

# NORTHERN NEVADA CATHOLIC

MAY-JUNE 2013

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF RENO

## Priest celebrates 50th anniversary

Five years after retiring, Father Wolf still is working

By Sean M. Grady

**H**ow does a priest with 50 years of experience spend his retirement?

Father George Wolf, who stepped down as pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Community in 2008, largely spends his by working.

Wolf travels throughout the world these days, visiting such far-flung locales as Ireland, Vietnam, the Greek Islands and Central America.

But his assistance is needed throughout the Diocese of Reno, especially in substituting for pastors throughout the region.

"There's hardly a weekend that goes by that I don't say Mass in a parish someplace," Wolf said.

Then there are the two Masses he celebrated April 14 at Holy Cross to commemorate his 1963 ordination — one of which included dancing on the recently paid-off mortgage for the parish's Vista Boulevard hillside building,



PHOTO BY SEAN M. GRADY

Father George Wolf hugs a well-wisher at a April 14 party commemorating the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

which he helped bring into being.

His other church-related tasks include the chaplaincy of two local Knights of Columbus groups, serving on the Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada board of directors and celebrating Mass once every two months at

the federal prison in Herlong.

Wolf's continuing diocesan work is part of a personality his former parishioners know well.

"He is always there — his life is his ministry and his ministry is his life," said Roxy McKee, who with her husband, Paul, has

attended Holy Cross since 1985.

Born in 1938 in Sacramento, Wolf started his education in the church both at that city's Sacred Heart Elementary School and at home, partly thanks to a stream of Irish clergy that flowed through the front door.

"My mother was from Ireland, and we had a lot of Irish priest friends in the diocese," Wolf said. "Hardly a Sunday night went by when we didn't have one or two priests as guests for dinner."

Though he wanted to attend Saint Joseph's Seminary in Mountain View, Calif., he had to take a circuitous route to the always-booked and now-closed institution via Fresno's Ryan Preparatory College and Minor Seminary.

He made it to Saint Joseph's for his collegiate years, graduating in 1959 and was ordained at Saint Thomas Aquinas Cathedral on March 30, 1963.

This was a tumultuous time for the church: the Second Vatican Council had opened the previous October, and the changes it created started two years after Wolf's ordination.

"I loved it, because we had grown up reading about the possibility of going back to a more authentic celebration of the liturgy that would reflect how the early Church had celebrated the Eucharist," Wolf said.

In the midst of these changes, Wolf was getting used to the first of his career's three major

See **WOLF** on page 3

# NORTHERN NEVADA CATHOLIC

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF RENO  
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# Bishops support path to citizenship for immigrants

By Bishop Randolph Calvo

In the Book of Deuteronomy, we read how Moses told the people of Israel what the Lord God asks of them: to love and serve God and to keep the commandments.

He included in this how one is to treat the alien — whom today we would call the immigrant — namely, as God befriends the alien, “so you too must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourself in the land of Egypt” (Dt. 10:19).

This passage from the Old Testament is an indication of how the reality of immigration extends far back in history. The migration of people to the United States is not a unique experience, as people for centuries have crossed borders, continents and seas seeking fulfillment of dreams, opportunity, survival or refuge. Our country is a nation of immigrants and were it not for the migrations of the past four centuries, 98.8 percent of us would not be here today.

There are an estimated 11 million undocumented people in our country, the result of an immigration system that is broken. Recently, our nation's leaders have mustered the will to work in a bipartisan manner to fix it. The issue requires a comprehensive response. It takes more than securing our borders. It demands the wisdom to treat the magnitude of this human situation in a way that is humane and equitable.

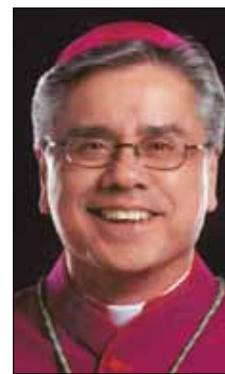
The undocumented are not a faceless mass of humanity. They are people who live and work in our neighborhoods, they attend school with our children and they worship with us in church. Many of

their children were born here and thus are citizens. In many ways they are not strangers to us. And many of us have been faithful to the command to “befriend the alien” and have kept in mind Jesus' words that those who welcome the stranger welcome him (Mt. 25:35). The words from the Old Testament elicit compassion: befriend the alien “for you were once aliens yourself.” Perhaps we are not immigrants, but our parents, grandparents or other forebears were. There is a connection and God asks us to remember this.

The U.S. Catholic bishops, among many others, support as a component of comprehensive reform a path to citizenship for those who have set roots in our country. This measure would not be an amnesty, which is defined as a legal pardon. Rather, those who qualify would have to pay back taxes, a fine, acquire English proficiency and wait their turn to obtain permanent residency and citizenship.

Another piece of our current immigration that needs to be addressed is the issue of family unity. Currently, a documented immigrant must wait seven or more years for his/her spouse and children to join them through legal channels. The church strongly upholds the importance of family unity for the health of our society and so supports preserving and improving a family-based immigration system so husbands and wives and their children can reunite more expeditiously.

There are other aspects of immigration reform that are proposed, but I have highlighted what I consider essential points (find details at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)). I pray as we seek to achieve a solution, we keep in mind the immigrant as a fellow human being, who came to the United States as our parents or grandparents did with similar struggles and dreams. For us who profess faith in Jesus Christ, they are our brothers and sisters. How we treat them has direct bearing on the extent of our love for Christ (Mt. 25:35).



# Snows celebrates transitions

By Jalie Porter

Graduation is upon us and a time for excitement, celebration and reflection. Our Class of 2013 has dedicated themselves to excellence and to following the foundational principles we teach at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School: faith, knowledge, leadership and service.

A loving tradition began many, many years ago to give our graduating eighth-graders and their parents a special luncheon hosted by the seventh-grade class. The idea is to honor the eighth-graders with a wonderful send-off and prepare our seventh-graders for the new leadership role they'll serve in the coming year.

On this day, our seventh-graders will be given the privilege of wearing their new eighth-grade T-shirts for the first time, which is very exciting for them. A special meal is prepared, and our seventh-graders work together to help decorate, set tables, serve the meal and clean up afterward.

