Sat. 6am-2pm / Sun. 7am-2pm

2532 S. Kolb  747-7536
Serving Tucson 34 years

St. Joseph’s Youth Camp

Rooted in Tradition and Values

Register Campers ages 8-15 NOW and SAVE $50
DISCOUNT ENDS MARCH 31ST (reg. $650)

6 Days-6 Nights, Lodging, Food, Camp T-shirt, Horseback Riding, Hiking, Kayaking, Archery, Shelter Building, Campfire and Telescope Nights, DVD of the fun-filled activities, and much more!

TEENS: ages 13-15 June 23 - 29
Campers: ages 8-12 June 30 - July 6
Campers: ages 8-12 July 7 - 13

Counselor Candidate Training $ 225: ages 16-17 June 16-22
Includes all training material, CPR/AED, food, lodging, camp t-shirts, DVD, and much more!

REGISTER TODAY!
www.SJYCAZ.com
•
admin@SJYCAZ.com
•
480-449-0848

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK 5
TUCSON, Arizona — Msgr. Robert D. Fuller, editor of the Arizona Register diocesan newspaper and known also for his inspirational eight-minute homilies, died Jan. 23 at age 88.

Born Sept. 8, 1930, in Keokuk, Iowa to Dwight and Gladys (Kibble) Fuller, he attended parochial elementary schools in Keokuk and Marshalltown, Iowa before moving to Tucson with his family, where he attended Immaculate Heart Academy and Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School before he graduated from Tucson Senior High School in 1948.

He entered seminary at the Los Angeles College Junior Seminary and St. John Seminary in Camarillo, California, and was ordained a priest on April 25, 1956, in Sts. Peter and Paul Church by Bishop Francis Green.

He was assistant pastor at Queen of Peace, Mesa, 1956-57, before the erection of the Diocese of Phoenix.

He served in the diocesan Tribunal (1957-62), director of the Bureau of Information, which later became the diocesan Communications Office, and as chancellor for the Diocese (1962-70).

He was appointed editor and business manager of the Arizona Register on June 7, 1963, after serving as assistant editor in 1961-63.

He was given the title of monsignor in 1965, with his investiture on Dec. 16 that year.

Msgr. Fuller also was administrator at All Saints, Tucson (1965-69), and at St. Augustine Cathedral in 1969. He was the founding pastor at St. Pius X, serving from 1970-81.

Msgr. Fuller left Tucson for five years, 1981-86, to work for RENEW, an organization based in Newark, N.J.

He returned to Tucson in 1987 to serve as pastor at St. Frances Cabrini, Tucson, where he was a master of “eight-minute homilies.” He retired as pastor in 2018 after more than 30 years. He served as the vicar for Education and as the vicar for Pima Central parishes part of that time.

He subsequently published a series of books called “Homilies from the Heart,” with proceeds benefitting the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen for low-income residents.

Auto dealer Jim Click and his wife, Vicki, knew Msgr. Fuller as a pastor and a friend for decades. When Click became Catholic, it was with his help.

“I cannot tell you what a great friend Bob was to our family, to all families,” Click said, adding “He was a great man of God. Everybody he touched he made a difference. I told him that last night.”

Click visited with the priest the evening before Msgr. Fuller’s passing.

Local priests also recalled his service.

Msgr. Thomas Cahalane, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Tucson, said Msgr. Fuller was one of his oldest friends here.

“He was the first priest who greeted me when I got off the airplane 56 years ago.”

“We became close and fast friends, kindred spirits,” Msgr. Cahalane said.

The priests had visited the day before Msgr. Fuller’s death, which Msgr. Cahalane called “painfully graced.”

“It was Bob’s time to go and he was very, very aware of it.”

Msgr. Cahalane recalled that upon entering Msgr. Fuller’s room, Msgr. Fuller said, “An angel has brought you here. It was a real experience of grace for me.”

When Msgr. Fuller retired from St. Frances last summer, Msgr. Cahalane said, “his heart was telling him to continue, but his body was telling him no.”

Msgr. Fuller had a great gift of language, being able to express truths in ways people could understand.

“He was able to communicate things in the moment they were happening. It’s a unique gift, being able to communicate and articulate the here and now, while still being in the present moment,” Msgr. Cahalane said, “just like his homilies.”

Salvatorian Father Bill Remmel, who assisted Msgr. Fuller at St. Frances Cabrini, said, “I always looked up to him and his wisdom,” said “Recently, he would celebrate Mass about once a week and a lot of people would come to hear him.”

Among Msgr. Fuller’s many areas of ministry was also Catholic marriage. He would speak at gatherings for married couples that were sponsored by the international Christian Family Movement, taught marriage courses at the University of Arizona Newman Center and was assigned to the diocesan Tribunal. Msgr. Fuller was also a chaplain for the St. Thomas More Society for Catholic lawyers.

Msgr. Fuller was honored at a 2015 dinner to raise money for retired priests.

He was also a guest of honor at the 2008 Catholic Foundation Cornerstone Gala.

When asked what were highlights of his many years as a priest, Msgr. Fuller said, “It’s filled with what I see are highlights – every baptism, every wedding is a highlight.”

“It’s my privilege to proclaim God’s Word and bring it into (people’s) lives,” he said. “The Church isn’t just the priests. It’s the people of God who are the Church.”

Msgr. Fuller is survived by a sister, Peggy Angelastro (Mike) of California; sisters-in-law Dora Fuller and Rose Marie Fuller; nephews Dr. Greg Fuller (Denise) and Robert Fuller (Sandy); great-nephews Shawn and Alan; and nieces Sarena, Jennifer and Julia. Monsignor was predeceased by brothers Milton and Cyrus, and by a sister, Nikki Marshall.

A vigil service was held, Jan. 31 at St. Frances Cabrini Church. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 1 in St. Augustine Cathedral. Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger was the main concelebrant; Msgr. Cahalane was the homilist. Interment followed in Holy Hope Cemetery.
Lynn Cuffari received the 32nd annual St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for her “history of dedicated service, support and leadership within the Diocese of Tucson Catholic Schools.” The award was given at the third annual Catholic Schools Endowment Dinner at the Marriott Starr Pass Resort Feb. 1.

Cuffari said her education career began in the utility room of her childhood home in Easton, Maryland, where she and her sisters would spend many hours “playing school” on rainy days when they could not go outside. Her family later moved to Arizona and she graduated from high school in Phoenix in 1978.

In 1982, she earned a Journalism degree from the University of Arizona. In 1983, she married Joseph Cuffari, an Air Force officer. While stationed in Naples, Italy, Lynn earned her master’s in education from Framingham State University of Massachusetts, which had a program for military families stationed overseas. The family relocated to Yuma in 1997 and Cuffari was hired at Immaculate Conception Catholic School, teaching computers and language arts.

