

e-Echo

e-Newsletter of the
Department of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Mobile
January 2021

—January 14

[Venerable Anne de Guigné](#)

1911-1922

She lived, prayed and suffered for others. At an early age, she suffered from rheumatism and so knew what suffering meant. She would immediately offer it, saying: “Jesus, I offer it to you” or “Oh no, I am not suffering, I am learning how to suffer”.



Merry Christmas!

Don't you just love being Catholic? While others celebrate the birth of Our Lord for just one day, we celebrate for a whole season! Keep the joy and celebrations going!

We pray that this has been a wonderful season for each of you—it's probably been different than past year's celebrations, but different doesn't necessarily mean bad. I watched a video on Facebook yesterday (it just happened to pop up after a video that I was listening to while preparing dinner finished) and it was a comedy sketch comparing December 2019 and December 2020. The video switched back and forth between 2019 - where the mom was running on overdrive, trying to have the “perfect Christmas” and 2020—where the mom was so laid back about everything—even hygiene—that it was humorous. But, through the humor, a truth emerged. To quote Dr. Seuss, “He puzzled and puzzled till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe Christmas, he thought...doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps...means a little bit more!” I hope that we remember the lessons of 2020 as we go forward into the unknown of 2021. May our attitudes be forever changed and we focus more on relationships than things. I pray that our old habits competition and “one-ups” will be forgotten and new habits of appreciation, love and forgiveness will settle in their place.

As you make plans for this new year, I hope that those plans include emphases on “the Eucharist and the Parish”. What are you doing to help educate your parish about the beauty of the Real Presence? Does your average parishioner know about the opportunities for service in your parish? Does the average parishioner know of the joy that comes from serving others through parish ministries? Now is the time to talk with your ministry teams about your plans for the upcoming year. The OEFL has a number of resources that will soon be coming your way. Lesson plans for two sessions for school-aged children and youth will soon be in your inboxes shortly. Our theme for this year's One Faith One Family Conference will be “Eucharist and the Parish”, and we're taking the “parish” portion of our theme very seriously—instead of calling everyone out of their parishes to gather together as an archdiocese, we're bringing the conference to each parish! More information about One Faith One Family will be going out to pastors soon, but in the meantime, be sure to keep the afternoon of April 24th on your parish calendar open!

Finally, our schools begin their week of remote learning this week and prepare for the return of in person instruction next week. Our parishes will soon be gathering back for Religious Education classes both in person and remotely. As you

make your plans, please keep the parents of your students in mind. How can you help the parents of your students in their role of primary educators of the faith? Many parents are open to new ideas this time of year. What kind of suggestions could you offer? Perhaps share articles and blog posts as you come across them on Facebook and other social media outlets? [This article](#) on Holy Habits has been in my FB newsfeed numerous times this week and may be a good one to share. We don't need to overwhelm our parents with a lot of things, but we do need to try to reach them where they are and help guide them along the way. Let's learn from 2020 and concentrate on enhancing the relationships we have with all those in our ministry—especially parents!

Here's to a bright 2021!



[St. Genoveva Torres Moarales](#) —January 5

1870-1956

Spanish, Foundress of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Angels (The Angelicas)

From the Youth Ministry Office:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope and pray that your parish's celebrations were blessed, and that you had an opportunity for rest and renewal in the joy of our Savior's birth. I also hope that the young people you accompany are blessed as we begin the new calendar year.

Here is the update for January 2021:

Approvals for youth and young adult ministry trips or other activities off parish property will now be given by Mr. Adam Ganucheau, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Youth ministry leaders should ask for such permissions after first receiving approval from their pastors.



Transmission rates remain high in our state and country. While we are hopeful that the vaccine will continue to be produced and distributed swiftly, we must remain vigilant in doing our part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

At this time, our office has not approved any youth trips for January 2021 and beyond for the time being. We continue to monitor the conditions around COVID, and make approvals on a case by case basis.

The Alabama Department of Public Health has adjusted close contact quarantine timeline from 14 days to 10 days. An email with more information was sent to the YML email server list on December 16, 2020.

