

NORTHERN NEVADA CATHOLIC

February/March 2014

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF RENO

Fulfilled pledges continue to build diocese

By Sean M. Grady

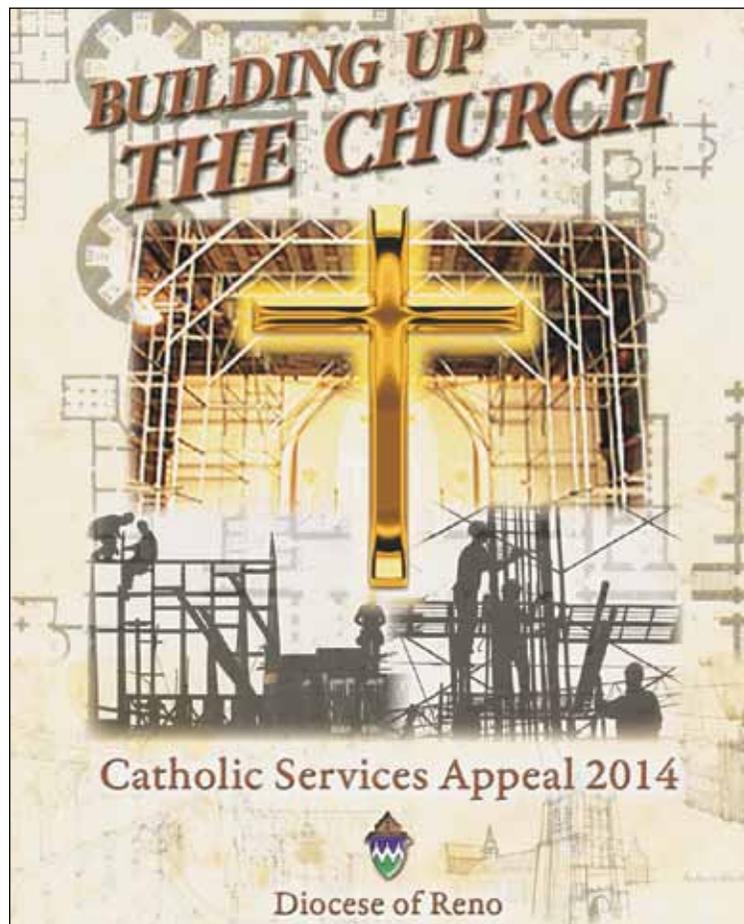
The 2014 Catholic Services Appeal is under way, and once again the faithful will be giving what they can to support the Diocese of Reno. Even if they are out of the diocese when they do so.

"We've actually had people move from the area and still honor their pledge," said Mike Quilici, chief development officer for the Diocese of Reno. "It's a real tribute to all the donors out there who continue to support the Appeal."

The Appeal, in turn, supports several programs such as the Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, the diocese's department of Catholic Schools and ongoing training and support for priests.

The fact that the Catholic Services Appeal helps build and maintain the diocese fits into the theme for this year's drive — "Building Up The Church" — which was inspired by an address that Pope Francis delivered at a prayer vigil during July's World Youth Day celebration in Rio de Janeiro.

In his address, Pope Francis said that Jesus was calling on his followers, "to build up his Church, but not as a little chapel



which holds only a small group of persons. He asks us to make his living Church so large that it can hold all of humanity, that it can be a home for everyone!"

The 2014 Appeal's theme also reflects a spiritual construction project that Bishop Randolph

Calvo started last spring during the Feast of Pentecost, when he announced he was convoking a diocesan synod to help plan the future of the Diocese of Reno.

Part of the current Appeal's planned allocation of funds includes \$25,000 that will be

directed to the synod.

The goal for last year's drive was \$1,448,000; as of Jan. 22, the diocese had collected more than \$1.8 million of the money its donors had pledged during the year, with only a small amount more yet to arrive.

Diocesan figures show that more than 5,300 Catholics in the region — slightly less than 30 percent of the faith's membership — participated in last year's Appeal, Quilici said.

These donors are very active participants. Even in slow economic times, the Appeal has surpassed its yearly goals.

Not all the money comes directly from the donors' coffers. A small amount comes from donors who have asked for and received matching funds from their employers, some of which have nationally recognized names.

"IGT, NV Energy, Microsoft — those are some of them," said Carmen Godoy, administrative assistant and CSA secretary for the Office of Stewardship and Development. "The thing is, people need to ask their employers if they do any fund matching."