In 2001, after a move to Tucson, she joined the faculty at Immaculate Heart as a middle school English and literature teacher. In 2006, she became the principal; five years later, she was appointed principal at St. Augustine Catholic High School.

In 2019, Cuffari received the 32nd annual St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for her “history of dedicated service, support and leadership within the Diocese of Tucson Catholic Schools.”

Faithfully raising funds for Catholic education
Gracie Quiroz Marum is a force for good at the Catholic Tuition Scholarship Organization

CTSO Executive Director Gracie Quiroz Marum shows her surprise at being publicly honored at the Catholic Schools Seton Award Endowment Dinner and CTSO 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner held at the Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson Feb. 1. Marum has been a driving force at CTSO since its founding.

Marcy Euler, president of the CTSO Board of Directors, noted that Marum has been with the group since the beginning, even when she was still formally working on the Annual Catholic Appeal in the diocesan Development Office.

Marum’s work has been more than just soliciting businesses for donations, Euler said. Marum was a force in recommending updates to the various tuition support legislation over the years, including that which allowed corporate donations. Her priorities have always been to make Catholic education affordable. “Her passion has been serving families who otherwise would not have been able to send their children to Catholic schools and get a quality education,” said Euler. “She’s dynamic, compassionate and smart. ... She’s always on the cutting edge.”

Marum saw the advantage of inviting corporate donors to participate in the education tax break at a time when people in other scholarship organizations were targeting individuals. She had already gotten a leg up on individual givers by targeting tax preparers and financial advisors, providing them with information that they could pass along to clients. “That was just brilliant,” Euler said. “She’s an innovator who listens to her board members.”

Euler recounted a conversation she had with Marum, asking her to identify the executive director’s greatest accomplishments. Euler said Marum started with dollars raised: CTSO started with $1 million and 800 donors the first year, compared to $13 million and 4,000 donors now.

Gracie Quiroz Marum is a force for good at the Catholic Tuition Scholarship Organization

CTSO Executive Director Gracie Quiroz Marum shows her surprise at being publicly honored at the Catholic Schools Seton Award Endowment Dinner and CTSO 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner held at the Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson Feb. 1. Marum has been a driving force at CTSO since its founding.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
Donate prom dresses & shoes
520-628-7837 - inbox@svdptucson.org - www.svdptucson.org

Cuffari receives Seton Award at Catholic Schools dinner

Lynn Cuffari, principal of St. Augustine High School and 2019 Seton Award winner, poses with Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger at the Catholic Schools Endowment Dinner.
Schools’ Dahl to receive national education award

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools Sheri Dahl will receive a 2019 “Lead. Learn. Proclaim.” Award from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) for dedication and commitment to excellence in Catholic education.

Dahl is one of 27 recipients chosen from more than 150,000 teachers, administrators, diocesan leaders and organizations dedicated to the nation’s Catholic schools. She will receive the award during the annual NCEA 2019 Convention & Expo, April 23-25 in Chicago.

The annual award honors those in Catholic school education who have demonstrated a strong Catholic educational philosophy, exceptional efforts, dedication and achievements.

Dahl was hired in 2010 as assistant superintendent before becoming superintendent in 2014. She serves on the board of directors for Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) and she is also a WCEA Elementary Commissioner.

Dahl said she was grateful for the recognition and credits the Catholic Schools’ office team, school principals and other leaders for the success of southern Arizona Catholic schools.

“Most rewarding to me has been working with incredible school leaders and witnessing the positive impact their leadership development has on their school communities,” Dahl said. “That is the essence and joy of my role as superintendent.”

Dahl said that joint effort, especially when getting out the message of the affordability of Catholic education, has increased diocesan enrollment by 10 percent since 2013.

With greater emphasis placed on educating parents and school supporters about the benefits of Empowerment Scholarships and donations to the Catholic Tuition Support Organization, enrollment jumped nearly 600 students.

“We are trying to let people know that Catholic education is accessible and affordable to any family that desires it for their children,” Dahl said.

We are trying to let people know that Catholic education is accessible and affordable to any family that desires it for their children,” Dahl said.

maintaining a focus on our Catholic identity.”

Dahl even received a letter of support from out-of-state.

Karen Barreras, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Reno, Nevada, wrote that she first met Dahl through their membership in the regional Western Catholic Educational Association. The two shared an embrace of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), a program from the University of Notre Dame that helps struggling schools in mission dioceses.

“This exemplified Sheri’s commitment to Catholic education with high academic standards, especially important in mission dioceses that do not have the resources to develop or pay for high-quality professional development,” Barreras wrote.

CTS0 started with $1 million and 800 donors the first year, compared to $13 million and 6,000 donors last year. “Over the years, she has raised $124 million in scholarships,” Euler said.

tirelessly she worked to do the right things, managing each dollar entrusted to her care. I am extremely proud of her accomplishments and proud to call her my friend,” Clements said.
1. San Miguel High School senior David Amerson addresses the crowd including hundreds of Catholic school students at a Catholic Schools Week rally in Phoenix Jan. 30.

2. Bart Pemberton, of the Msgr. Donald H. Hughes Assembly Knights of Columbus, gives Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger a check Feb. 6 in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, representing the proceeds from the annual fund-raising dinner Jan. 20. The check, for $19,483, will go to help support diocesan seminary education.

3. Bishop Weisenburger joined St. Augustine Catholic High School, Tucson, leaders, in blessing a new wing of classrooms at the school Jan. 23. From left are Principal Lynn Cuffari, school board President Richard Schaefer and school President David Keller.

4. Bishop Weisenburger was the main celebrant for the annual Mass of Jubilees for Professed Religious at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Tucson, Feb. 3, and attended a lunch afterward in their honor. From left are Jesuit Father Sean Carroll, Franciscan Brother David Paz, Capuchin Father John Francis Samsa, Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity Brother Andres Rivera, Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity Leonette Kochan, Bishop Weisenburger, Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity Mary Beth Kornely, Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, Sister of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate Karen Berry, Jesuit Father Paul Gabor and Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Francesca Marti.