It's the Year of the Eucharist and the Parish! I'd love to hear your ideas for celebrating this year with young people and their families. If you have any resources or materials that would be appropriate for the website dedicated to this Year, please let me know as well. If you do anything such as youth group nights, retreats, reflections, or other activities around the Eucharist and the Parish, please let me know!

Search Retreat 24 will be February 5-7, 2021, at Children's Harbor on Lake Martin. We have reached capacity and a wait list has begun. If you have a teen who would like to sign up for the wait list in the event that someone may not be able to participate, please have them register on our website: www.mobarch.org/searchretreat

Arch Mob Youth Fest is our alternate event for ACYC this year. A letter is being mailed to all pastors with some general information.

Our office will provide the template and framework for each parish to implement the event at their own campus, safely, with their young people. In essence, we're providing the "youth group night" or "Life Night" materials in the form of pre-recorded videos and schedule.

We know parishes have a varying degree of technology on campus, so all content will be pre-recorded. This will include opening and closing remarks, keynotes, and breakout sessions. However, prayer experiences such as Mass and adoration is best experienced in person, so we are not planning to stream Mass or adoration.

The theme of Arch Mob Youth Fest is "Infinite." We are using Blessed Carlo Acutis as our inspiration, and we pray that a young person who is on the road to canonization inspires our young people. We also hope that this event ties into the Year of the Eucharist and the Parish.

The content will be provided through a password-protected website. Videos will not be available until the last week of February so that parishes can begin Arch Mob Youth Fest on Friday February 26, when we would have begun ACYC.

More information, including the logo and a link to an online store (what's a youth event without a t-shirt?), will be provided through our YML email server list.

Though we are not traveling to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life, I encourage you to educate and to expose our young people to the pro-life cause. Possible ways to mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade:

Mass, Adoration, Rosary, or Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the intentions of human dignity and a great respect for all life

Safely participate in local events or marches, such as the Mobile March for Life

Stream the Virtual Youth Rally and Mass for Life from Washington, D.C. at youthrallyandmassforlife.org

Work on Holy Spirit Hall continues, with materials for the roof and the siding having arrived in December. We hope that we can come to a safe and swift completion to construction.

Momentum – Gen Z: Protagonists in the Church and World. Who are the next generation of young people and how well are our ministries empowering them to be the protagonists that Pope Francis has invited them to become? Discover the answers to these questions and more on Tuesday January 12 from noon to 4 pm CT at the next MOMENTUM event from NFCYM. Visit www.nfcym.org/Gen-Z for full event details.

Things I Enjoyed This Month:

Growing Leaders, ["How to Help Gen Z Develop Empathy in Personal Relationships"](#)

Fr. James Brent, O.P. on "Offer it Up" [YouTube Video](#)

Fuller Youth Institute, ["Innovating your way forward with compassion, creativity, and courage"](#)

Marathon Youth Ministry, ["How to Stop Wearing All the Hats in Your Parish"](#)

Roy Petitfils, ["When Teens Say 'Nothing's Wrong'"](#)

-Adam

From Flocknote:

"Catechism in a Year"

Ready to break another world record? Let's make the largest group in history to ever study the catechism (i.e. y'all!)...even bigger.

It's free, simple, and effective. You get one email a day (MON-FRI) and cover the entire catechism in a year!

To sign yourself up for "Catechism in a Year", [click here](#).

To invite your friends, just email or share this link: flocknote.com/catechism.

"Popes in a Year"!

We know the current pope traces his authority all the way back to the first pope (St. Peter). But do you know much about all the popes in between? Join us (and thousands of your closest friends) on a journey from St. Peter all the way to Pope Francis. Each weekday morning, we'll send you a short, engaging 2-minute something about one pope. By the end of the year, you'll know something about every single one!

To sign yourself up for "Popes in a Year", [click here](#).

