



# NORTHERN NEVADA CATHOLIC

DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF RENO

## Glory to the newborn king

### Christmas is about Christ's real presence

By Father Nathan Mamo, S.T.L.

The observance of Christmas has changed greatly in only half a century. What once was a religious festival decorated with a moderate amount of secularized tinsel has become a tremendously important secular commercial event with a religious background often hidden by the run-up from September exhorting us to shop and buy!

Our great-grandparents hardly would see the original meaning of today's Christmas celebration. And therein lies a challenge to Gospel believers!

How do we — who are fully engaged in our modern world — properly, prayerfully, festively and openly witness to and celebrate the Incarnation of God in humanity? How are we, as Christians, really present in the world? Indeed, such is the challenge of living and announcing the Gospel of Christ!

The mystery of the Incarnation — the theological title for the profound mystery of God come down to humanity — is one of the two fundamental Christian mysteries (along with the paschal mystery), at once an attractive cause for hope, while at the same time incomprehensible. So incomprehensible is it that a most effective image for its communication has been



PHOTO BY JACKIE ALLEN

Jace Winkelman, left, and Ashley Laughlin portrayed Joseph and Mary at the 2012 Live Nativity at Bishop Manogue Catholic High School.

that of the Christ Child in the manger surrounded by Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, magi and barnyard animals.

The birth event of the Christian Messiah has been and still is powerful, ever since

its dramatization was thought up by Saint Francis of Assisi in the 13th century. St. Francis was a permanent deacon who gave active and radical Gospel witness to the profound love and goodness of

God. He used a scene of the birth of Jesus as a memory device by which to engage the human believer's imagination and to connect the Gospel to the realities of human life (See Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2 for his source).

Luke the Evangelist included poor shepherds from the countryside as his way of pointing out the Messiah came not only for the religiously faithful Jews who went to the Temple regularly. He came for the least of the Jews as well, which were represented by the shepherds and for all who were generally unable to practice their Jewish faith. The angelic announcement to shepherds gave them a new religious status in Luke's Gospel account.

That manger that has come to decorate the interiors of churches and Christian homes around the world (and to be a cause for legal controversy in the United States in some public places) easily is obscured by the incessant noise of selling and buying gifts and decorations. Christians certainly can participate in this and, in fact, we ought to! To opt out of the societal culture of Christmas would make us appear as grim as a Grinch, and it would be quite contrary to the good news of the Gospel message!

But Christians need to figure out "How?" in each Christian individual's and household's circumstance, to give faithful, healthy, balanced and joyful witness to the fact that Christmas is a festival of the coming of the Messiah, the beginning of his

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# NORTHERN NEVADA CATHOLIC

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## Publisher

Most Rev. Randolph Calvo, Bishop of the Diocese of Reno

## Editor

Maureen Angel

## Writers

Father Nathan Mamo, Auburn Harrison, Maggie O'Neill, Karen Barreras, Martha Cervantes, Father Bob Chorey, Lisa Bedotto Laughlin, Rita Sloan and Lauri Anne Reinhart.

## Columnists

Bishop Randolph Calvo and Sister Maria, O.C.D.

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Elko area: Marilyn Janka, 775-753-9542

Toll free: 866-329-6009

# Synod preparation moves ahead

By Bishop Randolph Calvo

A key component of the Diocesan Synod is the formation of the Preparatory Commission.

The Vatican instruction on the synods outlines the broad responsibilities of this group of people. The commission will develop what is called the "directory" of the synod, something akin to a "playbook" that describes the composition of the members of the synod, the method of their selection and the procedures for its deliberations.

It also will design, organize and facilitate the participation of the diocese in the consultation phase leading up to the actual synod gathering. The commission will gather the input from this broad-based consultation and formulate questions or issues to be presented for the synod's deliberations. It also will facilitate the spiritual and catechetical formation that is vital to the entire process.

The Preparatory Commission had the first meeting on Oct. 24 and meets once a month. The members are: John Aberasturi (vice chair), Sister Maria Ahern, Jim Cavilia, Martha Cervantes, Tyler Cobb, Eugene Gastaya, Victor Gonzales, Marina

Hedwall, Cathy Higginbotham, Telsche Saunders-Hipple, Ed Horodko, Monique Jacobs, Ken Peak, Janet Lanham, Marian LaVoy, Maria Leman, Sister Marie McGloin, Ursula McManus, Jeremy McNeil, Jane Moon, Father Tom Nelson, Deacon Dave Norman, Ino Quintana, Sally Ramm (chair), Maripaz Ramos, Lauri Anne Reinhart, James Rizza, Joe Saiz, Carol Sara, Rita Sloan, Gregg Sprigg, Jim Toner and Father Edgar Villaneuva.

Sally Ramm and John Aberasturi were selected by the members to be chair and vice chair, respectively. Barbara Verdi is the coordinator of the synod process.

In his visit to Assisi on Oct. 4, Pope Francis addressed the leaders of the diocese who were beginning a diocesan synod. He said, "Walking ... it is one of my favorite words when I think about a Christian and about the church. However, it has a special meaning for you: You are about to enter into the diocesan Synod. To hold a 'synod' means to walk together. I think this is truly the most powerful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with their Lord who walks among us! We are not alone, we do not walk alone... We are part of the one flock of Christ, walking together."

I ask for your prayers as we "walk together" as the local church. We do not walk alone: Christ is with us as he promised, and the Holy Spirit leads and guides. Let us follow where the Spirit leads.



Bishop Randolph Calvo



PHOTO BY BARBARA VERDI

Members of the Preparatory Commission listen to a presentation by Brother Matthew Cunningham, standing, at a Nov. 14 meeting.

# Family celebrates adoption of sons through Catholic Charities

By Auburn Harrison

**R**eno couple, Lisa and Nick, say their two sons are the greatest joys of their lives.

"There is nothing better than coming home to my family. We feel so lucky to have them," Nick said.

Lisa and Nick adopted their older son, Aengus (5), through Catholic Charities five years ago after having been married for eight years without getting pregnant.

"We started the process and never looked back," said Lisa, a stay-at-home mom.

Last month, they finalized the adoption of a second boy, Cormack (7 months), and say they couldn't be happier with the outcome.