5. A St. Ambrose Catholic School fourth graders and mariachi players Alyssa Gonzalez and Jaeden Moreno listen to Msgr. Jeremiah McCarthy, moderator of the Curia, prior to performing at the Diocesan Pastoral Center Jan. 29 as part of the school’s Catholic Schools Week celebration. Photos on the Santa Cruz Parish anniversary will appear in the April issue of the Catholic Outlook.
**Frequently asked questions:**

**Q. What should I do when a loved one dies?**

A. When death occurs, after you provide for the initial care of the body by calling the appropriate authorities - if applicable - and the physician, you then should call the funeral home of your choice to make an appointment to discuss the funeral arrangements. You then need to call the cemetery and make an appointment to finalize the burial arrangements. Once the “business” calls are made, you should then call the relatives of the deceased to begin the process of notifying the family.

**Q. How soon after death should a person be buried?**

A. Laws vary from state to state and some limit the maximum time allowed before final disposition of an unembalmed body. However, today many funeral homes have refrigeration available and can keep a body for an indefinite amount of time. If a traditional funeral is desired, some of the things that must be considered include securing official permits and authorizations, placement of death notices, notifying friends and family, preparation of the burial site and religious requirements. Your funeral director will be well-versed on the regulations.

**Q. What happens to a grave site after burial?**

A. Graves are filled in a three-step process after the interment. After each third of the grave dirt is placed back into the grave, the soil is tamped and compacted. Settling may occur but is kept to a minimum because of the procedures used to compact the soil. Graves in grass areas are sodded or seeded in the spring or in the fall (generally during the months of March through May and September through November). If there is concern about the appearance of the grave, please notify the cemetery office and we can discuss it with you.

**Q. When I buy a grave, do I receive a deed?**

A. No. The purchase of a grave is really the purchase of the “Interment Right” which is the right to designate who may be buried in that grave and what kind of memorial is to be placed, subject to what the cemetery’s rules permit. You’re not really purchasing the grave itself. The grave remains the property and responsibility of the cemetery.

For more information, visit dotcc.org.

---

**Other online resources:**

**What to do when a loved one dies:**

**When a parent dies, this is a resource from American Hospice about how adult children can help the surviving spouse:**
https://americanhospice.org/working-through-grief/helping-a-grieving-parent/

**When an estranged child, now an adult, needs to be told about a parent’s death, from rejectedparents.net:**
https://www.rejectedparents.net/telling-an-estranged-adult-child-about-a-family-members-death-do-they-have-a-right-to-know/

**An article from Psychology Today describing how children process the idea of death:**

**A list of other resources courtesy of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:**
Church’s teaching on funerals with cremated remains

By Sister Lois Paha and Msgr. Jeremiah McCarthy

The “Order of Christian Funerals” in the Catholic Church contains the prayers and directives for the care of our deceased loved ones. In three parts, it offers the Welcoming of the Body and the celebration of a Vigil, prayers and remembrances on the evening before the Funeral Mass; and the Funeral Mass; followed by the Committal Service. This rite has been used since 1989; however, at an earlier time, the Catholic Church did approve cremation if it was done in a way respecting the holy dignity of the body of a baptized Christian. In 1997, an appendix to the Funeral Rites was included, offering a clear directive on the care of the cremated remains including their presence at the Mass of Christian Burial.

Among end of life issues when planning the details of the funeral service, cremation can sometimes be overlooked or left to someone else to carry out. The 1997 cremation directives call for the same respect for the cremated remains we give to the body of the deceased. The remains should be placed in a worthy vessel which is brought to the service with the same dignity given to the coffin carrying a body into the Church. The instructions for the final disposition of these remains tell us: “The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.” (“Order of Christian Funerals,” Appendix II, 417, 1997). The instruction also reminds us that the place of entombment should be marked in a way to memorialize the deceased.

Why does the Church offer these instructions for the care of the cremated remains, we ask? The reasons for the choice of cremation vary but the care of the body of the baptized Christian continues to be uppermost in our prayers at the passing of these loved ones from life on earth to eternal life. “This is the body once washed in baptism and anointed with the oil of salvation and fed with the Bread of Life. This is the body whose hands clothed the poor and embraced the sorrowing. ...Thus, the Church’s reverence and care for the body grows out of a reverence and concern for the person whom the Church now commends to the care of God.” (“Order of Christian Funerals,” Appendix II, 1997)

Sister Paha is an Adrian Dominican Sister and diocesan director of Pastoral Services.

Msgr. McCarthy is diocesan Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

Cost figures in decision to cremate, says Cemeteries director

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries Executive Director Tom Hanlon said three factors influence a bereaved family deciding what to do with the remains of a loved one: cost, precedence and circumstances.

Hanlon noted that while many people believe cremation and interment of an urn in the ground or a niche costs less than body burial, it very much depends on burial choices the family makes: ground or niche, fancy or less fancy urn, gravestone, etc.

Also, if niches have already been purchased and the remains of another family member are in repose there, cremation may make more sense.

Finally, if there are circumstances – such as a body that might have been ravaged, mangled or decimated in death - when there are few remains of a body because of how the person died, cremation again may be a better option.

The popularity of interment of cremated remains, known as cremains, has increased slowly but steadily at Catholic Cemeteries. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, cremains interment accounted for 32 percent of services. For the first six months of the current fiscal year, that figure was up to 34 percent.

Juventino Solano, a Catholic cemeteries representative, noted the cost of burying a body can vary widely depending on survivors’ desicions. A concrete or steel liner to protect the casket from the elements and prevent the ground above it from sinking can cost $940. An interment fee – opening the ground, recording the death, maintaining he site and equipment, setting up and breaking down the site for the interment, and other associated costs were another $1,310. A memorial stone runs another $800-$900.

Cemetery plots, if a family plot has not already been purchased, can start at $3,300, bringing the overall costs to a range starting at $6,350.

Those costs do not include funeral home expenses, including embalming of the body.

Hanlon said that in double burial plots, families can have two bodies and two cremains.

Solano noted there were several options available for cremains besides burial in full body plots. There are urn gardens, and above ground niches in mausoleums (equipped to hold full bodies as well as cremains) and columbariums (with niches solely designed for cremains).

Those costs, with everything included, range upward from $5,642. That does not include the cost of cremation.

Solano said the expenses for burial of cremains versus traditional burial can be very much the same.

Hanlon said that “given their druthers, most families would prefer burial” of an intact body.

Sloano, who has a license to run a cremator – a facility that cremates human remains – cautions families against choosing cremation on the basis of price alone. He said families and loved ones should investigate carefully and read reviews and reports about companies conducting cremations before choosing who will provide the service.

Mourners deserve the peace of mind that the remains they are
Trip to Uganda sends Sahuarita pastor home packing new lessons

By MICHAEL BROWN
Managing Editor

Thin and short, Rosa, 97, had migrated 10 times through the desert from her native South Sudan, to the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Uganda. Father Juan Carlos Aguirre, pastor of San Martin de Porres in Sahuarita and global ambassador for Catholic Relief Services, visited Uganda in January and was impressed by Rosa’s determination and her will to survive.