To invite your friends, just email or share this link: flocknote.com/popess



Year of the Eucharist and the Parish



Our journey through the Year of the Eucharist and the Parish continues! Each week, new catechetical resources will be posted on the archdiocesan social media sites, as well as on the [“Year of the Eucharist and the Parish” webpage](#). On the social media

platforms, each week you’ll find a new video from Archbishop Rodi , a new “Parish Spotlight” with information about one of the parishes in our archdiocese, “Mass 101” - 30 second videos explaining why we do the things we do at Mass, and more! The webpage will have all of this AND additional resources for parish leaders, school leaders, adults, youth and children.

We ask that you make a special effort to catechize your parish/school family about the Eucharist and help draw them into greater involvement in the parish.

Special events will be taking place this year on both the parish and diocesan levels. One Faith One Family (April 24, 2021) will be very special this year and *everyone* will be able to take part. Please mark your parish calendars—you don’t want put your parish family in the predicament of having to choose!

How do you stay abreast of the latest that is going on in the Archdiocese? Here are the social media platforms to follow:

Facebook.com/mobilearchdiocese

Instagram @mobilearchdiocese

Year of the Eucharist and the Parish—we need your help!



We plan to add resources to the Year of the Eucharist and the Parish website on a regular basis throughout this year. We’d very much appreciate your help in gathering resources. As you find resources, or as you plan out events at your parish, please drop a note to the OEFL with the details—we’d love to be able to pass it along! We get so much more accomplished when we work together! Thank you!

Just for a smile...

I was going to tell you about all the drama at the convent, but then remembered it’s nun of your business.



PCL Reminders for January

ADMINISTRATION

- Meet with pastor
- Finalize spending records for last calendar year
- Review job description, meet with pastor if changes are needed
- Review year's goals and evaluate how they are coming along
- Plan for Lent/Easter activities
- Facilitate Sacrament parent meetings
- Review class rosters. Contact families who have missed a number of sessions.



CATECHIST SUPERVISION

- Touch base with catechists to affirm and to assess additional needs
- Assess the progress of students with special needs
- Encourage catechists to welcome parent/family Involvement
- Make it possible for your catechists to attend a “Be Prepared” session this month.

PRAYER

Set aside time each day to pray—the Papal Intention for January is:

Human fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

From Sophia Institute

*Beginning in January Sophia Institute for Teachers will be launching a FREE weekly 1 hour Virtual Workshop series entitled, **Christ in the Classroom**. Each session can be joined live watched later, or listened to later in podcast format and will feature content, practical classroom applications, and spiritual formation presented in a dynamic way by one or more of our engaging presenters, and we will provide certificates for 1 hour of PD with each episode. For more details please visit: <https://SophiaInstituteforTeachers.org/ChristintheClassroom>*



January — the month dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Activities for the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Holy Name of Jesus—January 3



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Activities

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—January 4

Catholic Icing

“Christ’s Diapers”

Baptism of Our Lord—January 10



Lamb crafts in honor of St. Agnes

St. Agnes—January 21

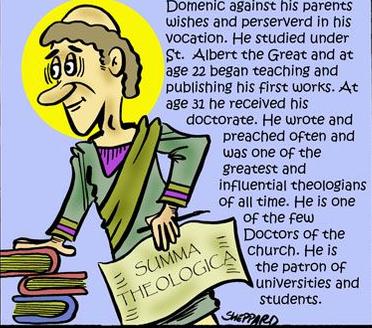
St. Francis de Sales quotes

St. Francis de Sales—January 24



SAINTS FUN FACTS by John Sheppard

St. Thomas Aquinas surpassed all his fellow students in learning and virtue. He entered the order of St. Dominic against his parents wishes and persevered in his vocation. He studied under St. Albert the Great and at age 22 began teaching and publishing his first works. At age 31 he received his doctorate. He wrote and preached often and was one of the greatest and influential theologians of all time. He is one of the few Doctors of the church. He is the patron of universities and students.