"I am so thankful to the birth parents of these two boys. They gave us such a gift. I cannot thank them enough," Lisa said.

Cormack's adoption coincided with National Adoption Month 2013, which Lisa and Nick say is a great opportunity to spread the word about the positive experiences they had while using the Adoption Services Program at Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada.

The couple said the great thing about Catholic Charities' program is it's personal and can be molded around each family's personal preferences. Lisa and Nick completed "open adoptions" with both of their children, meaning they send photos, letters and updates to the birth parents of their boys using Catholic Charities as a mediator.

"Other than that, our family is like any other. I love these boys as though they came from my own womb," Lisa said. "We never wanted to sit down with them and have a conversation to tell them that they were adopted, so we've always just talked about it and kept it out in the open."

Lisa said the process of adopting through Catholic Charities was simple. After a medical and



PHOTO BY AUBURN HARRISON

**Renoites Nick and Lisa adopted Aengus and baby Cormack through the Adoptions Services Program at Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada.**

background check, as well as an extensive home study, they simply had to wait for a baby to become available.

"We waited three years to be matched up with Cormack, and we got him with half a day's notice. He's perfect," she said.

Nick said it's important for the public to be aware of the Catholic Charities Adoption Services because if mothers don't know this option is out there, they might not make the right decision.

"We want mothers who can't parent to know that there are stable, capable, loving parents like us available," he said.

Nick said the media coverage of celebrities adopting babies from foreign countries has given people the impression that there is only one way to adopt.

"People are always surprised when we tell them our boys were born right here in Reno," he said.

Lisa added, "We never considered any other option than using Catholic Charities. Our boys were truly meant to be ours. We couldn't have produced cuter children."

The Catholic Charities Adoption Services Program is the first program to exist under the Catholic Charities umbrella, which was then known as the Catholic Welfare Bureau.

Since 1941, the organization has completed more than 2,000 successful adoptions. Adoption Services fees are provided to families on a sliding scale basis.

The program always is seeking expectant mothers who want to hear about their choices, as well as parents who want to grow their families.

To learn more about the Catholic Charities' Adoption Services Program, go to [www.catholiccharitiesnorthernnevada.org/adopt.html](http://www.catholiccharitiesnorthernnevada.org/adopt.html). To speak to Adoption Services Director Linda Kennedy, call 775-322-7073, ext. 231.

## Christmas

From page 1

Gospel message. Note that Christmas is not a festival of the birthday or birth date of Jesus of Nazareth. His actual date of birth is lost to history.

The first Roman emperor friendly toward Christianity, Constantine the Great, decided in the 320s AD to celebrate the Nativity (i.e., the birth) of Jesus in liturgical fashion in Constantinople (modern day Istanbul, Turkey), on what already was a Roman holiday. So, in the fourth Christian Century, the Christmas festival had its beginnings. Originally and for centuries, it principally was a liturgical event.

Today, Christians have to cope with an out-of-balance emphasis on the gift-giving and gift-receiving detail of the Gospel story that is a part of the Magi visitation of the infant Jesus and his mother, Mary, found in Matthew's Gospel 2:11.

The gift giving was a relatively small detail in the story. The larger point was the Savior was

not only the Savior for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles! And the very best and most important of them came to accept him represented by the Magi. Thus salvation is offered to all, from the least of the Jews to the greatest of the Gentiles. That includes everybody!

So, what are we Christians "saying" by how we celebrate Christmas? What might others hear from us about the Savior and his Gospel message? Our presence in the world must be a sanctified presence, indeed, a "real presence" of Gospel fellowship. We speak of Christ's "real presence" in the Eucharist. We who receive the Eucharist constitute the "real presence" of Christ in society. Our baptismal vocation is to give and receive, especially to give thanks to God, and to receive inspiration from the God who became one like us.

A most blessed Christmas to you and to all of good will!

## School opinions sought online

Assessment is a term used frequently when it comes to students in schools, but it also is important to assess schools and the perceptions about them to guide us in further decision making that is based on data regarding attitudes toward Catholic education in the Diocese of Reno. If you could be so kind as to take a brief online survey, it could be one tool to further guide the Diocesan School Board.

To learn more about our schools, check the website [www.renodiocese.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=157](http://www.renodiocese.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=157).

To take the survey in English, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/VD39DCX#sthash.11UMvZKO.dpuf](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VD39DCX#sthash.11UMvZKO.dpuf).

To take the Spanish survey, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/YTSR2TP#sthash.11UMvZKO.dpuf](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YTSR2TP#sthash.11UMvZKO.dpuf).

*'I'll have a blue Christmas without you'*

# Holidays intensify grief over losing loved ones

By Maggie O'Neill

**F**or some people, the Christmas holidays bring sadness and grief when memories of their loved ones who have died arise. Their Christmas season may include ups and downs and pain and joy, but the experience and expression of these intense feelings can help lead to peace and healing.

"This is just a very, very special time of year," said Sister Ofelia Roibas of Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery. "Emotionally, we are not in the same place as we are the rest of the year, and the memories are more potent than during these other times."

Sister Ofelia knows just how intense those feelings can be. More than 40 years ago, she lost her grandmother, Maria Lopez, who suffered a stroke in the beginning of December and passed away a month later. Sister Ofelia remembers that month like yesterday — flying from sunny Miami to snowy Reno to see her grandmother one last time and being surrounded by so many joyous faces during the holidays when she was filled with such sadness and grief.

"I remember all the details," she said.

She now visits the gravesite of her grandmother whenever she can. Since her grandmother is buried in Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery, visiting on holidays and other special occasions is a way for Sister Ofelia to honor and remember her.

"You say, 'I want to forget. I don't want to cry.' Don't deny it," Sister Ofelia said. "Grief is a very legitimate feeling. It's

## RESOURCES

To talk to someone about feelings of grief, call:

- Sister Ofelia Roibas at our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery at 775-323-0133
- JoAnn Baird at St. Albert the Great at 775-747-0722, ext. 5602 or on her cell phone at 925-699-4765
- Suicide Prevention and Crisis Hotline: 800-992-5757

Crossroads Grief Recovery Programs meet starting at noon on the first and second Sundays of each month at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, 1250 Wyoming Ave. For December, however, the meeting is moved to Dec. 15.

nothing you have to feel sorry about."