“She sells brooms that she makes by hand for two dollars” to supplement the food allocation she receives from the United Nations’ World Food Programme, he said.

Rosa is lucky. She and another family member are one of the nearly 1,500 fortunate recipients of a housing unit built by CRS during the last two years. Each of the domiciles consists of a single unit, with two “rooms” separated by a divider, and a detached latrine.

In a refugee settlement that hosts almost 300,000 people, most of whom live in stick shacks covered by donated tarps, the CRS “homes” can’t come fast enough.

Father Aguirre recalled attending a meeting with angry residents who have waited and will continue to wait for years to get a chance for the kind of shelter

Rosa, center, is 97 and has migrated to Uganda as a refugee 10 times from South Sudan. Here she stands with the delegation from Catholic Relief Services, including Sahuarita pastor Father Juan Carlos Aguirre, in the blue shirt standing in the doorway of her new home.

Hanlon continued from page 11
being given are really those of their loved one, he said. “You get what you pay for,” he said.

Hanlon noted that buried urns still need casings, although he added that some products recently on the market can double as both urns and casings, with brass plates identifying the cremains, and that are suitable for use in churches.

Sometimes, if a family is dealing with one parent who has died and another one that is ailing, family members will request a delay in the interment of the decedent pending the death of the one that is ailing. Hanlon said he tries to accommodate that request, rather than having to charge two interim fees over a short period of time.

What’s a reasonable amount of time?
“I can’t answer that. You would have to go to your parish priest,” he said.

Sometimes, a family deals with financial hardship and can’t inter the ashes right away.

Hanlon noted.

Catholic Cemeteries here in the Diocese will work with the family to defer interment of the cremains until the family can afford it, “but arrangements have to be made because they (the family) can’t keep the remains indefinitely,” he said.

Hanlon said he travels to about 12 parishes a year to host brief presentations, followed by question-and-answer sessions to explain the services Catholic Cemeteries provide.

“We start by talking about the Catholic funeral liturgy and talk about the rite,” Hanlon said. “We run through all the arrangements that Catholics have to make.”

Most information is conveyed during the question-and-answer period, he added. The entire meeting usually takes about 90 minutes and is very well received.

“The people who come tell us they feel really well served,” said Hanlon.

In 2017, the Cemeteries office converted crypt space to be used as urn niches when it became clear that some families had been holding on to cremains for years without a plan or the resources for a proper burial.

Hanlon said the cemeteries would consider repeating that program but had no time frame for when it would happen.

“I am here (and available) as a global fellow as an ambassador and educator, where I speak for CRS and appreciate the support from Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger for that part of his ministry, he does not have any future trips scheduled yet.

“I am here (and available) as long as they (CRS officials) want me to go,” he said.
Vatican summit: Great expectations to practical outcomes

By CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — All eyes and ears will be on the Vatican during an unprecedented gathering Feb. 21-24 to discuss the protection of minors in the Catholic Church.

When Pope Francis announced the international meeting in September, it sparked an optimistic note that the global problem of abuse finally would be tackled with a concerted, coordinated, global effort.

The breadth of the potential impact seemed to be reflected in the list of those convoked to the meeting: the presidents of all the world’s bishops’ conferences, the heads of the Eastern Catholic churches, representatives of the leadership groups of men’s and women’s religious orders and the heads of major Vatican offices.

The pope tried to dial down what he saw as “inflated expectations” for the meeting, telling reporters in January that “the problem of abuse will continue. It’s a human problem” that exists everywhere.

Many survivors and experts, too, have cautioned that it was unrealistic to assume such a brief meeting could deliver a panacea for abuse and its cover-up.

So, what should people expect from the four-day meeting? The following five points hit the highlights:

1. It will be first and foremost about raising awareness, including that the scandal of abuse is not a “Western” problem, but happens in every country.

To make that point clear, the organizing committee asked every participating bishop to sit down with a survivor of abuse before coming to Rome and hear that “Me, too,” from a person of his own country, culture and language.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, who is moderating the meeting, said there would be between 160 and 180 participants. He told reporters Feb. 12 to expect the presidents of about 115 bishops’ conferences, a dozen heads of Eastern churches, prefects of Vatican congregations directly involved with Vatican norms regarding abuse and negligence, eight delegates from the men’s Union of Superiors General, 10 delegates from the women’s International Union of Superiors General, three members of the pope’s Council of Cardinals who are not presidents of their bishops’ conference and four members of the organizing committee.

Everyone invited will be expected to learn what his or her responsibilities are as a leader or a bishop and to know the church laws and procedures that already exist to protect the young.

2. Organizers hope that by listening to victims and leaders who have learned things the hard way, participants will be inspired to adopt a culture of accountability and transparency.

Hearing what abuse and negligence have done to people has the power to transform the listener, “to truly open the mind and heart,” Jesuit Father Hans Zollner told reporters Feb. 12.

Just to be sure those voices are heard, the meeting will also feature testimonies from survivors from countries where the reality of abuse is still largely ignored, said the priest, an abuse expert who is part of the meeting’s organizing committee.

He said the word “accountability” doesn’t even exist in many languages, which often means that culture might lack a clear or coherent understanding of this key concept.

For that reason, the summit will devote a day to discussing accountability and “what structures, procedures and methods are effective” and viable in the Catholic Church, he said.

Church leaders must know what the norms are, he said, but the meeting also will stress that the procedures themselves “will not magically solve a problem.”

For example, he said, it was “a source of delusion” for US Catholics when the 2002 Dallas Charter did not fix everything.

In fact, the meeting will not be about producing any documents, but pushing people to take the needed steps toward greater transparency and accountability, Father Lombardi said.

Those steps already are spelled out, he said, in Pope Francis’ 2016 document, “As a Loving Mother,” on the accountability of bishops and religious superiors.

“It must be put into practice effectively,” he said, adding that he was “convinced and firmly hope that this meeting will give a push in that direction.”

3. There will be a kind of “parallel assembly” as large numbers of survivors and advocacy groups converge on Rome to call for greater accountability, action and reform.

A variety of events are planned, including an evening “Vigil for Justice” near the Vatican and a “March for Zero Tolerance” to St. Peter’s Square, but a major focus will be media outreach and getting

the voice and recommendations of laypeople and victims — many who had gone unheard for years — listened to.

4. Pope Francis will be present throughout the meeting, which will include plenary sessions, working groups, prayer, a penitential liturgy and a closing Mass.

In letters to the bishops of Chile and the US, Pope Francis has made clear what he thinks the Church needs to do to respond to the abuse crisis.