Graduation is a joyful and emotional time for our school. We celebrate our graduates' achievements, hold tight to their friendships and believe their faith in God will give them strength to face their challenges ahead.

This is a class of leaders. Our Lady of the Snows family is proud of them. We look forward to hearing more about their accomplishments in the years to come. Congratulations, Class of 2013!

## Wolf

Continued from page 1

assignments: a 12-year tenure at Bishop Manogue Catholic High School (six years as an algebra teacher, then six years as principal) that lasted until 1975.

Next followed an eight-year period as pastor of Our Lady of Las Vegas, when that city was part of the Diocese of Reno.

Then came his quarter century as pastor of Holy Cross, which he combined with other prominent roles in Northern Nevada's faith community.

It was during his time at Holy Cross that Wolf achieved the two milestones of which he is most proud.

One achievement, of course, was opening the doors to the parish's new home in late 2001.

The other achievement came in the last few years before his retirement, when Bishop Philip Straling asked him to be vicar general of the Reno diocese — a position that



made Wolf the bishop's second-in-command and that he continued to hold under Bishop Randolph Calvo.

Since his retirement, Wolf's work has included trying to bring more men into the church, both to overcome a growing decline in the priesthood and to create what could be called a corps of deacons.

"It's not just that we're running out of priests," Wolf said. "I truly am a believer in the fact that

married men are called to receive holy orders, and being ordained deacons they can be a help to parishes and pastors."

And for those contemplating a life in the church, Wolf can point to his own life as example of its benefits.

"I think it's important for young people to know that an individual can be a priest and do a tremendous amount of good in their lives and lead a very satisfying life," he said.

# In memoriam

Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery would like you to please remember in your prayers the following who were laid to rest.

## March

- Maureen E. Gallagher
- Elizabeth Fowler
- Edward Dennis Tatu
- Ronnie M. Miley Sr.
- Marguerite Kerr
- Tereso Jacinto-Moreno
- Ronald T. Flury
- Herbert Neigel
- Rodolfo M. Cornejo
- Elizabeth Hellmann
- Margaret O'Brien
- Rosino N. Barengo
- Manuel J. Huerta
- Conception Huerta
- Shirley Lawson
- Dorothy Mosey
- Linda Clark

## April

- Margaret L. Brindzak
- Richard J. Durham
- Virginia R. Lopez
- William L. Coffey
- Joseph Smeltzer
- Margaret Mary Fritz
- Betty M. Bell
- Sergio J. Cecchi
- Petronila Bullanday
- Marjorie DiMaggio



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# Jesus Prayer connects us constantly to God

Texting isn't all bad. "TMI" and "driving while texting" aside, there is the element of connection with one another. Indeed, once upon a time, there was the practice among Catholics connecting with God by silently reciting a short scripture verse over and over as a means of recalling God's presence in every day life.

Throughout history, the Eastern Church has widely taught the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me."

The Jesus prayer is repeated continually as a part of a personal ascetic practice, its use being an integral part of the eremitic tradition of prayer known as the prayer of stillness. The prayer particularly is esteemed by the spiritual fathers of the Greek tradition as a method of opening up the heart and bringing about the Prayer of the Heart.

The Prayer of the Heart is considered to be the "unceasing prayer" that the apostle Paul advocates in the New Testament. In today's Scriptures we find the apostles "continually in the temple praising God" — models of "unceasing prayer."

The Feast of the Ascension, now celebrated on the seventh Sunday of Easter, tomorrow (May 12), becomes our final preparation for the Feast of Pentecost. Tomorrow's liturgy focuses on the relationship of the church to Jesus and looks forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit next week. The reading from



## Sister Maria's column

Acts of the Apostles tells the story of Jesus ascending to heaven, while the second reading and the Gospel focus on his abiding presence — even as the Risen Jesus ascends into the heavens — the Spirit is promised and we hear the comforting words: "know that I am with you always; yes even to the end of time."

The scriptural selections on the Feast of the Ascension recall the assembly of believers remembering the Paschal events of Christ's suffering, dying and rising from the dead and the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit:

"Jesus presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,



This painting was created by Sister Marie-Celeste.

but to wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' "

The church fathers, interpreting the event, promise us that Christ's departure, far from depriving us of contact, is our assurance of union with Jesus and the Father. When Jesus says: "It is to your advantage I go away," the way is paved for the activity of the Spirit in the rites of the Sacraments, the symbolic extension of Christ's glorified body throughout the world.

A sermon of St. Leo instructs: "The Ascension of Christ means our own elevation as well, for where the glorious Head has gone, the Body is called to follow in hope."

On this day, not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have entered heaven in the person of Christ and what formerly had been visible in our Redeemer now takes the form of sacred rites.

The Feast of the Ascension thus prepares us for the culminating event of the 50-day Easter season, the feast of Pentecost. This day is not so much a feast of the Holy Spirit as a proclamation that God has sent the Spirit and that the church has received the Spirit as gift.

The church, born from the pierced side of Christ on Calvary, now is empowered to journey forth and spread the good news. The hearers of the Word, so often

portrayed as timid and fearful, will go out to the whole world ready to preach the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus, and they also are ready to lay down their lives in the service of this Word.

Now that we have made our way through the major seasons of the church year — Advent-Nativity, Epiphany, Lent and the Easter season — we can appreciate the unity of the church's life and our connection to it.

This total mystery of the church's life is lived out in our own lives and the unifying principle is the Holy Spirit. We live under the influence of the Spirit, given us in baptism and confirmation. It is the Spirit who strengthens our faith each time we receive the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit who acts in the Eucharist not only to transform the bread and wine but also to intensify and deepen our unity within the church.

The Holy Spirit acts in priestly ordination to give the person the power to actualize the mysteries of Christ and it is the Spirit who is present in the sacrament of marriage to give the partners the courage and strength for fidelity. It is the Spirit, present in our hearts that enables us to call God "father."

In the coming week, as we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, we might have these words on our lips and in our hearts: "Send forth your Spirit O Lord and renew the face of the earth."

It's kind of like texting God.