She mentioned the Book of Ecclesiastes, which reminds people there is a time for everything under Heaven, including to be born and to die, but also to mourn and to dance.

"And there is a time for crying, and that is OK," she said.

People can take many different steps to remember their loved ones during the holidays. This could include going to Mass or lighting a votive candle. Making their favorite foods or dishes is another way to remember them, Sister Ofelia said. Calling their friends to recollect or sharing a funny story helps to honor their memories.

"The sharing is very important," she said.

If the deceased person did particular things during the Christmas season, people may want to do the same things to imbue their spirit into the holidays.



"Remember the person through whatever that person liked the best," Sister Ofelia said. "Suppose that person always wanted to have a green or red ribbon on the Christmas tree. Do it, and do it in memory of that person."

People suffering from grief tend to isolate themselves, and that isolation can lead to feelings of aloneness in suffering, according to JoAnn Baird, the Catholic grief minister at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Reno. That's why grief support groups can be an additional way to look for

healing and peace during the holidays.

Two groups, Crossroads I and Crossroads II, meet at St. Albert the Great on the first and second Sundays of every month, starting at noon (except this December when the meetings are scheduled for the second and third Sundays). The first meeting of the month, Crossroads I, is open to those who have just lost a loved one. Crossroads II, the second Sunday of the month, is for those who have

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## Solace Tree provides grief counseling for children ages 2-8

**C**hildren who have lost parents or other adults may have a particularly hard time during the holidays. That is why Solace Tree provides peer-supported group counseling for ages 2-18 and their families.

Emilio Parga, its executive director and founder, noted children and families have many ways of coping with grief during the holidays. Some families even choose to travel so they can leave their house, where strong memories live.

Tips that the Solace Tree participants have suggested as ways to express grief during the holidays include:

- Allowing children and other family members to make decisions about how to celebrate — or not to celebrate — the holidays.

- Instead of decorating the entire house for the holidays, choosing to decorate just one room or continuing to celebrate just one tradition.

- Making a donation to a charity or a favorite cause of the deceased.

- Putting a candle in the middle of the table during a meal to remember the deceased and/or making their favorite

food or dish.

- Creating a holiday ornament in memory of a person who has died.

Children and families can become involved with the Solace Tree by signing-up for an orientation session. After that has occurred, children can begin attending bi-weekly sessions at the Solace House, where they meet in age-appropriate peer groups to discuss feelings of grief, loss and coping, but decide how much they want to share. The Solace Tree can be reached at 775-324-7723.

# Find God in Scripture of the holiday season

The 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to two theoretical physicists who suggested an invisible ocean of energy suffusing space is responsible for the mass and diversity of the particles in the universe.

The theory, elucidated in 1964, had sent physicists on a generation-long search for a telltale particle known as the Higgs boson, or the “God particle.” The chase culminated in July 2012 with the discovery of the Higgs boson at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, in Switzerland. The Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said the prize was “for the discovery of the mechanism that contributes to understanding the origin of the mass of subatomic particles.”

As science pursues the understanding of “an invisible ocean of energy suffusing space” and “sub-atomic particles,” the prologue of John’s Gospel, read at the daytime Mass of Christmas, seeks understanding of our God made visible in Jesus Christ.

The evangelist John reaches back before creation; he begins with the bold assertion, “En arche en o logos; in the beginning was the Word.” John goes on to say simply: the Word was with God, that the Word was God and that the Word became flesh.

*“He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

...  
*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and the world came to be through him,*

...  
*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”*

The Christmas story is told in words as lofty as “in the beginning was the Word” and as poetically as “the time came for Mary to have her child and she gave birth



## Sister Maria

to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

However, we decide to recall the Christmas event, the day is at hand and ready to weave its magical spell on us. Now is the time to focus in and savor the time. Yes, the merchants of merchandizing also are focused but let us go apart to hear the angel voices.

*“Christmas is celebration.*

*For each of us*

*There is journey to travel*

*A star to discover*

*And a being within*

*To bring to life*

*Only the first Christmas took place in a stable.*

*Every Christmas since then has taken place in human hearts.”*

It is time. Time to be present to the “invisible ocean of energy suffusing space.” Time to embrace our faith, which tells us:

*“All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

It is time to find the light and journey with the Magi, time to kneel with the shepherds and adore with Mary.

*“For the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”*

## Grief

From page 4

been mourning longer, for a year or two.

“These are open to anyone who wants to come,” said Baird, who leads the groups. “The holidays can be the happiest times of life, and sometimes the most unhappy times when there have been losses.

“My own daddy died on Christmas night,” she said.

Tea and coffee are offered during the meetings. People may bring light food to share, and pictures of their loved ones. At the meeting, they light a candle, may read from Scripture or say a prayer. Their time together can be one of both tears and hope, and the sharing can allow people to begin to gain a greater perspective about their losses, Baird said.

“Gathering together with others gives you a sense of family and a sense of support. Some people think it will make them feel morose and feel worse, but that is almost never true,” she said.

“There’s just hope and joy in communion and in relationship. It’s relationship with God, but God comes to us through one another — in our pain, in our joy, in our celebration of life. It’s about reaching out,” she said.

Acknowledging and working through those feelings of grief can help to prevent people from pursuing distracting and potentially dangerous coping behaviors.

“It’s important to feel the feelings,” Baird said. “You can’t just drown them. Some people will try to medicate their feelings with alcohol or with being busy and shopping. Some people will turn to gambling so they don’t have to feel the

sadness, but feelings don’t last forever. They come and go, and it’s important to have the courage to move through them.”

She described loss as cumulative, saying a new loss, such as the death of a pet, may re-open past wounds or bring about very fresh and intense feelings. This is true during the Christmas season and at other times.

She noted she is available to talk with grieving people and can be reached either through the St. Albert the Great office at 747-0722, ext. 5602 or on her cell phone at 925-699-4765. She recommended people who are so overcome with grief and at risk of hurting themselves, contact the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Hotline at 800-992-5757.

“A lot of families have had painful experiences during the holiday times, not just the losses of family, but other kinds of losses, losses of what could have been, that kind of thing,” she said.

Some people may also have few good memories or fond feelings for a person in their life who has died, making the healing difficult. In these cases, Sister Ofelia, who can be reached at Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery at 323-0133, said prayer could help to transform the pain.