Administrative solutions involving new policies and norms are not enough, he has said.

He told Chile’s bishops that abuse and its cover-up “are indicators that something is bad in the Church body.”

Therefore, they must not only “address the concrete cases,” but also “discover the dynamics that made it possible for such attitudes and evils to occur.”

Those attitudes are driven by the temptation “to save ourselves, to save our reputation,” he told the Chilean bishops.

In his letter to the US bishops, he warned against the tendency to play the victim, to scold, discredit, disparage others and point fingers.

5. Expect the meeting to be one critical step along a very long journey that began decades ago and must continue.

Further measures will be taken after the meeting, Father Zollner has said. For instance, a task force made up of child protection experts “will probably be instituted in the various continents” to help bishops create, strengthen and implement guidelines.

The different “teams” of the task force should be able to help “for years to come to measure the success of this exercise of realizing one’s own responsibility, even on the global level, in the face of public expectations,” he told the Vatican newspaper in January.

Even though the church is well aware of larger, related problems of abuses of power, conscience and abuse and violence against seminarians, religious women and other adults, the meeting will focus exclusively on protecting minors from abuse, Fathers Zollner and Lombardi said.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden in Rome.
‘Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ’

Last in a 10-part series.

By CACKIE UPCHURCH
Director, Little Rock Scripture Study

Centuries ago, in caves believed to be located beneath what is now the Church of St. Catherine in Bethlehem, a man by the name of Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus began an arduous task. He studied Hebrew so that he could translate the Old Testament into Latin, the language of the people in the Roman Empire. He produced numerous biblical commentaries.

Better known to us as St. Jerome, this scholar was far from perfect. It is said that he was “intemperate in controversy,” “singularly agitated, impatient, and proud,” and that his harsh opinions made him so unpopular in the Roman church that his time in Bethlehem was in fact self-imposed exile.

St. Jerome’s years of biblical study could have led him to an additional and certain arrogance but instead, in the midst of it all, he offered this gem: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

Think for a moment of the many ways Jesus reveals God’s love. He gathers children to his side, those who were counted among the least in his day. He touches the unclean and heals the sick, restoring them to their communities. He forgives sinners, even some who do not think themselves worthy of forgiveness and do not ask for it (such as the Samaritan woman at the well).

Jesus calls out hypocrisy, providing an opportunity for repentance and conversion. He speaks the truth even when it is difficult to hear. He assures those who are anxious and proves himself worthy of trust. He nourishes the crowds with fish and bread and solid teaching. He entrusts his mission to his followers. He sacrifices his own life for our sake. He shares eternal life with mere mortals like us.

This love of God revealed in Jesus is not reserved for the afterlife, but is real and tangible, something to be seen and tasted and felt. It creates the foundation for a fully human life, even in times of peril. Paul writes words of assurance to Jesus’ followers in Rome who are suffering persecution, telling them that absolutely nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus: “In all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us” (see Rom 8:37-39).

In John’s Gospel, Jesus tells his followers, then and now, that the love he has for us is personal, intimate and life-changing: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love… Love one another as I love you” (Jn 15:9, 12). Our experiences of God’s love move us to love, taking Jesus and his actions as our guide. Of course, that may be easier said than done.

It is difficult, for example, to love an enemy, to be single-hearted, and to reserve judgment about others. While these challenges are real, they are nonetheless part of the mandate given us by Jesus in his preaching (Mt 5-7, Sermon on the Mount; Lk 6, Sermon on the Plain). These actions and others are signs of the love we receive, and a reminder that God’s love is not a possession to be guarded but a gift to be shared.

So, why bother with the Bible? Because it reveals God’s love for us, and because God’s love is transformative.

Some people describe the Bible as a school or a library, a place of learning and understanding. However, the Bible could also be described as a sanctuary, a place of God’s presence set aside for true encounter with the Divine. When we open our Bibles, I hope we come with both expectations—eager to learn and to discover new understandings, and equally eager to respond to God’s initiative and to grow in love.

Study Questions

Typically, when you read the Bible, what do you expect to find there? How do your expectations help to shape the experience of reading and praying with Scripture?

“Jesus loves me.” How has your understanding of this simple statement changed over the years? What more do you understand about Jesus? About love?

When you consider the ways that Jesus revealed God’s love, what strikes you as the most surprising? The most challenging? The most comforting?

Why do you bother with the Bible? Why would you encourage others to do the same?

This article was originally published in Arkansas Catholic Nov. 10, 2018. Copyright Diocese of Little Rock. All rights reserved.
Este es el 10º artículo de una serie de diez.

POR CACKIE UPCHURCH
Directora del Estudio Bíblico de Little Rock

Hace siglos, en cuevas que se creen estaban situadas bajo lo que es ahora la Iglesia de santa Catalina en Belén, un hombre llamado Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus, comenzó una tarea ardua. Estudió hebreo para poder traducir el Antiguo Testamento al latín, la lengua del pueblo del imperio romano. Produjo también numerosos comentarios bíblicos.

Mejor conocido como san Jerónimo, este experto estaba lejos de ser perfecto. Se dice que era “impulsivo en controversias,” “particularmente nervioso, impaciente y orgulloso,” y estas duras opiniones lo hicieron tan antipático a la iglesia romana, que su tiempo en Belén fue, de hecho, un auto-exilio.

Los años de estudio bíblico de san Jerónimo podrían haberle llevado a todavía más arrogancia; embargo, en medio de todo esto, proporcionó esta joya de pensamiento: “La ignorancia de la Escritura es ignorancia de Cristo.” A pesar de todos sus avances intelectuales, todo se redujo a la necesidad de encontrarse con Cristo en las Escrituras, la Palabra de Dios que sigue estando viva y relevante en todo tiempo.

En el curso de esta serie de diez partes nos hemos preguntado, “¿Por qué fastidiarse con la Biblia?” En último término, “nos fastidiamos” porque la Biblia es un lugar de encuentro. Proporciona la oportunidad no solo de aprender de Jesús, sino de conocerle en un modo íntimo y en relación cercana.

Del mismo modo, nos damos cuenta de que Jesús nos conoce, a cada uno, y su modo de conocer es amar. Hay un canto infantil en inglés que dice esta verdad: “Jesús me ama, lo sé, porque me lo dice la Biblia.”

Pienso por un momento en todos los modos en que Jesús revela el amor de Dios. Reúne a los niños a su lado, los que habían sido considerados lo menos en su tiempo. Toca a los impuros y sana a los enfermos, regresándolos a sus comunidades. Perdona a los pecadores, incluso a quienes no se consideran dignos de perdón y no lo piden (como por ejemplo la Samaritana en el pozo).