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# 'Thanksgiving in May' highlights year-round need

By Auburn Harrison

Sixteen-hundred local families in need will be treated to an extra-special holiday meal, thanks to an additional food allocation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

On May 22 at 9 a.m., St. Vincent's Food Pantry will have a "Thanksgiving in May" food giveaway for local families living with food insecurities.

"We've seen a huge increase of new families coming to us in the past few months. The numbers have jumped by about 30 percent since this same time period last year," said Scott Cooksley, St. Vincent's Food Pantry manager.

Cooksley said his goal always is to give families a week's worth of food when they visit the food pantry, but with so many new clients, it was becoming increasingly difficult.

In the beginning of April,

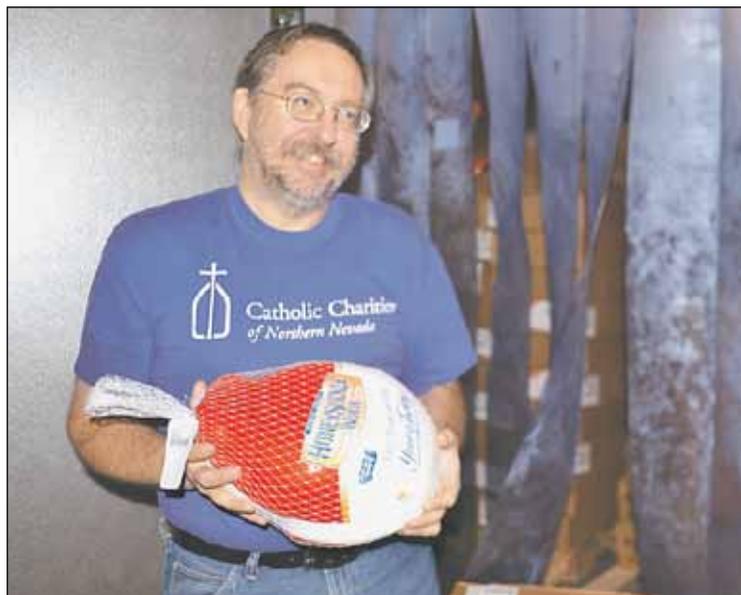


PHOTO PROVIDED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN NEVADA

St. Vincent's Food Pantry Manager Scott Cooksley holds one of 1,600 turkeys that will be giving out at "Thanksgiving in May."

Cooksley asked the USDA for an increase in food to meet the needs of additional clients, and soon after, he received an extra allocation of 1,600 turkeys. He

decided to use the extra food as an opportunity to raise public awareness about the hunger epidemic in our community that occurs year-round.

"I figured why not do a 'Thanksgiving in May' event? This way, we can get these turkeys out into the community quickly in order to help people. I don't ever want to hold onto food. It doesn't help people if it's sitting in our freezers," he said.

In order to provide more food to families, St. Vincent's Food Pantry is having a food drive to collect traditional Thanksgiving fixings such as boxed stuffing, canned vegetables and fruits, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, bread and ready-made pie crusts.

Those who would like to donate can drop off these items from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Food Pantry. The deadline for donations is May 20.

Turkeys and fixings will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, and participating families must have a picture I.D. with them in order to

receive food.

Cooksley said the event will provide an extra meal to more than a quarter of the regular families who visit the St. Vincent's Food Pantry each month.

Our mobile outreach van from our Kids to Seniors Korner program also will be parked in front of the pantry at the "Thanksgiving in May" event, offering free immunizations and case management to families with other needs besides hunger.

"We want to offer other services to these folks. We know that if people need food, they often are dealing with other issues as well. We want to help as many people in as many ways as we can," said Sandra Carrillo, manager of Kids to Seniors Korner.

For more information, contact Auburn Harrison, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's development director, at 775-322-7073 x235 or [ddirector@ccsnn.org](mailto:ddirector@ccsnn.org).

## St. Albert pupils work on community service projects

By Maizie Pusich

St. Albert the Great School's students, staff, families and parishioners are working to complete service projects in the last quarter of the school year.

The fifth-graders recently were recognized in the Reno Gazette-Journal their ongoing participation in Project Linus. Project Linus provides homemade security blankets to children in need, most often children in hospitals or shelters.

The Knights of Columbus hosted the Annual Winetasting and Auction on April 26. Proceeds benefit its many service projects and philanthropies throughout the year, including providing food, shelter, warm clothing and educational support. The St. Albert's Knights provide financial support to St. Albert's School.

Everyone celebrated the miracles of Easter, as our second-graders prepared for their first Communion and our high school

students prepared for confirmation.

Our focus also is on mastering academic challenges as we conclude our school year. Fourth-graders and their teachers have improved the reading skills of the class. All students are now reading at or above fourth-grade level. Students in grades 5-8 competed in the St. Albert's Science Fair in March, with winners moving on to complete regionally.

Eighth-graders will participate in two exceptional learning activities this quarter. The eighth-graders traveled to Point Bonita in northern California at the end of April to study marine ecology and other aspects of environmental science. The annual trip is the result of hard work and advance planning by our eighth-graders, their teachers and parents. Fundraising for the trip begins years before the students' trip, helping them to learn not only about science, but responsibility with time and money, as well.

The other important learning activity will be their Holocaust studies. This course of study involves the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students, who will focus on history leading to the Holocaust and an individual's responsibility to prevent

injustice in the world.

These two special courses of study help our graduating students focus on two of our most important goals: respect for life and being responsible citizens in our community.

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# Mission accomplished Manogue student, staffer become Catholics

By Jackie Allen

**"I**'ve wanted this for a really long time, and it feels good to finally have it."

That's how Jake Taylor, a senior at Bishop Manogue Catholic High School, summed up his feelings on becoming a full-fledged member of the Catholic Church.

Taylor was one of more than 30 who reached that wonderful goal during the Easter Vigil ceremony at St. Teresa of Avila's church in Carson City.

At his side as sponsor was another Manogue senior Jake Mercer, who said sharing the experience with his friend was unforgettable.

"Throughout the service I was remembering how I felt when I received my sacraments, and knowing that I had helped my friend get to that point felt amazing," Mercer said.