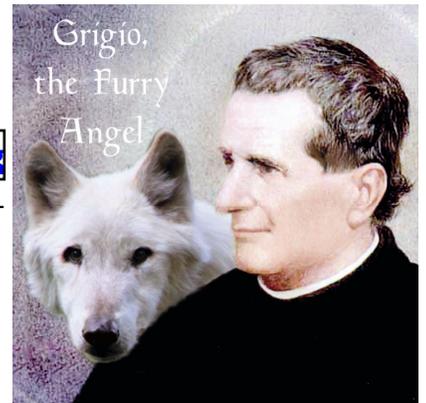
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Aquinas Fun Fact

St. Thomas Aquinas—January 28

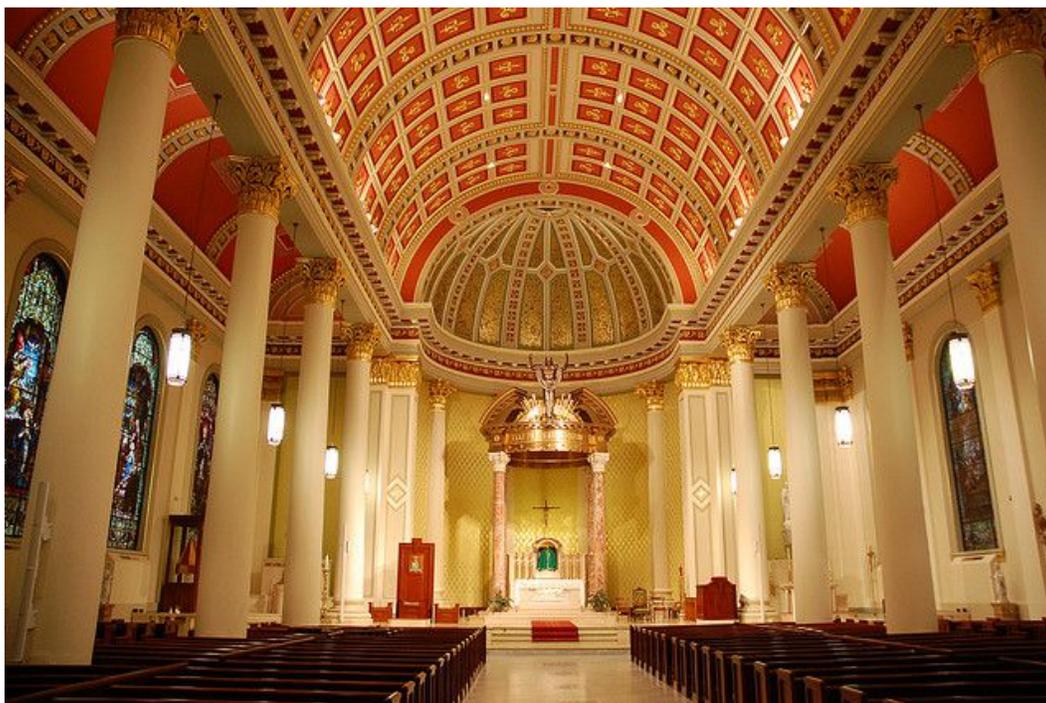
Don Bosco’s Mysterious Dog

St. John Bosco—January 31



IHS Candle Craft

Monogram of Jesus



Department of Catholic Education

352 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36602
Gwen Byrd, Executive Director: gbyrd@mobarch.org
251-438-4611

OEFL, OYM & Hispanic Ministry Contact Information

Office for Evangelization and Family Life

oeft@mobarch.org
251-433-6991

Pat Arensberg, Director: prensberg@mobarch.org
Janet Masline, Associate Director: jmasline@mobarch.org
Deborah Robertson, Secretary: drobotson@mobarch.org
Website: mobarch.org/oeft

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

251-433-4138
Adam Ganucheau, Director: aganucheau@mobarch.org
Margie Lilly, Administrative Assistant: mlilly@mobarch.org
Website: mobarch.org/oym

Hispanic Pastoral Ministry

251-690-6907
Deacon Hector Donastorg, Director: hdonastorg@mobarch.org
Website: mobarch.org/espanol