The difference between the money collected during each year's appeal — which all run

from Feb. 1 to Jan. 31 — and that year's goal amount goes back to the parishes, with each parish getting back exactly the amount that exceeded its own goal.

"When we first started this program, we were one of the very few dioceses, if not the only one, in the country that did a dollar-for-dollar rebate to the parishes for what they collected above their parish goals," Quilici said.

The total amount of money going back to the parishes this year will be in the neighborhood of \$360,000, he said.

A parish's rebate depends on how deeply its members get involved in the drive. A few parishes receive rebates ranging in the tens of thousands of dollars, while others get more modest returns.

"Then they use that for various programs — outreach, helping the poor or whatever else they want to do at the parish level," he said.

More information can be found online at www.catholicreno.org; a Facebook page listed under "Diocese of Reno Office of Stewardship Development"; upcoming iPhone and Android applications; and by phone at 775-326-9433 or 775-326-9444.

NORTHERN NEVADA CATHOLIC

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF RENO
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Victims' Advocates

The Diocese of Reno has established special phone numbers for the use of victims to report sexual abuse by priests or deacons of the church while the victim was a minor. The Victims' Advocates listed have been assigned by the bishop to receive these calls and assist victims and their families.

Reno/Carson area: Kathleen Shane, 775-826-6555

Elko area: Marilyn Janka, 775-753-9542

Toll free: 866-329-6009

Pope Francis and the need for mercy

Bishop Randolph Calvo gave this homily at St. Gall's church, Gardnerville, on Jan. 22 to parishioners and priests present for the annual Clergy Study Days.

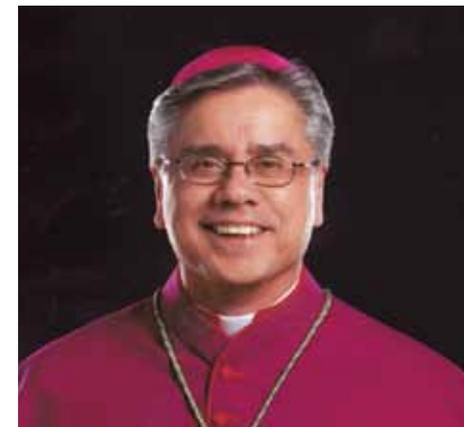
Since we last gathered here a year ago for these Study Days, much has happened in our church. First was the unexpected resignation of Pope Benedict, and then the election of Pope Francis, who has captured the attention of the world in a remarkable way. He has not pronounced anything new theologically, but the manner in which he carries out his ministry is perceived unconventional. There is a change in style and tone.

Yet, even these are not things foreign to our sensibility as a church; in fact, they affirm aspects and instincts we carry. What Pope Francis has done, I believe, is to put front and center the pastoral dimension, the pastoral mission of the church.

In an interview he gave last summer with the editor of the Jesuit publication, *Civiltà Cattolica*, the Holy Father said when we speak about moral issues, "We have to talk about them in a context." When he talks about "context," I think he means the pastoral mission of the church as it is directed to the reality of people's lives. That is, we don't talk about our moral teaching as though it was abstracted from the concrete circumstances of people's lives.

The Gospel for today is an example of this. It is the story of Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath (Mark 3:1-6). This incident in the synagogue is another of the controversies Jesus confronted concerning religious practices and, in particular, the observance of the law on the Sabbath. There were prohibitions on doing work on the Lord's Day, but at issue here was whether addressing a human need such as an illness constituted a violation of the law.

It was not a theoretical question but a situation involving a person present who had an illness, a withered hand. The Pharisees scrutinized Jesus' every action, and so they watched closely what



Bishop Calvo

he would do. The scene was thus one of heightened tension in which we hear of Jesus' anger at the Pharisees' hardness of heart. In response, Jesus put the issue in context, asking, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"

The context framed the issue not on the particular prescriptions of law but on the broader end of doing good rather than evil—which in this case was omission, not healing—and of saving life.

On the Sunday after he was elected, Pope Francis spoke twice about God's mercy and the need for mercy in our world. The Sunday readings were about mercy, but the pope underscored mercy as one of the most profound messages of the Gospel. And he has since spoken about mercy often, emphasizing the need for the church to be merciful.

Pope Francis' vision of the church being for the poor and being itself poor I believe stems from his understanding of the essential role of mercy in the church's pastoral mission. In fact, it is mercy that ties together all the concerns of Catholic social teaching, whether it is about the life of the unborn child, the plight of immigrants, the economic situation of millions who lack food or clean water or the victims of violence and war. In our church these past years there have been unfortunate, divisive

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Mercy

From page 2

debates over whether one teaching is more important than another. Yes, there are moral teachings that are more grave and urgent than others in a particular context, but the discussion often has been in the abstract, cut off from the pain and misery of people.