Left: Father Larry Morrison poses with, Julie, Steven and David Davis, who went through RCIA as a family. Right: Jake Mercer, left, was the sponsor for his friend Jake Taylor.

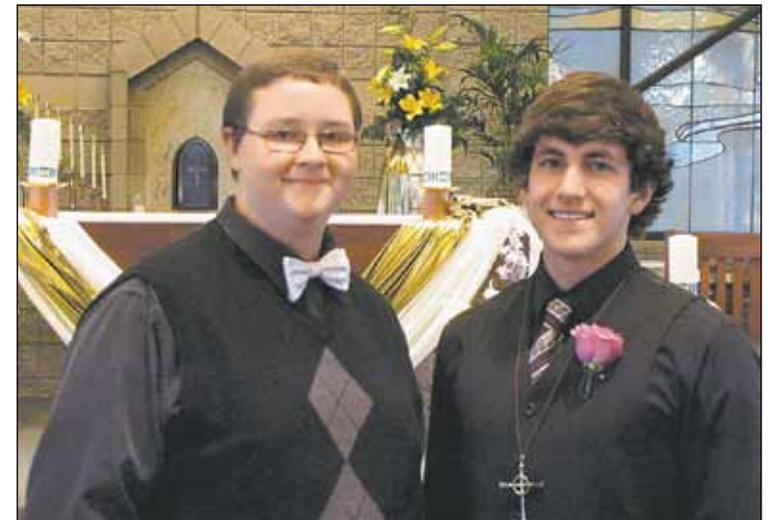
Mercer said he would act as a sponsor again, given the chance.

"I would definitely want to repeat the experience of being an RCIA sponsor," he said.

"I learned a lot more about my faith than I already knew. It was

a great experience and I would love to help more people become a part of the church and deepen their faith," Mercer said.

On the same evening Mercer helped Taylor complete his journey, Manogue staff member



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BISHOP MANOGUE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Julie Dennis was sharing the experience with people close to her.

She, her husband, Steve, and her son, David, all completed their RCIA training, and they were initiated at St. Rose of Lima

into the Catholic Church.

"What was most important to me is that we did this as a family," Julie Dennis said. "That adds a very special layer of meaning to a something already so meaningful."

## Proposed law would criminalize human trafficking

By Rita Sloan

**T**he definition of a slave is a human being who is forced to work through fraud or threat of violence for no pay beyond subsistence.

Hillary Clinton once wrote, "Trafficking thrives in the shadows. And it can be easy to dismiss it as something that happens to someone else, somewhere else. But that is not the case. Trafficking is a crime that involves every nation on earth, and that includes our own."

Two local organizations that are making a difference in the fight against modern-day slavery are the Religious Alliance of Nevada (RAIN) and Awaken INC. RAIN is supporting Assembly Bill 67 known as the Anti-Trafficking Law that will criminalize the sex trafficking of an adult or a minor, create a safe harbor for sexually exploited children and

protect victims of human trafficking. The law also will require the posting of the NHTRC Hotline number, criminalize labor exploitation of children who suffer sexual and physical abuse, and establish a Human Trafficking Victim Bill of Rights.

The mission of Awaken INC is to increase awareness and education of the issue of sexual exploitation and to provide shelter and restoration for its victims. Awaken hosts interfaith prayer nights at local churches to bring awareness of commercial sexual exploitation. Volunteers for Awaken make Lifepacks that are given to survivors of sexual exploitation. Lifepacks are designed to provide a survivor with basic items in a way that is mobile.

Information regarding the activities and special events for these organizations may be found at [www.rainnv.org](http://www.rainnv.org) or [www.awakenreno.org](http://www.awakenreno.org) or 775.393.9183.

Call or email your state legislator to

request their support for anti-human trafficking legislation when it comes for a vote in Nevada.

The newest initiative of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in the fight against human trafficking is the Amistad Movement. During the past 10 years, the Catholic Bishops have dedicated resources to combatting the trafficking of persons. Trafficking of people into the United States for exploitation has not decreased, and penalties for human trafficking are less punitive than for drug trafficking.

Current evidence indicates more people are being trafficked to rural areas versus metropolitan areas, which were typical hubs of sex and labor trafficking in the past. This makes it less likely that they will be identified or rescued.

Nathalie Lummert, a special programs director at the USCCB's Office of Migrant and Refugee Services explains the Amistad

Movement begins this year, and it partners with parishes and vulnerable immigrant populations, such as indigenous Maya, recent Hispanic migrants and Haitians. It is an educational campaign that targets at-risk urban and rural communities where the traffickers blend their victims into the immigrant population. The program will train community leaders in identifying victims, help rescue them and provide support and resources.

If you are interested in partnering with USCCB to assist with any aspect of the Amistad Movement, you can reach them at [MRSTraff@usccb.org](mailto:MRSTraff@usccb.org) or 202-541-3021.

**JUST NOTES:** On Feb. 20, members from the Catholic Life Peace Justice Committee attended the Judiciary Hearings that took place at the Nevada State Legislature in Carson City. They urged their senators and assemblymen to vote in support of AB 67 the Anti-Sex Trafficking Bill.

# Youths headed to work camp

By Elaine Menardi

**H**ow many teenagers and adults do you know who would give up a whole week of summer vacation to travel 1,000 miles across the hot, dry deserts of Nevada and Utah to go paint houses, clean parks and serve people of all kinds in a city far away?

Our group of 35 generous volunteers from the Diocese of Reno will be some of them. Heading out to Denver, these youths and adults will represent all of our parishes at Catholic Heart Workcamp from June 16-22.

From its website, heartworkcamp.com: "Catholic Heart Workcamp is about service, connection and loving others. It all started in 1993 in Orlando, Fla., with 100 participants, and has grown to more than 11,000 serving in 2011. CHWC provides parish youth groups, teens and adult leaders service opportunities to restore homes and hearts, feed the hungry, lift the spirits of children, bring joy to the elderly and disabled, and offer assistance while

partnering with social agencies. It is a youth-friendly, Christ-centered week of caring for others. Catholic Heart Workcamp faithfully and enthusiastically serves the Roman Catholic Church and its teachings, and is an excellent opportunity to 'love the least of these.' "

The example of youths and adults from St. Gall's Catholic Church in Gardnerville participating in other CHWC events over the past several years has inspired more parishes from the Diocese of Reno to get involved and participate in this service experience. Youths and adults have done everything from leading vacation Bible school to cleaning city parks to repairing and painting family homes to caring for children in daycare facilities and senior citizens in assisted-living homes.