Jesús denuncia la hipocresía, proporcionando una oportunidad de arrepentimiento y conversión. Dice la verdad incluso cuando es difícil de escuchar. Asegura a quienes están ansiosos y se muestra digno de confianza. Nutre a las multitudes con pescado y pan y enseñanza sólida. Confía su misión a sus seguidores. Sacrifica su propia vida por nuestro bien. Comparte la vida eterna con simples mortales como nosotros.

Este amor de Dios que se revela en Jesús no se reserve para la otra vida, sino que es real y tangible, algo que se be y se gusta y se siente. Crea el fundamento de una vida plenamente humana, incluso en momentos de peligro. Pablo escribe palabras de seguridad a los seguidores de Jesús en Roma que sufre la persecución, diciéndoles que nada, absolutamente nada puede separarlos del amor de Dios en Cristo Jesús. “En todas estas cosas, vencemos por aquél que nos amó” (ver Rom 8,37-39).

En el evangelio de Juan, Jesús les dice a sus seguidores, entonces y ahora, que el amor que tiene por nosotros es personal, íntimo y transformador de la vida: “Como el Padre me ama, así los amo a ustedes. Permanezcan en mi amor… Aménse unos a otros como yo los he amado” (Juan 15, 9 y 12). Nuestras experiencias del amor de Dios nos mueven a amar, tomando como guía a Jesús y sus acciones. Por supuesto, esto es más fácil decirlo que hacerlo.

Es difícil, por ejemplo, amar a un enemigo, tener pureza de intención, y reservarse el juicio sobre otros. Mientras que estos desafíos son reales, sin embargo son parte del mandato que nos dio Jesús en su predicación (Mt 5-7, Sermón de la Montaña; Lc 6, Sermón de la Llanura). Estas acciones y otras son signos del amor que recibimos, y un recordatorio de que el amor de Dios no es una posesión a guardar, sino un don a compartir.

Así que, ¿por qué fastidiarse con la Biblia? Porque revela el amor de Dios por nosotros. Y porque el amor de Dios es transformador.

Algunas personas describen la Biblia como una escuela o biblioteca, un lugar de aprendizaje y comprensión. Pero la Biblia también se puede describir como santuario, un lugar para la presencia de Dios dedicada al verdadero encuentro con lo divino. Cuando abramos nuestras Bíblias, espero que lleguemos con ambas expectativas —ansiosos de aprender y descubrir nuevas luces, e igualmente ansiosos de responder a la iniciativa de Dios y crecer en el amor.

Preguntas para la reflexión o discusión:

Normalmente, cuando lees la Biblia, ¿qué esperas encontrar ahí? ¿Cómo ayudan tus expectativas a formar la experiencia de leer y orar con la Escritura?

“Jesús me ama.” ¿Cómo ha cambiado a lo largo de los años tu comprensión de esta simple declaración? ¿Qué más entiendes sobre Jesús? ¿Sobre el amor?

Cuando consideras los modos en que Jesús reveló el amor de Dios, ¿qué te llama la atención como más sorprendente? ¿Qué es lo más desafiante? ¿Qué es lo más consolador?

¿Por qué te molestas en leer la Biblia? ¿Por qué animarias a otros a hacer lo mismo?

Este artículo fue originalmente publicado en el Arkansas Catholic el 10 de noviembre de 2018. Derechos de autor Diócesis de Little Rock. Todos los derechos son reservados.
Cumbre del Vaticano sobre abuso tiene metas claves y realistas

Por CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO —

Mucho ojos y oídos se dirigirán en la dirección del Vaticano del 21 al 24 de febrero, cuando se llevará a cabo una reunión sin precedentes para debatir el tema de la protección de menores en la Iglesia Católica.

Cuando el papa Francisco anunció la reunión internacional en septiembre, la misma generó un toque de optimismo de que el problema global del abuso finalmente sería encarado con un esfuerzo concertado, coordinado y global.

El alcance de las potenciales repercusiones parecía reflejarse en la lista de los convocados a la reunión: los presidentes de todas las conferencias episcopales del mundo, los líderes de las iglesias católicas orientales, representantes de los grupos de liderazgo de las órdenes religiosas de hombres y mujeres y los jefes de las principales oficinas del Vaticano.

Pero el papa trató de calmar lo que vio como “exageradas expectativas” sobre la reunión, diciéndoles a reporteros en enero que “el problema del abuso continuará. Es un problema humano” que existe en todas partes.

Además, muchas víctimas y expertos han advertido que es poco realista asumir que una reunión breve de este tipo podría ofrecer una cura milagrosa para el abuso y su encubrimiento.

Así que, ¿qué debería esperar la gente de esta reunión de cuatro días? A continuación, los cinco puntos más destacados al respecto:

1. Será la primera y principal reunión para crear conciencia, incluso de que el escándalo del abuso sexual no es un problema del “occidente” sino que sucede en todos los países.

Para aclarar ese punto, el comité organizador le pidió a cada obispo participante que se reunía con una víctima de abuso antes de llegar a Roma y escuche ese “Yo también” de una persona de su propio país, cultura e idioma.

El padre jesuita Federico Lombardi, quien ha de moderar el encuentro, dijo que hará entre 160 a 180 participantes.

Les informó a reporteros el 12 de febrero que se espera a los presidentes de aproximadamente 115 conferencias episcopales, 12 líderes de iglesias orientales, prefectos de las congregaciones del Vaticano directamente involucrados con las normas vaticanas sobre abuso y negligencia, ocho delegados de la Unión de Superiores Generales de congregaciones religiosas masculinas, 10 delegadas de la Unión Internacional de Superiores Generales de Congregaciones Religiosas, tres miembros del Consejo de Cardenales del papa que no presiden su conferencia episcopal y cuatro miembros del comité organizador de la reunión.

2. Los organizadores esperan que al escuchar a las víctimas y a los líderes que han aprendido del modo más difícil, los participantes sean inspirados a adoptar una cultura de fiscalización y transparencia.

Escuchar como el abuso y la negligencia han afectado a la gente tiene el poder de transformar a los oyentes y “abrir verdaderamente la mente y el corazón”, dijo el padre jesuita Hans Zollner el 12 de febrero a reporteros.

Sólo para asegurarse de que esas voces sean escuchadas, la reunión también presentará testimonios de víctimas de países donde la realidad del abuso es aún ampliamente ignorada — dijo el sacerdote, un experto en este tema de abuso que integra el comité organizador del encuentro.

Explicó que la palabra “fiscalización” ni siquiera existe en muchos idiomas, lo cual también implicará el que la cultura puede carecer de un claro y coherente entendimiento de este concepto clave.