“Pray for healing,” Sister Ofelia said. “Pray for healing of those kinds of memories.”

It is these steps of sharing, remembering and praying that can begin to lead people in grief toward healing and the foundation for a less painful, more joyous Christmas experience.

“Don’t say, ‘That’s it. That person died,’” Sister Ofelia said. “The relationship exists and the relationship is there. Have hope. All the time.”

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# Give yourself a gift: Sign up for conference now

By Maureen Angel

We didn't plan it. We vowed to avoid it. But with Christmas only days away, the stress is threatening to overwhelm us. Take a few deep breaths to help you relax and focus on what the season is really about, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Now that you've relaxed a bit, take a few minutes to give yourself a gift by signing up for the 2014 Annual Diocesan Conference.

The 2014 Conference is scheduled for Jan. 10-11 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Now that we are in the computer age, sign-ups only take a few minutes to complete! Complete information about all the exciting workshops along with a registration form can be found at [www.renodiocese.org](http://www.renodiocese.org). A convenient link to the

conference can be found on the website's front page.

With an estimated 675 Catholics from all over Northern Nevada attending the 2013 Diocesan Conference, classes filled up fast.

Keynote speaker Father Tom Bonacci will be speaking on "Come into the Light." Bonacci said, "Light is a universal phenomena. We may speak of the enlightenment that is the consequence of living life with all its challenges and struggles.

"Light, by nature, shines all the more brightly in direct proportion to the darkness that cannot overcome it," Bonacci said.

Following the keynote address, a concert featuring the music of Tony Alonzo will start at 8 pm.

Donna Kennedy, secretary to

Bishop Randolph Calvo said, "The annual conference is a really nice to get the reaffirmation of what we have accomplished in our Diocese over the years. It is also wonderful to see individuals — conference friends, so to speak, that we only get to see once a year during the conference. It is always fun to see these friends we've made from outlying parishes, and to catch up what's happening in their lives and in their parishes."

She also wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who works so hard in putting the conference together. "Hopefully we will see a lot of new faces this year," she added.

Many times we may feel we have gone as far as we can go in our faith, and it becomes comfortable "to go through the motions," that we all know and love. However, what

we may have learned as children, teenagers and adults is not nearly enough to meet our current needs in an ever-changing world. Our world is changing so quickly — look at the Internet and technology.

Has your understanding of faith grown and changed as well? Our annual conference is meant to inject new life and ideas into the way we live and practice our faith, as well as to help strengthen our bond as a faith community. Consider this a "Faith Upgrade" for 2014! You won't regret it.

So take a few minutes now to visit the Diocesan web page and read about all the exciting and diverse workshops that are being offered and give yourself a gift by signing up for some of the workshops being offered. Chances are it will be the best gift you receive all year, and it will last you for years to come!

## Respect Life activities included Mass, contest

By Karen Barreras

On Oct. 30, middle-school and high-school students in the Diocese of Reno Catholic schools, religious education and home-school communities gathered for the Respect Life Mass at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

Bishop Randolph Calvo presided over the Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Tom Donnelly, Father Joseph Abraham, Father Mike Mahone and Father Larry Morrison.

Bishop Calvo's homily supported the theme "Open Your Hearts to Life," reminding students and others that whenever we open our hearts to people and to life, we find ways to help people. He said human life is a sacred gift, and these concepts need to be on our radar screens.

Beautiful music for the Mass was provided by the Bishop Manogue Catholic High School Choir.

More than 400 entries were submitted to the poster contest, which was sponsored by the Respect Life Commission and the Knights of Columbus.

Some suggested themes for posters were adoption and the joy of new life,

crisis pregnancy centers and Casa de Vida, post-abortion healing ministries, gift of fertility, palliative care and dignity in illness and dying, respect, love and value for the elderly, adult stem cell research, comfort, support and care to counter assisted suicide, God creates life, chastity and marriage between one man and one woman for life.

Winners of the poster contest, many of whom won cash prizes donated by the Knights of Columbus, were Isabel Peralta, Rebekah Gonzalez and Julia McElwee, Mariclaire Geil and Jasmine Haas, Arianna Balingit, Shannah Foo, Samantha Foo, Ann Shoen, Alexis Francis, India Wheeler and Chase Ortiz. We congratulate the winners, and, just as importantly, congratulate all of the students who used their talents to illustrate the important message of respecting life.

Sincere gratitude goes to Bishop Calvo, clergy, Linda Ugalde, Mark Foxwell, the Respect Life Commission, the Knights of Columbus, administrators, teachers, students and parents who support this annual event that reinforces the message of hope and love for all life from conception to natural death.



PHOTO BY APRIL GONZALEZ

Shannah and Samantha Foo show off their winning entries in the Respect Life poster contest.

# Seminar sets priorities for Hispanic ministry

By Martha Cervantes

The historical Mission of St. Anthony of Padua in Jolon, Calif., was the location for the XI Regional Seminar on Formation for Hispanic Ministry from July 31 to Aug. 2.

The seminar consists of directors and staff of Hispanic ministry formation programs in the 12 dioceses of California and the two dioceses of Nevada.

The attendees from the Reno diocese were Maripaz Ramos, director of ethnic ministry; Patricia Cruz-Hernandez from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sparks and Martha Cervantes from St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Fernley.

The increase of the Hispanic population in California and Nevada has remained steady in recent years, and it will continue in the foreseeable future. This reality will make it necessary for the church to raise new leadership for this rapidly increasing population.

Members of the seminar are in dialogue with all the bishops in the dioceses of Region XI to develop and continue to support ways for education and faith formation for lay ecclesial ministers and permanent deacons.

The Hispanics of Region XI also challenge the seminar to locate where the needs are in the dioceses, increase access to higher education among candidates for Hispanic Pastoral



PHOTO BY MARIPAZ ROMAS

Directors and staff of Hispanic ministry programs in California and Nevada attended the XI Regional Seminar on Formation for Hispanic Ministry.

Ministry, and candidates for ministry wanting to attain undergraduate and graduate degrees. Our diocese offers classes in Spanish for those wanting certification as a lay ecclesial minister.