The list of service projects varies according to the hosting city and its social service agencies. Youths and adults provide details about their skills and volunteer experience in the registration process, and the CHWC staff matches volunteers with people in need. It works out to be a win-win

situation for everyone. Youths get the opportunity to share the work of their hands with those who need help and thereby put their faith into action.

Morning praise and worship programs send campers off to their daily work with a catchy song on their lips and a prayer in their hearts to let God shine through them as they offer a helping rake or paintbrush or hammer.

When teens return to their home base, evening fun and games, skits and more praise and worship prepare them for a good night's sleep and the next round of work. Throughout the week, youth can join in a daily rosary, and celebrate Eucharist as well as the sacrament of reconciliation. This is a powerful experience for young people and the adults who accompany them.

All of this paves the way for us to host Catholic Heart Workcamp here in Reno in 2014! Our preparations already are under way, and we will be working hard to identify the needs for service projects in and around the city. If you would like to help, let us know. Contact our office at 775-329-9274 or email to: moniquej@catholicreno.org.

# Mass with pope part of World Youth Day

By Elaine Menardi

**T**wenty-three young adults from the Diocese of Reno are ready to start the pilgrimage to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for World Youth Day 2013.

Each has been working tirelessly for the past year preparing for this life-changing event through prayer and personal retreat, fundraising and community building with fellow pilgrims.

Participants from St. Gall's in Gardnerville, and St. Rose of Lima and Our Lady of the Snows in Reno eagerly are awaiting departure day July 16.

New to the traditional World Youth Day schedule is Mission Week, where pilgrims from all over the world will gather in different dioceses in and around Rio to participate in service projects to help local communities.

The Diocese of Reno group will be heading to Valenca for the first week of the pilgrimage, a town of about 80,000 people northwest of Rio de Janeiro.

WYD organizers in Valenca have set the goal for Mission Week: "That young people, foreigners or not, live intensely the reality of the local church, in union with the whole church of Brazil." This mission experience is based on three pillars: spirituality, culture and solidarity service; the activity will take place

July 17-20. The Diocese of Valenca will host about 1,400 pilgrims while larger, neighboring dioceses will accommodate groups ranging in size from several thousand to 10,000 and more.

After Mission Week in Valenca, pilgrims will travel back to Rio de Janeiro for the week-long WYD activities. These include a special welcome to Pope Francis as he arrives in Rio; a variety of faith formation and catechesis sessions led by bishops and cardinals from all over the world; music festivals and cultural exchange exhibits; and liturgy, prayer and confession opportunities, as well as general meet-and-greet on the streets. The full week of activity ends with an overnight prayer vigil on Saturday, July 27 followed by the celebration of Eucharist with Pope Francis on Sunday.

After the election of a new pope from Argentina, WYD Brazil officials saw a marked rise in the number of new pilgrim registrations. Current estimates range to about 4 million people expected at the vigil Mass.

Small but mighty count the Diocese of Reno group of 23 among the vast crowd who will be changed forever by this amazing world event. Please pray for their safety, health and a powerful encounter with Christ. Têm uma grande viagem! Have a great trip!

# Vocation inquiries on rise in diocese

By Father Mike Mahone

**S**omething seems to be working when it comes to the number of those inquiring about priesthood and religious life. Chances are it's the Holy Spirit doing the work.

A sizeable number of young men, both from the Reno and Elko areas, have expressed interest in the possible calling to priesthood.

We have six men in the seminary studying for the Diocese of Reno.

Christopher Kanowitz is studying at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif.

At Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore., we have Patrick Klekas, Joey Walsh, Lucio Rocha and Jesus Gonzales.

At the Seminario Hispano in Mexico, we have Eduardo Gutierrez.

Inquiries also continue to come in from other parts of the United States as well as from all over the world.

When someone from outside the Diocese of Reno inquires about joining the diocese, the Seminary Board looks cautiously into the background of those individuals, as we also do with those who live in the Diocese of Reno.

Just because someone seeks to join the diocese doesn't mean they are accepted.

The Serra Club of Reno is getting ready to reignite an old program that would invite parish families to pray for vocations.

The Serra Club, which is a group of men and women who promote vocations, will be providing numerous small crosses to each parish along with prayer cards to make easily available for families to take for

a week at a time and then return them.

By having these vocation crosses available in a section of the church individuals can take them freely and return them with ease, and also have more families take part.

A big "thank you" to the Serra Club for doing this and to Tim Heydon for making all those special vocation crosses.

Let us all continue to pray for our seminarians, priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters who tend to our needs here in the Diocese of Reno.

Let us also continue to pray for, and give thanks for, those individuals who may be considering a holy vocation.

Those who may wish to speak with me about a vocation can send an email to mqm@olsparish.com or call 775-323-6894.

# BASH high-flying success



More than 350 guests attended BASH 2013, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School's largest fundraiser of the year. Those guests marveled at the aerial acrobatics of performers from the Ruby Karen project, who transformed center court of the gym into center ring of the fabulous "Cirque du Manogue." Those guests also helped raise vital funds for the schools tuition-assistance program. Manogue thanks all those who attended, sponsored and donated to the event.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BISHOP MANOGUE  
Among the BASH attendees were Sister Maria Ahern, left, Nicole Browne, Kathy Hogan and Kevin Hogan.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL

TOP: Sister Margaret, left, Sister Elizabeth, Sister Phillipa and Sister Maura taught at Little Flower School in its early years. BELOW LEFT: Sister Margaret, Sister Elizabeth and Sister Maura returned to Ireland in 2012.

## Sisters of Mercy served 50 years at Little Flower

By Bri Thorsen

**F**ifty years have passed since the first Sisters of Mercy left their homes in Ireland to answer the call of God to serve the people and students of Little Flower School.