Por esa razón, la cumbre dedicará una jornada a debatir la fiscalización y cuales “estructuras, procedimientos y métodos son efectivos” y viables en la Iglesia Católica — dijo.

Según los líderes de la iglesia deben saber lo que son las normas, dijo Zollner, pero la reunión también enfatizará que los procedimientos en sí mismos “no resolverán mágicamente el problema”.

Por ejemplo, dijo, la Carta de Dallas para la protección de menores en 2002 fue “una fuente de decepciones” para los católicos de Estados Unidos porque no solucionó nada.

De hecho, el encuentro no implica la elaboración de ningún documento, sino impulsar a las personas a tomar los pasos necesarios hacia una mayor transparencia y fiscalización, dijo el padre Lombardi.

3. Habrá un tipo de “asamblea paralela” cuando un gran número de víctimas y grupos de activistas converjan en Roma para pedir una mayor fiscalización, acción y reforma.

Se ha planificado una variedad de actividades, incluyendo una “Vigilia por la Justicia” cerca del Vaticano y una “Marcha por la Cero Tolerancia” en la Plaza de San Pedro, pero el enfoque principal será la difusión por los medios de comunicación para lograr que la voz y las recomendaciones de los laicos y las víctimas — muchos de ellos han sido oídos durante años — sean escuchadas.

4. El papa Francisco estará presente durante toda la reunión, la cual incluye sesiones plenarias, grupos de trabajo, oración, liturgia penitencial y Misa de clausura.

En cartas a los obispos de Chile y Estados Unidos, el pontífice ha dejado en claro lo que considera que la iglesia necesita hacer para responder a la crisis de los abusos sexuales.

Soluciones administrativas que abarquen nuevas políticas y normas, no es suficiente — dijo.

Agregó que el abuso por parte de los obispos de Chile y posterior encubrimiento, “son indicadores de que algo está mal en el cuerpo de la iglesia”.

Por lo tanto, ellos no deben solamente “resolver los casos concretos”, sino también “descubrir las dinámicas que hicieron posible que tales actitudes y maldades ocurrieran”.

Esas actitudes son impulsadas por la tentación de “salvarnos nosotros mismos, salvar nuestra reputación”, les dijo a los obispos chilenos.

En su carta a los obispos estadounidenses, el papa alertó contra la tendencia a hacerse la víctima, sermonear, desacreditar, menospreciar a los demás y acusar.
Enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre funerales con restos cremados

Por Hna. Lois Paha y Mons. Jeremiah McCarthy

La Orden de los Funerales Cristianos de la Iglesia católica contiene las oraciones y directivas para el cuidado de nuestros seres queridos que han fallecido. En tres partes, ofrece el recibimiento del cuerpo y vigilía, oraciones y tiempo para recordar la vida del difunto. La Orden de los Funerales Cristianos, con sede en Washington, D.C., ha estado trabajando para reconocer la cremación como una opción viable. Hanlon señaló que si bien la cremación ha sido una opción en algunos países durante décadas, los cristianos solo han empezado a incorporarla en sus prácticas en los últimos años.

El director ejecutivo de Los Cementerios Diocesanos, Tom Hanlon, dijo que cuando una familia va a decidir cómo disponer de los restos de un ser querido considera tres factores: costo, precedente y circunstancias.

Hanlon señaló que si bien muchas personas creen que cremar los restos y enterrar la urna en el suelo o depositarla en un nicho cuesta menos que enterrar el cuerpo, todo depende de las opciones que elijan: tierra o nicho, una urna elegante o sencilla, la lápida, etc.

Si ya se ha comprado un nicho y los restos de otro miembro de la familia están descansando allí, tendría más sentido optar por la cremación.

Por último, si hay circunstancias como las de un cuerpo desfigurado o mutilado en que no tendría sentido enterrar el cuerpo, la cremación también podría ser una mejor opción.

La popularidad del entierro de restos cremados ha ido aumentando lenta pero constantemente en los cementerios católicos. En el año fiscal que cerró el 30 de junio de 2018, este tipo de entierro representaba el 32 por ciento de los servicios. Ya en los primeros seis meses del año fiscal actual la figura había ascendido a 34%.

El artículo continúa en la página 18.
Fielmente recaudando fondos para la educación católica

Gracie Quiroz Marum es una fuerza para el bien en la Organización de Matrículas de Escuelas Católicas

Por MICHAEL BROWN

Director editorial

La Organización de Matrículas de Escuelas Católicas (CTSO) ha cumplido 20 años, un hito celebrado con una cena que tuvo lugar en febrero.

Líderes y miembros de la mesa directiva de la CTSO atribuyen el éxito de esta organización a su directora ejecutiva, Gracie Quiroz Marum.

Marcy Euler, presidenta de la mesa directiva de la CTSO, señaló que Marum ha colaborado con el grupo desde un principio, aun cuando formalmente trabajaba con la Campaña Católica Anual en la Oficina de Desarrollo de la diócesis.

El trabajo de Marum ha ido más allá de solicitar donaciones de empresas, dijo Euler. En el transcurso de los años, Marum ha contribuido a la redacción de revisiones para legislación de apoyo a las matrículas, incluyendo la que permitió las donaciones corporativas. Sus prioridades siempre se han orientado a lograr que la educación católica sea más asequible.

“Su pasión ha sido servir a familias que de otra manera no habrían podido brindar a sus hijos una educación de calidad en escuelas católicas”, dijo Euler. “Ella es dinámica, compasiva en escuelas católicas”, dijo Euler.

Euler refirió una conversación que tuvo con Marum en la cual le pidió que identificara los logros más grandes. Lo primero que Marum citó fue el dinero recaudado:

CTSO empezó con $1 millón y 800 donantes en su primer año, y el año pasado llegó a $13 millones y 6.000 donantes. “En los 20 años ha recaudado $124 millones en becas”, dijo Euler.

“Ella (Marum) nos llamó a mí y a Julieta Gonzalez (empleada de la CTSO de mucho tiempo) y fuimos a llenar las solicitudes nosotros. Al final del día habíamos hecho las de todos los estudiantes”, dijo Euler.

“Ella siempre piensa en lo que viene”, dijo Nedder. “Siempre está pensando en qué más podría hacer”. Ginny L. Clements, antes presidenta de la CTSO, dijo de Marum “es la trabajadora más dedicada que conozco. Le encanta lo que hace y eso se nota en lo que ha logrado en los últimos 20 años ayudando a los niños que quieren una educación católica”.