The members of the seminar have listed five issues that are priorities:

- To respond to the needs of formation of the groups that conforms to the Hispanic community in our region.

- To work within the regional standards of formation that realistically responds to the present reality.

- To include the social dimension at all levels of formation.

- To attend to the Hispanic youth, especially the generation of Hispanics

born in the United States.

- To define the accessibility of what we understand and under the terms of "education" and "formation" and what we can do within our own field of work in favor of the Catholic Hispanic communities of California and Nevada.

For a detailed report, visit [www.lmu.edu/Assets/2012+Report+to+Bishops.doc?method](http://www.lmu.edu/Assets/2012+Report+to+Bishops.doc?method).

For more information on the Program of Adult Faith Formation, you can visit the Diocese of Reno website at [www.dioceseofreno.org](http://www.dioceseofreno.org). Click on "Hispanic Ministries," then click "Adult Faith Formation." Contact Maripaz Ramos at 326-9423 or Maria del Rocío Estevez at 326-9415.

## Participant's perspective

By Martha Cervantes

I started the Adult Faith Formation Program "This Is Our Faith" A Way of Discipleship in Spanish in August 2012, and my experience with it has been amazing.

The presenters have been of the highest standard, very knowledgeable and open to questions. Although they are very educated, they are able to talk at a level where I am able to understand.

I have been through two other lay ministry programs in English in the past years, and I have noticed the presenters, because they are educating a different culture, are guiding us differently than what I experienced previously. And in my opinion, it is what is much needed in the Hispanic community.

Our homework is to write a theological reflection, and we have been given questions to guide us. This homework reinforces what we have heard in class.

We also are instructed to get together by regions or parishes at some point after each class to discuss what we learned. I live in a rural area of Nevada, and there are at least five of us from here and two others from a neighboring town who make that effort every month. We formed a carpool to drive the 60-plus miles to and from class. Then another 60 miles to and from our parishes to meet for prayer, reflection and share ideas on how we can support each other to further our ministries.

We are always inviting others to join us and we share what we have learned with them. I am very much looking forward to continue this learning experience so I am able to continue in a leadership role in our Hispanic community.

*Martha Cervantes is a parishioner at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Fernley.*

## Diocese of Reno active on social media

By Father Bob Chorey

Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Instagram — common names these days for most people. They are part of the social media revolution that has taken over the world by storm. Through it, people can connect easier than ever — and with people all over the world!

Businesses are using social media to promote

themselves and increase sales. Governments are using them to inform their citizenry.

Even churches are using social media to evangelize and reach their own flocks. The Diocese of Reno is right there in the thick of it for all to see and enjoy.

Our diocese has a number of social media platforms, as well as do a number of our parishes.

A list of social media

sites our diocese is active on can be found at [www.renodiocese.org](http://www.renodiocese.org).

The diocese hopes through these platforms, people can find inspiration, challenge, information on events, updates, news and learning.

So "like," "follow," "circle" and "subscribe"! It is easy, free and a great way to connect with the Catholic Church here in Northern Nevada and the world.




**One day, one stop, one goal: to end homelessness.**

Please help us collect warm coats, scarves, hats, gloves, toiletries, etc. for our annual Project Homeless Connect event happening Tuesday, February 5th, 2014. Sixty non-profit organizations that work with the poor will be distributing these items on that date.

**To donate, please visit our St. Vincent's Thrift Shop at 500 E. Fourth Street in Downtown Reno, M-F 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please specify the donation is for "Project Homeless Connect."**

For more details, call Auburn Harrison at (775)322-7073 x235 or email [ddirector@ccsnn.org](mailto:ddirector@ccsnn.org).



# Inspirational speaker headlines Friends dinner

By Lisa Bedotto Laughlin

**I**nspirational speaker Chet McDoniel will headline the Friends for Life dinner and fundraiser on Feb. 21 at the Downtown Reno Ballroom.

Born with no arms, McDoniel offers a unique perspective on how choosing to overcome barriers can inspire life. His message of hope, happiness and living a full life has inspired thousands to live life with a positive attitude.

Casa de Vida, Reno's home for unwed, pregnant women, will be honored at this year's dinner. Over the last 32 years, Casa de Vida has helped hundreds of women and their babies make a better life for themselves.

Funds raised through the Friends for Life dinner enable Pro-Life League of Nevada

to educate the public about life issues in order to create a culture that celebrates life from conception to natural death.

PLLN reaches deep into the community by sponsoring a weekly pro-life show on Spanish radio; distributing pro-life materials at major community events, such as the Nevada State Fair; and sponsoring nationally known speakers to discuss the value of life.

Most recently, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School and PLLN co-sponsored nationally acclaimed speaker David Mahan, who addressed high school and middle school students on the value of life ethic and self respect.

His mixture of humor, candid conversation and experience with the most troubled inner-city youth makes his message compelling and inspiring for

young people from all backgrounds.

PLLN also sponsors Camp Joshua, a leadership program for future pro-life leaders. Targeted toward high school students, Camp Joshua is an action-packed weekend of hands-on experience, interactive games, and dynamic speakers who educate and motivate the next generation of pro-life leaders.

Now more than ever, the Catholic life ethic is under attack due to the federally mandated coverage of the morning-after pill, contraception, and in some cases abortion, through the Affordable Care Act. Catholic hospitals and educational institutions are not exempt from providing these services even though they infringe on Catholic teaching.

At the same time, great strides are being made in the pro-life movement, with

abortion on the decrease and multiple states passing laws to protect the unborn.

You can help further to pro-life cause by:

■ Attending the Friends for Life dinner on Feb. 21. Tickets are \$75 or \$500 for a table of eight. (\$600 after Jan. 1).

■ Donating items to the Friends for Life auction and purchasing raffle tickets being sold before and at the event.

■ Purchasing and signing the signature ad published annually in the Reno Gazette-Journal and other media outlets.

■ Joining in the annual March for Life on Jan. 25 in San Francisco.

For more information about the Friends for Life dinner or to donate items to the auction, please call 775-410-3479.

For more information on Nevada pro-life activities, go online to [www.NevadaRightToLife.org](http://www.NevadaRightToLife.org).

## Show raised scholarship money

By Lisa Bedotto Laughlin

**M**usicians in the Catholic community joined forces to raise money and awareness for the Diocese of Reno Scholarship fund. Husband-and-wife team Joseph and Cheryl DeRosa headlined the event.