Since September 1962, 21 sisters have ministered to the educational and spiritual needs of students at Little Flower. As the school marks its 50th Anniversary this year, an amazing chapter in Little Flower's long and distinguished tradition has come to a close.

The remaining sisters at Little Flower School, Sister Elizabeth, Sister Margaret, and Sister Maura, said their final goodbyes to Northern Nevada in October and returned to the Convent of St. Joseph in Longford, Ireland.

The Sisters of Mercy began their relationship with Little Flower School in 1960, when Monsignor Collins, pastor of Little Flower Parish, went to Ireland to look for Sisters to staff a proposed new school. The Sisters of Mercy in Longford were impressed by the need as outlined to them and volunteers were sought within their community.

The original group chosen to staff the school were Sister Ursula, Sister Philippa, Sister Stanislaus and Sister Theresa.

The sisters were welcomed to Northern Nevada at the Reno airport in August 1962 by Monsignor Collins, Father John McVeigh and several parishioners.

Mother Ursula was named the new principal and superior, and the school officially opened its doors in September 1962.

Since Little Flower's opening, about 1,600 students have graduated from the school. Its alumni include many prominent figures and business leaders in our community, including Gov. Brian Sandoval.

Today, Little Flower serves 287 students in grades kindergarten through eight and is staffed by 22 lay employees.

The school's mission remains in alignment with the original vision of the Sisters of Mercy, welcoming all students and families to a community of faith and high academic expectations.

On May 4, the Little Flower School Alumni Association hosted a 50-year Mass and celebration. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Randolph Calvo, and an open house with food and drink followed.

# St. Teresa principal leaves after seven years

By Karen Barreras

**C**hristine Perdomo, principal of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School, is retiring after serving the Carson City school for seven years.

“Being principal of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School has blessed my life in so many ways,” Perdomo said. “I will treasure these wonderful experiences forever.”

Before her principalship, Perdomo had an inordinate amount of education and experience that prepared her for this part of her career. Her undergraduate degree was received at Sonoma State University. Her post-graduate education was at the University of Idaho, where she received a master’s degree in education. Perdomo continued her post-graduate work at the University

of Nevada, Reno, earning a degree in administrative leadership. Her varied experience as classroom teacher and administrator added to her formal education.

Perdomo said she truly appreciated the opportunity she had to include her faith in all matters at St. Teresa of Avila school. Morning assemblies were a beautiful heartfelt time, when students prayed, sang and shared their love of God and of each other. The smile on Perdomo’s face during these morning prayer-assemblies was a welcome sight at the beginning of the day. She was a spiritual leader for the entire school community.

Perdomo is to be commended for her vision as an educational leader. Under her guidance, students at St. Teresa excelled educationally. A lifelong learner herself, she always strove to have St. Teresa on the cutting

edge of an educational innovation, be it in reading, writing, math or another discipline.

One measure of Perdomo’s commitment to excellent Catholic education is her leadership in St. Teresa of Avila’s most recent Western Catholic Education Association accreditation. This comprehensive self-study and subsequent school visit assessed the school’s Catholic Identity, Academics, Student Support and other aspects of school improvement. St. Teresa of Avila received the highest possible status, a full six years, not requiring a review.

We wish Perdomo and her husband, Fred, many enjoyable days of retirement. She will be missed, and she will remain in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you, Chris. The St. Teresa of Avila community has treasured you!



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
Christine Perdomo

## End-of-the-year plans plentiful at St. Teresa school

By Christine Perdomo

**A**s the year quickly draws to a close, students, staff and parents are filled with excitement as we look forward to the many celebrations planned for the next two months.

The first celebration planned for May is the second-grade students’ First Holy Communion Breakfast Celebration. This special breakfast of pancakes, strawberries, whipping cream, bacon and juice will be prepared and served by our Campus Ministry Club officers. Our second-graders look forward to this special breakfast!

From April 29 to May 1, the eighth-grade class was on a fun-filled, three-day trip to San Francisco that included a visit to Pier 39, a walking tour around Alcatraz Island and a trek across the Golden Gate Bridge. Then they went to the YMCA at Point Bonita for a two-day outdoor educational experience.

Following this long-awaited trip, the eighth-graders returned to the reality that there are 27 days left in the school year, and yes, homework, assignments, tests and grades still are important!

Our eighth-graders certainly will focus on their school work, knowing their final grade point averages will determine the awards that will be given out at their eighth-grade graduation. The celebration will take place at 5 p.m. June 6 at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church.

Father Chuck Durante and Father Doroteo will be the celebrants for this event, which will be filled with pride, appreciation and recognition for our students and their families.

During this ceremony, many students will receive special awards, pins and medals for their academic achievement, effort, citizenship and service to our community for this academic school year.

Two students have been chosen to receive the D.J. Bernardis Scholarship to attend Bishop Manogue Catholic High School in the fall. Other worthy eighth-grade students will be recipients of the Knights of Columbus Citizenship Award, the Herb Chiara Award for outstanding service, the Most Improved Student Award and numerous other awards.

Afterward, a reception hosted by

seventh-grade families and students will take place in Chartz Hall. The evening will end with the ever-popular eighth-grade slide show, during which the students display a photos of themselves and a personal message of thanks to their parents and the school for all they’ve done for them.

On June 4 at 8:30 a.m., the school will gather at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church for our end-of-school Mass. Father Chuck will celebrate this Mass. He will bless each student, but most importantly, he will bless our 16 eighth-graders as they prepare to move on to new schools and adventures.

Every teacher will recognize their students for the many accomplishments they’ve achieved during the year. Students will receive their awards for academic achievement, citizenship and effort. As you can imagine, there isn’t a dry eye in church — and I’m referring to the teachers who become sentimental as they say good-bye to their precious students. Afterward, students will enjoy some free time signing yearbooks with their buddies.

The Kindergarten Celebration will be at

11 a.m. June 6 in the multi-purpose room.

Students will delight their families with a compilation of special songs, dances and poems they’ve learned during the school year. The highlight of the celebration, as always, is the slide show that captures those great moments in kindergarten throughout the year. The celebration ends with each child reading a special letter they’ve written to their parents, telling them how much they love them. The festivities end with a lovely reception and gifts made especially for the parents.