“Como presidenta pasada de la CTSO, la he visto trabajar incansablemente para hacer todo de la mejor manera, administrando cuidadosamente cada dólar confiado a su cuidado. Estoy sumamente orgullosa de sus logros y orgullosa de decir que es mi amiga”, dijo Clements.

CTSO empezó con $1 millón y 800 donantes en su primer año, y el año pasado llegó a $13 millones y 6.000 donantes. “En los 20 años ha recaudado $124 millones en becas”, dijo Euler.
CUARESMA
Una temporada de reflexión, preparación y renovación.

Reglas para el ayuno y la abstinencia en la Cuaresma

El Miércoles de Ceniza (6 de marzo) y el Viernes Santo (19 de abril) son días de ayuno y abstinencia obligatorios para los católicos. Además, durante la Cuaresma, todos los viernes son días de abstinencia obligatoria. Las normas del ayuno se aplican a los miembros de la Iglesia Católica Romana de 18 a 59 años. Durante el ayuno, se permite consumir una comida completa y dos pequeñas que, combinadas, sean menos que una comida completa. Las normas de la abstinencia de carne son obligatorias para católicos mayores de 14 años.

Plato de Arroz: reflexiones de Cuaresma fáciles de digerir

Para los católicos que deseen tener una experiencia espiritual más profunda en esta Cuaresma, un programa de Catholic Relief Services llamado Operación Plato de Arroz, ofrece una variedad de ejercicios. Los encontrará bajo la pestaña “Reflexiones” de la página web crsricebowl.org/es/.

¿Qué es la Cuaresma?

La Cuaresma es un tiempo de preparación; un viaje de 40 días de oración, ayuno y donativos que se extiende desde el Miércoles de Ceniza hasta la Semana Santa, culminando en la gran celebración de la Pascua. Como católicos, el Catecismo invita a los católicos a abstenerse de comer carne los viernes durante la Cuaresma. Además de los viernes sin carne, los católicos también están invitados a ofrecer sacrificios diarios. Al renunciar a pequeñas cosas –café, dulces y más– dejamos espacio para que Dios actúe en nuestra vida de nuevas maneras.

¿A qué debo renunciar durante la Cuaresma?

El Catecismo invita a los católicos a abstenerse de comer carne los viernes durante la Cuaresma. Además de los viernes sin carne, los católicos también están invitados a ofrecer sacrificios diarios. Al renunciar a pequeñas cosas –café, dulces y más– dejamos espacio para que Dios actúe en nuestra vida de nuevas maneras.

Los donativos de Cuaresma cambian vidas

Nuestros donativos tienen el poder de transformar el mundo. Durante la Cuaresma, Plato de Arroz de CRS te invita a reflexionar sobre algunas de las vidas que han cambiado a través de los donativos de Cuaresma. Lee historias de la cruz. Mientras caminamos con Jesús durante la Semana Santa, recordamos las familias.

Semana Santa

El Domingo de Ramos marca el principio de la Semana Santa, uno de los momentos más significativos del año para la Iglesia. Durante esa semana, caminamos con Cristo desde su entrada triunfal en Jerusalén hasta su última cena con sus amigos más allegados, y por último hasta su muerte en la cruz. Mientras caminamos con Jesús durante la Semana Santa, recordamos a los innumerables hombres, mujeres y niños que aún hoy cargan cruces pesadas: la cruz del hambre, de vivir en la calle, de escasez de recursos o falta de seguridad. En estos hermanos y hermanas encontramos a Cristo, Cristo que continúa andando por el largo camino al Calvario.

Estaciones de la cruz

Camina junto a Jesús en el recorrido hacia el Calvario en este Via Crucis inspirado en la enseñanza social católica. También hay un retiro de Cuaresma llamado “Compañeros en el camino”.

Preguntas y respuestas sobre la Cuaresma y las prácticas cuaresmales

Del sitio web usccb.org

P. ¿Por qué decimos que hay cuarenta días en la Cuaresma? Cuando contamos todos los días desde el Miércoles de Ceniza hasta el Sábado Santo, son 46 días.

R. Podría ser más exacto decir que hay “cuarenta días de ayuno dentro de la Cuaresma”. Históricamente, la Cuaresma ha variado de una semana a tres semanas hasta la configuración presente de 46 días. El ayuno de cuarenta días, sin embargo, ha sido más estable. Los domingos de Cuaresma son, ciertamente, parte del Tiempo de Cuaresma, pero no están prescritos como días de ayuno y abstinencia.

P. ¿Así que eso quiere decir que cuando renunciámos a algo para la Cuaresma, como dulces, los podemos comer los domingos?

R. Aparte de los días prescritos de ayuno y abstinencia el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo, y los días de abstinencia tradicionalmente eligen otras formas de prácticas penitenciales para todo el Tiempo de Cuaresma. Estas prácticas tienen naturaleza disciplinar y a menudo son más eficaces si son continuas, es decir, si se observan también los domingos. Dicho esto, tales prácticas no están reguladas por la Iglesia, sino por la conciencia individual.

P. ¿Comprendo que los católicos de entre los 18 y los 59 años deben ayunar el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo, pero exactamente ¿cuáles son las reglas para esos ayunos?

R. El ayunar en esos días quiere decir que podemos tener solamente una comida sin carne en el día. Se puede comer algo en otros momentos del día, si es necesario, pero combinados, deberían ser menos que una comida completa. Se permiten líquidos en cualquier momento, pero no se deben consumir sólidos entre comidas.

P. ¿Hay excepciones que no sean de edad de los requisitos de ayunar el Miércoles de Ceniza o el Viernes Santo?

R. Quienes están excluidos del ayuno y la abstinencia son de edad, incluyendo a las personas con enfermedades mentales o físicas, incluyendo a quienes sufren enfermedades crónicas, tales como los diabéticos. También se excluye a las mujeres embarazadas o lactantes. En todos los casos, debe prevalecer el sentido común, y las personas enfermas no deberían poner más en peligro su salud al ayunar.
There’s still time!

Use your tax dollars to give them an outstanding Catholic education... at ZERO cost to you.

It’s easy to give them a gift that will change their lives and make sure they’re college ready. Make your gift to CTSO – up to $2,213 and $1,107*— by April 15th.

For more information, contact any of the CTSO schools or call us at (520) 838-2558 or mail your check to PO Box 31, Tucson, Arizona 85702.

*Arizona now allows contributions up to $2,213 for a couple filing jointly and $1,107 for an individual as long as it doesn’t exceed your tax liability. Contributions made in 2018 and up to April 15, 2019 may qualify for tax credits on your 2018 Arizona state return. SDOs cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely based on a donor’s recommendation. Taxpayers may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer’s own dependent.