Abstraction in these cases leads to hardness of heart. As the Catholic author Flannery O'Connor once wrote, "Conviction without experience makes for harshness." When we speak of truth without reference to the concrete experience of people, there is a temptation to come across and to be hard hearted. Mercy puts things in context and it is mercy that connects us to reality and lets us hear the cry of the poor and of the unborn child, and of parents who lost their children in the crossfire of war.

This Mass falls on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Roe vs. Wade* and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. In reflecting on the readings scheduled for today, I wondered how the first reading (1 Samuel 17:32-51), the story of David and Goliath, could be tied into this theme. It is a violent story but it carries a familiar theme of the Old Testament: the way of God confounds people. David says in the story, "it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves." To make this point, God chooses people who appear no match in a contest with an overpowering force. God prefers the weak and vulnerable so as to confound the powerful.

I believe this applies to our effort to end abortion. We as a church must not think of engaging in this battle simply according to the rules of the world, its expectations and the way conflicts are fought. Our strategy must be one true to our calling, faithful to the pastoral context of the church's mission. It has to be one as disarming as sending a shepherd boy to confront a Goliath. Or as disarming of evil as was Christ's death on the cross. It has to be one where goodness shines forth in deeds more than in words, where charity prevails, and where mercy appeals to the heart of every woman and man.

Scholarship fund meets its goal

By Karen Barreras

It is with great joy, gratitude and the help of the entire Catholic community that efforts to raise \$100,000 in 2013 were met, and these funds were matched by an anonymous donor, adding \$ 200,000 to the Diocese of Reno Scholarship Fund.

Current members of the DORS Committee are to be thanked for their efforts. They are Dr. John Anxo; Dr. Randy Pane; Lisa Laughlin; Friar John Heinz; Jim Cavilia; Jim Carrico; Karen Barreras, superintendent of Catholic Schools; and Jim Toner, past president of Bishop Manogue Catholic High School.

Established in 2010, the needs-based Diocesan Scholarship was the joint vision of Bishop Emeritus Philip Straling and Bishop Randolph Calvo. Initially funded by an anonymous \$100,000 donation and matched by the Diocese of Reno, scholarships provide access to Catholic education to students most in need. The following year, this same donor offered a \$50,000 matching contribution, and donors met this challenge, raising an additional \$42,000. For 2013, with the continued offer of a \$100,000 matching donation, the goal was achieved again.

The number of qualifying students continuously increases as our fund grows: 2011-2012: 12, 2012-2013: 16 and 2013-2014: 21.

Applicants' income information is analyzed and verified by FACTS Grants and Aid. Recipients and their parents agree to maintain good grades, citizenship and service.

Academic data is disaggregated and tracked to assure the recipients' continued academic excellence, a strong indicator of lifelong potential.

To date, there is a database of 283 donors, as well as many anonymous donors. Donations have ranged from 25 cents to \$10,000.

Past and on-going efforts to increase the DORS Fund are multi-faceted.

- Presentations to the Bishop Manogue Catholic High School Board
- Annual appeal letter sent to donors
- DORS website
- Imagination Graduation June 2013

■ Presentations given at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Rose of Lima, Our Lady of the Snows, Little Flower and St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral from June to November 2013

■ Bulletin announcements sent to parishes

■ Articles in Northern Nevada Catholic

■ A column devoted to DORS in each edition of "The Good News In Catholic Education" E-blast

■ Announcements on Immaculate Heart Radio

■ Interviews with Karen Barreras and Joseph de Rosa were featured on Immaculate Heart Radio

■ Notices on the Diocesan website

■ Outreach at the Diocesan Conference each January

■ E-mail blasts to encourage people to donate

■ DORS donations from Dollar Dress at schools

■ Christmas cards from the DORS Committee were sent to donors, priests, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School Board and Diocese of Reno School Board

■ 50 percent of all proceeds from the sale of Joseph de Rosa's CD "To the Children of God"

The first DORS Concert was Sept. 28, highlighting the upbeat and exciting music of Joseph and Cheryl de Rosa, and choirs from all schools, as well as dinner that was provided by the Miner Diner! More than 100 students from all grades performed, culminating in the premier

performance of the combined choirs singing de Rosa's original song, "To the Children of God — The DORS Song."

Parents, students, principals and pastors have expressed their gratitude.