Cheryl DeRosa was hot on the fiddle as she tore through "Orange Blossom Special," leaving the crowd begging for more. Later that evening, she played "The Devil Went Down to Georgia." Backed up by Joseph DeRosa, on piano and vocals, as well as Grant Sims on drums and Phil Jerome on bass guitar, the band was on fire, and the crowd was on its feet.

Student choirs from all area Catholic schools performed. The Bishop Manogue Faith Band, led by Jeremy Satalick, sang a medley from "Sister Act." Students from Our Lady of the Snows, under the direction of Lydia Aberasturi, performed selections from the Broadway musical "Annie."

St. Albert the Great's choir, under the direction of Nina Weaver, sang "Go Light Your World." Samantha Scott led the Little Flower Choir in "10,000 Reasons and Go Make a Difference." Carson City's Saint Teresa's sang "Home Means Nevada."

All of the musicians together closed out

the evening by singing "Open the Doors to the Children of God" (the DORS song), written by the talented Joseph DeRosa.

The concert also was the venue for the premier showing of Michael Roessler's video "A Higher Education." The video shows, in an artistic manner, the welcoming atmosphere that can be found in Catholic schools, as well as the emphasis of educating the whole child. This video was an all-volunteer project, and it was made with the cooperation of many people throughout our local parishes and schools.

Bishop Manogue's Miner Diner sponsored a dinner before the concert. Funds for the Diocese of Reno Scholarship were raised through the musical talent and commitment of our local musicians, including the DeRosas, Nina Weaver, Lydia Aberasturi, Samantha Scott, Grant Simms, Phil Jerome, Ryan Canoy, the Siridachanon Sisters, Chloe Crouser and Don Rae.

DORS benefits the most-needy students in our Catholic schools and follows recipients annually throughout their education in the Diocese of Reno Catholic schools. This year, a generous donor will match all donations up to a total of \$100,000. To donate or for more information, contact Karen Barreras 775-326-9430 or [karenb@catholicreno.org](mailto:karenb@catholicreno.org).

## Digital Media Center provides resources for faith formation

By Father Bob Chorey

**A**dult Faith Formation is a vitally important aspect in our mission as Catholics here in the Diocese of Reno.

Yet this can be one of the most challenging for us to accomplish. Children's Faith Formation tends to be easier because we "make" our kids go. Yet somehow, adults can't be "made" to go. It also seems many adults feel like they have "graduated" from any further learning about the Catholic faith.

Through the years, we have had programs to invite adults to learn more about our faith and take ownership of their Catholic faith. We can remember "Renew" and the recent "Why Catholic?" Now a new and entirely different approach is coming to our diocese: the Digital Media Center.

Through collaboration with "My Catholic Voice," the Digital Media Center offers a one-stop library of online resources and materials so small groups can form and meet in homes, parishes

and schools and grow in our faith.

These resources will include the Father Robert Barron series on "Catholicism" and his "Word on Fire" series.

It also will include Scripture studies, catechetical studies and more. Most of these will be free or available for a small fee.

These materials will provide an exciting way to enhance RCIA and children's religious education programs.

The Diocese of Reno also will have access to live streaming events from our parishes and diocesan events.

The Archdiocese of Kansas City-Kansas and the Military Archdiocese of the United States are already using this system with very good results.

The Diocese of Reno hopes to have the Digital Media Center up and running by January.

In the meantime, look for ways to engage yourself in Adult Faith Formation — all of you are important and necessary to the mission of the Church of the Diocese of Reno!

# Fighting against poverty is everyone's responsibility

By Rita Sloan

**T**his is a trick question: What is the largest state in the USA?

It is the state of poverty. Totalling 46 million, if all persons living in poverty were living together in one state, that state's population would be larger than that of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Nebraska combined.

Of the total population of the United States, 1 out of every 5 children lives in poverty. The U.S. poverty rate for children is higher than that of any industrialized country in the world. (Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau as reported at [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org))

Shocking statistics! A shocking reality! And we have not even spoken of global poverty, which also must concern us as we cannot deny our global connections, our interdependence and our responsibilities.

"Confronted by this economic complexity and seeking clarity for the future, we can rightly ask ourselves one single question: How does our economic system affect the lives of people — all people," asked "Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy," No. 363. "Part of the American dream has been to make this world a better place for people to live in; at this moment of history that dream must include everyone on this globe. Since we profess to be members of a 'catholic'

or universal church, we all must raise our sights to a concern for the well-being of everyone in the world. Third World debt becomes our problem. Famine and starvation in sub-Saharan Africa become our concern. Rising military expenditures everywhere in the world become part of our fears for the future of this planet.

"We cannot be content if we see ecological neglect or the squandering of natural resources," the pastoral letter states. "In this letter, we bishops have spoken often of economic interdependence; now is the moment when all of us must confront the reality of such economic bonding and its consequences, and see it as a moment of grace — a kairos — that can unite all of us in a common community of the human family. We commit ourselves to this global vision."

Perhaps we are thinking we need to be more generous in our giving, especially at this time of year. Yet our Christian love calls us to even more. The "two feet of love" include both charitable works to help meet the basic needs of individuals and justice work to remove the root causes of poverty and improve social structures that promote the Common Good. (See [www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/upload/two-feet-brochure.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/upload/two-feet-brochure.pdf)).

"The world is full of sorrow, pain, and strife, so I asked God, 'Why don't you do something about this suffering?' Then I heard God ask me the same question." — Anonymous.

# Faith formation is a life-long endeavor

By Lauri Anne Reinhart

**I**t is through religious education programs — also called catechism classes, CCD, CR and Faith Formation — that most American Catholic children are educated in their faith. Last year, more than 4,700 children in the Diocese of Reno were enrolled in classes. Across the United States, more than 4 million children and teens attended such classes.

About 400 people in our diocese taught in religious education programs. Teachers often are called "catechists," a word from the ancient church meaning "to echo," implying these people are handing on the faith that they themselves have heard.

Volunteers receive training from their parish director of religious education, from catechist certification offered through the diocese and through attendance at events like the annual diocesan conference. They further their own spiritual formation through weekly Mass, a personal prayer life and by consciously living out their faith.