On the last day of school, students will enjoy the ever-popular ice cream sandwiches provided by the PTO before being dismissed for summer vacation.

As usual, there will be lots of hugs, smiles, tears and farewells exchanged as we bring to close another great year at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School.

Summer vacation begins, and everyone is off to enjoy many adventures and travel, but most importantly, to take time to relax and rejuvenate before starting another exciting school year. School will resume at 8:25 a.m. Aug. 26. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe vacation!

# Schools assessment indicates higher levels of achievement

By Karen Barreras

**A**s part of its ongoing plan to maintain and achieve academic excellence in its schools, the Diocese of Reno Catholic Schools Office retained the services of ECRA Group Inc., a national educational research and consulting firm, to analyze its fall 2012 achievement test results.

The Diocese administers the Stanford Achievement Test Form 10 (SAT 10) to all students in grades 2-8 each fall. The SAT 10 is published by Pearson Publishing and is used by both private and public schools across the nation. While an analysis of results was done for all grades tested, this summary provides a brief overview of test results for the Class of 2013.

Part I provides an overview of 2012 average national percentile scores obtained by all grade 8 students in each test area. This single year analysis facilitates alignment of instructional planning with group strengths and needs.

Part II provides a five-year longitudinal growth analysis for about 78 grade 8 students (Class of 2013) who attended Diocesan schools and were tested each fall from grade 4 in 2008 to grade 8 in 2012. The tracking of matched student test scores over time provides a measurement of both student growth and the value-added benefit of the Diocese of Reno instructional program.

## Part I: An overview of fall 2012 SAT 10 achievement test Results for grade 8 students

It is helpful to note while the average national percentile is 50, half of the students across the country generally score between the 1st and the 50th percentile and half of the students across the country generally score between the 50th and the 99th percentile.

The average Diocese of Reno national percentile scores for all grade 8 students tested in 2012 were as follows:

Reading — 77th national percentile, which is 27 percentile points higher than the national average.

Language — 79th national percentile, which is 29 percentile points higher than the national average.

Mathematics — 78th national percentile, which is 28 percentile points higher than the national average.

Science — 77th national percentile, which is 27 percentile points higher than the national average.

Social Science — 72nd national percentile, which is 22 percentile points higher than the national average.

The high performance levels of these grade 8 students is further evidenced by the following:

■ 87 percent of the class performed at or above the national average in reading

■ 89 percent of the class performed at or above the national average in language

■ 83 percent of the class performed at or above the national average in mathematics

■ 80 percent of the class performed at or above the

national average in science

■ 80 percent of the class performed at or above the national average in social science

## Part II- Five- Year Longitudinal Growth Analysis for the Class of 2013

The value added benefit of the Diocesan instructional program is best evidenced by the change in achievement levels for those students in the Class of 2013 who attended Diocese of Reno schools from grade 4 (2008) to grade 8 (2012). When interpreting these performance level changes over the five years of instruction no change in the group's average national percentile scores generally means that students grew at a normal rate, while positive changes in group averages mean that the Diocese of Reno Catholic Schools added value and achievement growth above and beyond what happened in average schools across the nation.

The Diocese of Reno national percentile changes for some 78 matched grade 8 students from when they tested in grade 4 in 2008 to when they tested in grade 8 in 2012 were as follows:

Reading — The average national percentile for the group grew from the 66th national percentile in grade 4 to the 78th national percentile in grade 8. This means their average achievement level in reading increased 12 percentile points.

Language — The average national percentile for the group grew from the 74th national percentile in grade 4 to the 81st national percentile in grade 8. This means their average achievement level in language increased 7 percentile points.

Mathematics — The average national percentile for the group grew from the 62nd national percentile in grade 4 to the 81st national percentile in grade 8. This means their average achievement level in mathematics increased 19 percentile points.

Science — The average national percentile for the group grew from the 74th national percentile in grade 4 to the 77th national percentile in grade 8. This means their average achievement level in science increased 3 percentile points.

Social Science — The average national percentile for the group grew from the 63rd national percentile in grade 4 to the 74th national percentile in grade 8. This means their average achievement level in social science increased 11 percentile points.

Whether gifted, average or in need of extra instructional intervention, the fall 2012 test results and Class of 2013 five-year longitudinal analysis indicate in the basic skills areas, students generally grow and achieve at higher levels the longer they attend Diocese of Reno schools. Longitudinal growth information for each individual student is available to teachers, parents and guardians.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BISHOP MANOGUE

Chun'en He, from China, graduates this year.

## International students among '13 graduates

By Jackie Allen

**B**ishop Manogue Catholic High School will celebrate commencement for the Class of 2013 on June 1. The ceremony will start at 10 a.m. in the stadium at 110 Bishop Manogue Drive. In all, 133 graduates will "turn the tassel" and go from being proud Bishop Manogue students to proud alumni.

Among those graduates will be Shumin Hu and Chun'en He, two of the school's international students who came from China as sophomores to be part of the Bishop Manogue family. Now as full-fledged members of the senior class, they will join their classmates in starting the next phase of their educations.

For Shumin, that phase will begin soon after graduation.

"I am going to Penn State university for summer school," she said, "and hope to finish my college in three years."

That ambitious goal is no surprise when you consider how active

Shumin has been in her time at Manogue, involved in cheerleading, Sodality, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Environmental Club and International Club.

Chun'en plans to attend the University of Washington and study economics.

Both students say what they have learned at Bishop Manogue has gone beyond academics.

"I am more confident in myself, and more independent," she said.

There are 25 students in Bishop Manogue's International Program, and also eight students enrolled in Chinese I, meaning the learning of language and culture now is going both ways.

"Because of our international students, our Chinese I students are getting plenty of opportunities to interact with native speakers," said faculty member Tracy McKinlay. "And our English language learners get more person-to-person language interactions as well."



PHOTO BY ANGELA MANN

Knights Ken Peak, left, and Dan Speth surprised Bishop Philip Straling with a birthday cake April 13 at a Founders Day Dinner hosted by the Knights of Columbus Pondersoa Council 4928.