A parent wrote, "This education that my children are receiving, thanks to your support, is the only legacy that I will be able to leave for them. ... From my part, I will continue to support the Diocese of Reno as much as possible. From my children's part, they will continue to learn and excel in their education."

A seventh-grade student said, "Without this scholarship, I would not be able to participate in school sports, running for an elective office and enjoying my friends. I work very hard for good grades and love going to this school. Thank you again."

A fourth-grader wrote, "Thank you so much. I will work very hard this year."

Peggy Burger, principal of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School in Carson City wrote, "Being in Catholic education most of my professional life, I have come to realize how much an opportunity like the DORS scholarship means to families who otherwise could not afford to even consider sending their children to a Catholic school. The most important part of this scholarship is that it is a guarantee of Catholic education for multiple years. That fact alone is amazing. Although most Catholic schools offer financial aid, a scholarship of this magnitude is unheard of."

Operation: Easter Basket



Easter basket donations for children in need!

What: Pre-filled Easter Baskets of a \$10 to \$20 value

Who: For children living in poverty who are served by Catholic Charities & the St. Vincent's Programs

When: April 2014

Where: Catholic Charities, 500 E. Fourth St., Reno, NV 89512

For details on how to get involved, call

Emelie Melton Williams at (775)322-7073 ext. 242

or ewilliams@ccsnn.org.



Diocesan Conference focuses on the 'Light'

By Maggie O'Neill

More than 600 people attended the annual Diocesan Conference hosted by the Diocese of Reno on Jan. 10-11, with several saying they felt inspired by the speakers and personally moved by the theme "Come into the Light."

"My own personal quest is spirituality and trying to understand what I'm all about and maybe this [conference] gives me a little perspective," said attendee Ross Sidebottom, a parishioner from St. Gall Catholic Church in Minden.

The conference was the 31st sponsored by the diocese and featured nearly 20 speakers at John Ascuaga's Nugget. In 75-minute workshops, they spoke on topics as varied as the leadership of Pope Francis, Catholic social teachings and Franciscan spirituality leading to environmental action. Speakers included priests, as well as lay men and women.

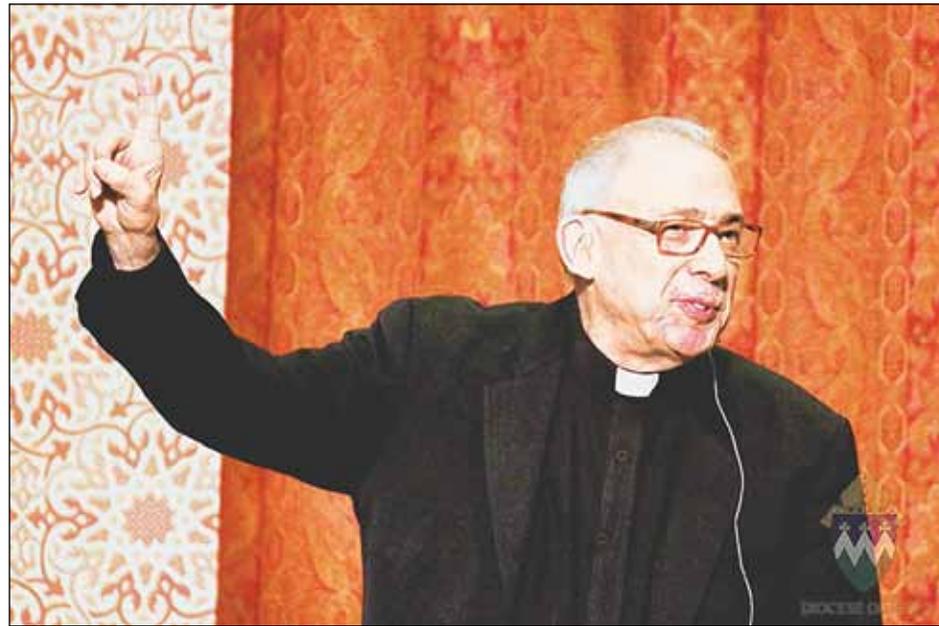
"I haven't missed one of these [conferences] since they started way back when, and I don't know the year they started, but they have great speakers, and it renews me and gets me excited about keeping busy in the church," said Rita Sloan, a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. "I was telling somebody that maybe once I learn it all, I won't need to come back, but that hasn't happened yet."

As noted by others, she said the conference's emphasis on light had particular relevance to her.