In November, the National Catholic Education Association inaugurated a Parish Religious Education Week. The purpose, according to its website, is "to highlight the important role played by parish-based religious education and faith formation programs across the country." It took place the first week of November.

Being a catechist is one of the more demanding ministries, but it also is rewarding. Obedient to Jesus' command to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20), catechists find joy in helping others learn about and grow in their faith.

Parents may need help to understand children's religious education doesn't end when sacraments are received. Children should attend religious education classes until they are at least sophomores in high school (the age of confirmation for most teens). Baptism, confirmation and Eucharist are "sacraments of initiation," meaning they are sacraments of beginnings, not of endings.

Children who no longer attend class after receiving first communion know little about Catholicism. The richness of faith that results from discussion with others, reflection on Scripture, study of history, exposure to the wide variety of prayer in our tradition and review of the lives of the saints is not something gleaned in two years of sacramental preparation. It emerges through years of faith formation. The church itself speaks of "lifelong learning," encouraging adults to continue studying their faith all their lives.

Parish religious education programs, and those who teach in them, make a vital contribution to the life of a parish and the lives of parishioners themselves.

## In memoriam

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

### OCTOBER

- Agnes Bedera
- Jeannie S. Gaspari
- Alice Rose B. Baird
- Cleo Marie Porter

- Debbie M. Flores
- Clifford R. Inlow
- Heafotu Vahai
- Janelle Hernandez
- Edward J. Noel
- Jose C. Villarreal
- Augustia C. Donnelly
- Gail Dorothy Baldecchi
- John A. Mirczak
- Juan Miguel-Gutierrez
- Raymond C. Moore.

### NOVEMBER

- Jennifer D. Luedtke
- Jacqueline Bursztynsky
- Jeffrey B. Sweeney
- Franz S. Sedlmeier
- Eva B. Sedlmeier
- Lydia M. Ceccarelli
- Katherine T. Morlan
- Margaret K. Nazy



**Our Mother of Sorrows  
Catholic Cemetery**  
 Located: 2700 N. Virginia St, Reno, NV  
 Mail: P.O. Box 8505, Reno, NV 89507

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# Students celebrate season with service

## St. Albert the Great

Wait, watch and pray. Waiting is one of the hardest things to do during the season leading to Christmas. But knowing the whole world waited for redemption, we begin our Christmas celebration with the same anticipation.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, our children give gifts to community members who need our help and support.

Watching includes caring for one another. St. Albert's students and parishioners began their outreach programs for Veteran's Day, collecting warm hats, gloves and socks.

For the Thanksgiving drive, every class provided food for baskets for the homeless and hungry. The third-graders coat drive also started before Thanksgiving.

For Christmas, the school and parish will distribute food, warm clothing and toys for children. The outreach programs teach generosity and responsibility.

We pray always. We pray for the people of the Philippines, where many of our parish family have friends and relatives. We pray for victims of violence. We pray for peace.

## Bishop Manogue

Bishop Manogue's Sodality club held its annual Thanksgiving food drive, collecting more than 8,000 food items for Sister Carmen Baca of Our Lady of Snows Catholic Church and Holy Child Early Learning Center. Sister Carmen distributes food to hundreds of families throughout the area each holiday season.

The food drive has been organized by Sodality, a women's service organization, for at least 45 years.

A delightful scene unfolds in Manogue's Small Gym every December. High school students



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BISHOP MANOGUE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
Bishop Manogue Catholic High School students Tiana Mitts, left, and Elaina Earhart sort donations during the 2012 food drive.

take a break from worrying about finals, college essays and GPAs, and turn their attention to making Christmas magical for the first- and second-graders of Sierra Vista Elementary School.

Faces are painted, games are played, crafts are created, cookies are decorated and each youngster takes a turn on Santa's lap.

The Dec. 13 party was planned by leadership students. It is cherished Christmas tradition, which begun when the two schools were in close proximity to each other.

Manogue students raise all the money to fund the party, and every child leaves with their own gift — and a big smile.

## Little Flower School

Christian Leadership and National Junior Honor Society members in grades five through eight at Little Flower School are required to complete between 10 and 20 service hours each school year.

They lead the student body

in service projects by planning and advertising various events, organizing student help and promoting awareness of communities or people in need.

Beginning in September, the groups meet after school and on the weekend to make blankets and cards to take to the Veterans' House and Hospital for Veterans' Day.

This year, 20 handmade blankets were delivered by four students to the Veterans' House and 320 cards made by all members of the student body were taken Nov. 12 to the Veterans' Hospital.

Immediately following their work for veterans, the two programs began their outreach for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Each year, Little Flower School provides about 15 families with a Thanksgiving dinner and enough extra food for the four-day holiday.

As the students prepare for the Thanksgiving Food Drive, they also are making more blankets to

take to Casa de Vida and raising money to provide families in need with gift certificates at Christmas time.

Throughout the year as tragedies and natural disasters strike, the Christian Leadership and National Junior Honor Society students lead the Little Flower student body in fundraising, creating sympathy cards or conducting drives for toiletries and personal needs to help communities and places impacted by unexpected events.

The time and effort many of these students commit to serving their community goes above and beyond 20 hours and creates an enduring understanding of who we are as Catholics and why we work to serve one another.

## Our Lady of the Snows

Students at Our Lady of the Snows participate in a number of service activities that allow them to directly influence the community in a positive way.

Sister Carmen Baca's food drive has been one of our most important, year-long community outreach programs. In addition to this program, students coordinate the annual Adopt-a-Family program to supplement Sister Carmen's efforts to help families.

The Adopt-a-Family program is one of the most meaningful acts of charity for our students. Sister Carmen selects families for each class to adopt. Students are given first names of each person in the family. They donate their own money and collect more from their parents and families.

Once the money is collected, students pool their resources and plan an afternoon shopping excursion for their selected families. Typical items purchased include coats, shirts, pants, socks, hats and gloves for every family member, plus toys for the children.

A giant wrapping workshop follows, with students bringing paper, boxes, bows and ribbons from home. Packages are labeled with each family member's name. Once finished, students carry their goods and deliver them to Sister Carmen.

Our Adopt-A-Family tradition at Snows is a powerful way to bring the light of Christ to our community.