## Lay ministers award Straling honor

By Christopher Anderson

The National Association for Lay Ministry will be presenting Gaudium et Spes Award to Bishop Philip Straling on May 31 at its annual conference at Harrah's Hotel in Las Vegas. This award honors the promotion and understanding of the church in the world in accordance with the spirit of Vatican II by individuals and organizations.

Bishop Straling was noted for his collaborative leadership style. As bishop of San Bernardino, he was challenged by the rapid growth of the diocese and limited personnel. During his episcopate, the diocese grew from 235,000 people to a high of 800,000, and went from 85 parishes to 105. Straling had to rely on the leadership skills of the laity and the vowed religious of the diocese in order to succeed in his episcopate. To provide the necessary formation for ministry, he established a diaconate program as well as launched the Straling Institute in 1980.

The Straling Institute was one of the first diocesan lay ministry formation programs in the United States. Continuing with the theme of his episcopacy, empowerment of laity, Bishop Straling selected sisters and laypersons for leadership positions within

the parishes and schools, even inducting some as administrator of parishes.

During his 10 years as bishop for the Diocese of Reno, Straling established a Lay Ministry Formation program along with many other programs. In 2001, the Diaconate Formation process was established, creating a distinct ministry preparation for Catholic men discerning. In the spirit of collaborative ministry, the Diaconate and Lay Ministry Formation programs were held together, with specialized training taking place. Many people and parishes have been improved because of Bishop Straling's emphasis on shepherding lay ministry and ongoing adult faith formation. Bishop Straling retired as bishop for the Diocese of Reno on June 21, 2005.

The National Association for Lay Ministry is a professional organization that supports, educates and advocates for lay ministers and promotes the development of lay ministry in the Catholic Church. Formed in 1981, it currently has 1,000 members serving across the country.

For further information, please contact Christopher Anderson, the National Association for Lay Ministry at 202-636-3899 or by email: canderson@nalm.org. Web [www.nalm.org](http://www.nalm.org).

## Prayer Breakfast brings spiritual resources together

By Rita Sloan

On April 30, a few hundred people of faith gathered for the annual Nevada Prayer Breakfast at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa "to pray on behalf of our state and bring the spiritual resources of the community together to bear on issues that face Nevadans."

The Nevada Clergy Association, an interfaith network of religious and spiritual leaders in Nevada, sponsored the event, which brought together a wide spectrum of faith traditions, including numerous denominations of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs and Hindus (with this reporter's apologies to anyone missed by this list).

First Lady Kathleen Sandoval opened the agenda of fine speakers, and State Treasurer Kate Marshall gave the keynote address.

The program also included the

bestowing of the Nevada Clergy Association's Vision Award which went to Dr. Clair Earl (posthumously) and Rabbi Myra Soifer, both of whom worked for many years to promote the strong interfaith relationships that this area enjoys today.

All speakers addressed eloquently the oneness of humanity and the strength and joy that comes from nurturing these relationships, while respecting the multiplicity of faith traditions, and as Myra Soifer said in her talk, also "the differences of temperament and politics."

In addition to the fine talks, attendees enjoyed a lovely breakfast and musical interludes.

Those lingering at the end were heard to say, "What a lovely morning!" and "What a blessing it is to be here!"

The theme of this year's prayer breakfast, "A Future Together," was most appropriate.

## Lay ecclesial ministers church's newest vocation

By Lauri Anne Reinhart

Have you ever felt called to serve the church in a professional capacity?

At the time of the Second Vatican Council, 1962-1963, there were three church vocations: priests, religious men (brothers, friars and monks) and religious women (sisters and nuns). It was assumed people who wanted to work for the church must have one of these callings.

In 1980, the U.S. bishops recognized a new situation: lay women and lay men who were called to serve the church without having a call to join a religious community or be ordained.

Their first document on this topic was "Called and Gifted." This was followed by other documents, demonstrating to the church the bishops respected and affirmed the new phenomena of lay ministers. Reno's bishop emeritus, Bishop Straling, chaired the committee that wrote "Lay Ecclesial Ministry: The State of the

Questions (1999)."

The most recent document of the U.S. bishops on this subject is "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord (2005)," which focuses on those who "are authorized to serve publicly in the local church, demonstrate leadership in a particular area of ministry, collaborate with the ordained and have appropriate preparation and formation" and are now designated as lay ecclesial ministers.

While many lay people minister within the church, lay ecclesial ministers have the four qualifications listed above. Most begin as volunteers and then move into a public, leadership role, accompanied by (or perhaps preceded by) training not only for their specific ministry, but studying theology and Scripture as well, usually through a diocesan or university program.

If you feel called to serve without being ordained or joining a religious order, call the Diocese of Reno at 775-326-9410. More than 35,000 lay people in the United States are now living out this new vocation!

# A Healthy Start for <sup>ALL</sup> Babies

When mothers have nowhere else to turn, Renown is there.

The Pregnancy Center, operated by Renown Regional Medical Center, provides prenatal care so that all women — regardless of their ability to pay — have the chance to have a healthy baby. Prenatal care is the best way to ensure fewer complications in childbirth and for newborns. For every \$1 invested in prenatal care, \$8 is saved in the increased costs that result from pre-term and low-weight births. Despite economic, and in some cases, health factors, moms at The Pregnancy Center give birth to the same percentage of full-term babies as you would find in the general insured population.

In 2011, The Pregnancy Center helped 2,042 minority and underserved women. Even though we serve women of very diverse ages, we provide help to hundreds of teenage mothers each year. Renown is the only locally owned not-for-profit health system in Reno, and provides The Pregnancy Center as part of its charitable outreach services. The Pregnancy Center gives ALL babies in our community the chance for a healthy start. If you'd like to support The Pregnancy Center, visit [renown.org/support](http://renown.org/support).

*"It was a nightmare situation, no insurance and eight months pregnant. I called several places and everyone was awful to me but then I called The Pregnancy Center. They welcomed me with open arms and went above and beyond. I can't thank Renown enough for everything they did for me and my baby."*

*Rebecca Morris  
Pregnancy Center Patient*

## The Pregnancy Center

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