## St. Teresa of Avila

St. Teresa might be small in number with 157 students, but it is huge in heart!

On Oct. 8, the students and staff of St. Teresa's were visited by Brian Williams, president and founder of the nonprofit organization Think Kindness.

Williams gave a motivational speech on kindness and how we can impact those in our daily lives and those around the world by simply being kind.

Williams challenged the students and staff to Think Kindness' 15 Days of Kindness Challenge. This meant that for the following 15 days, the students would be changing their school's culture with kind acts and helping those in need around the world by collecting pairs of gently used shoes.

The goal was to collect 1,500 pairs of shoes, which for a student body of 157 seemed unattainable. However, these students not only met the goal, they exceeded it by collecting about 3,000 pairs of shoes!

This is a testament to small groups coming together for a big cause and making a giant difference! The 3,000 pairs of shoes collected will be sent to those in need around the world by Think Kindness.

If you are interested in bringing the 15 Day Challenge to your school, visit [www.thinkkindness.org](http://www.thinkkindness.org) or call 775-636-8026.

## Schools offer holiday programs

### Bishop Manogue

Students and faculty from Bishop Manogue, as well as students from the Catholic elementary schools, will re-enact the Nativity from 5-7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 in the school's chapel, 110 Bishop Manogue Drive.

Re-enactments last 15 minutes. Visitors can enjoy holiday music by the school choir, refreshments and shopping in the campus store. The event is free.

Bishop Manogue has hosted a Live Nativity since 2006, according to Manogue's Fine Arts Department Chairman Jeremy Satalick.

### Our Lady of the Snows

Students will be singing at the Nevada Humane Society in December. They also will present a Christmas performance, featuring the entire school, at 2 p.m. Dec. 18 at the church. Details: 775-322-2773.

### St. Albert the Great

For the Children's Christmas Pageant,

all of the students were asked to re-create the Christmas story through a play and the singing of carols. The program is at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at the church.

### St. Teresa of Avila

Fifth-graders sang at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 6 in Carson City.

The entire school will present "Lessons and Carols" at 6 p.m. Dec. 20 in the church.

Each class has a message they will present through a song and prayer. Fourth-graders will recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation and the Great Commission to preach the "Good News" through Scripture readings. Eighth-graders are re-enacting the nativity through tableaux scenes. The seventh-graders have learned how to play handbells and will perform two Christmas songs.

After the performance, families will gather in the church hall for dinner, a silent auction and a visit from Santa. Details: 775-882-2079.

## Parish listings for The Diocese of Reno

**St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral**  
310 W. Second St., Reno  
775-329-2571

**Corpus Christi Catholic Community**  
3597 N. Sunridge Drive, Carson City  
775-267-3200

**Holy Cross Catholic Community**  
5650 Vista Blvd., Sparks  
775-358-2544

**Holy Family Catholic Center**  
103 N. West St., Yerington  
775-463-2882

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
2900 N. McCarran Blvd., Sparks  
775-358-5977

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church**  
794 A St., Hawthorne  
775-945-2020

**Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church**  
1138 Wright St., Reno  
775-323-6894

**Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic Church**  
West Elk Point Road, Zephyr Cove  
775-588-2080

**Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Newman Community**  
1101 N. Virginia St., Reno  
775-322-4336

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
562 Fourth St., Carlin  
775-754-6425

**St. Albert The Great Catholic Church**  
1259 S. Albert Drive, Reno  
775-747-0722

**Saint Ann's Catholic Church**  
3 Melanie Drive, Dayton  
775-246-7578

**St. Brendan's Catholic Church**  
60 Nob Hill Ave., Eureka  
775-237-5547

**Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
701 Mount Rose Highway, Incline Village  
775-831-0490

**St. Gall Catholic Community**  
1343 Centerville Lane, Garnerville  
775-782-2852

**St. John Bosco Catholic Church**  
392 S. Reese St., Battle Mountain  
775-635-2576

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
1045 Franklin Ave., Lovelock  
775-273-2189

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**  
1035 C St., Elko  
775-738-6432

**St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church**  
111 E. St., Virginia City  
775-847-9099

**Saint Michael Catholic Church**  
14075 Mount Vida, Stead  
775-972-7462

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church**  
850 W. 4th St., Fallon  
775-423-2846

**St. Paul's Catholic Church**  
350 Melarkey St., Winnemucca  
775-623-2928

**St. Peter Canisius Catholic Church**  
225 E. Fifth Ave., Sun Valley  
775-673-6800

**St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church**  
625 Desert Shadows Lane, Fernley  
775-575-4011

**St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church**  
100 Bishop Manogue Drive, Reno  
775-851-1874

**Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church**  
3000 N. Lompa Lane, Carson City  
775-882-1968

**St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church**  
619 Sixth Street, Wells  
775-752-3400

**St. Therese the Little Flower Catholic Church and St. Jude Shrine**  
875 E. Plumb Lane, Reno  
775-322-2255 or 322-0048



**Freshman Wins Card Contest:** Bishop Manogue Catholic High School student-artists worked capturing the beauty and blessedness of the season for the school's second annual Christmas Card Design Contest. Winners were chosen by faculty and staff. This year's winning design, shown above, was created by freshman Ruthie Griggs. With the help of the Carmel of Reno Sisters, well-known in the region for their own beautiful creations, her art has become the official 2013 Bishop Manogue Christmas card. The second place design was created by sophomore Chase Ortiz, third place by sophomore Brianna Mick and honorable mention by junior Joe Klippenstein. All four winning pieces have been made into a boxed set of greeting cards, available for sale at Bishop Manogue's campus store.

# Where a healthier community is born.

The Pregnancy Center –  
just one of the many ways  
Renown invests in making  
our community healthier.

The Pregnancy Center, operated by Renown Regional Medical Center, provides essential prenatal care to women regardless of the ability to pay. For every \$1 invested in prenatal care, \$8 is saved in costs that result from pre-term and low-weight births.

As the only locally owned, not-for-profit health network, Renown's community services, such as The Pregnancy Center, give all the babies in our area the chance for a healthy start.

If you'd like to support The Pregnancy Center, visit [renown.org/support](http://renown.org/support).

**The Pregnancy Center**  
A Community Service of Renown Health