"I think it's so easy to focus on the negative and the dark and the problems of the world, and there is plenty to focus on there," she said. "But the focus on the light and the theme that we all have that divine spark is just reaffirming and encouraging to me."

Connie Nolan, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Sparks, also was thrilled at the topic of light because she said that is how she lives her life — centered on the light.

"Even when I say my morning or night prayers, there's always a candle burning, and it reminds me of whom I'm speaking to and so forth — Jesus," she said. "It was very dear to my heart in that manner, to see that Jesus is the light, and that if we



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DIOCESE OF RENO

Father Tom Bonacci was a keynote speaker at the Diocesan Conference.

follow the light we can't go wrong. And if we go wrong, we just have to get up and keep going."

Breanna Balmut, registrar for the event, said most speakers leading the workshops try to tailor their talks to the theme, which is picked out annually by a committee. By the end of the conference, she already had received feedback about the conference and that this year's speakers were "really good."

"We had a few different speakers this year," she said. "Wesley Smith got some really good reviews, and he did a couple of talks on cloning and assisted suicide. Paula D'Arcy was wonderful. The reviews were mostly good and positive."

Smith, a lecturer and public speaker, gave one talk called "Human Cloning Has Arrived: What Does It Mean?" and another, "Euthanasia/ Assisted Suicide Cannot Be Controlled." D'Arcy, a writer who does national and international seminars, led workshops called "Finding Light In the Darkness," "Learning To Water Our Own Seed" and "Awakening Into Life."

Local speakers leading workshops included Father Nathan Mamo of St. Gall's Catholic Church in Gardnerville and Monique Jacobs, director of faith formation for the Diocese of Reno.

Many registrants chose their

workshops based on the topics or the speakers.

Stacey and David Mieding selected a class led by Jacobs entitled "Called To Be Church — How Do We Do That?" Jacobs had previously spoken at their Right of Christian Initiation for Adults, or RCIA, class at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, the Miedings said they wanted to hear her again.

"Monique in her session talked about how Christ is the center and not us," said Stacey Mieding. "I think in our personal lives of busyness we can get

that backward and confused, and it was just a reminder and brought me back to something that's so easy to forget."

"We hear a lot about the problems in the world and the hurt in the world and I think the message is simple," David Mieding said. "God loves everybody, and that's a beautiful message, and if people heard that more, I think people would be inspired."

Attendance at the conference was at average, Balmut said, with most registrants coming from the Reno area, although others did travel to attend.

"St. Teresa of Avila had a huge turn-out this year from Carson City. There were a couple of people I know who made it all the way in from St. Joseph's in Elko, and they're troopers. They have to get up real early in the morning," Balmut said.

"We do have a couple of people that come over the hill for it. We used to have a group that came down from Oregon. It's a pretty good crowd," she said.

Tickets for the conference cost \$30 or \$50, depending on whether participants attended part of the conference or all of it. Ticket fees cover the cost of hosting the conference, which is sponsored through the Catholic Services Appeal. That organization kicked off its annual fundraising appeal Jan. 10 at the conference, according to Balmut.

"Their theme this year is 'Building up the Church', so we're all building it up together and coming into the light and it's good stuff," she said.



Father Allan Deck led one of the workshops, "Pope Francis Leads Us Into the Light."

Immigration reform is a win-win prospect

By Rita Sloan

Most people in this country agree our immigration laws must be changed. Pew Center research indicates “Three-quarters of Americans believe legal status for undocumented immigrants would help the economy, far more than those who say it would hurt it” (www.pewresearch.org).

As Catholics, we know we are called “to welcome the stranger among us.” Yet, after so many years of calling for reform, we find many of the immigrants in our communities are no longer strangers, but rather friends.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has held steadfast with its criteria for CIR; reform must:

- Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country.
- Preserve family unity as a cornerstone of our national immigration system.
- Provide legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States.
- Restore due process protections to immigration enforcement policies.
- Address the root causes of migration caused by persecution and economic disparity.

Here are just a few of numerous statements made by Catholic bishops across the nation:

“Immigration reform is a win-win for both immigrant workers and their families and U.S. citizens. Keeping undocumented workers in the shadows limits their ability to fully contribute to our economy and prevents them from climbing out of poverty. This harms the whole community, as immigrants and their children — the future leaders of our nation — miss the opportunity to reach their full God-given potential.” — Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio Elizondo of Seattle (uscgbmedia.blogspot.com)

“We should remember that while we are a nation of laws, we also are a nation founded on the principle of justice. Accomplishing immigration reform would restore justice to our immigration system and strengthen, not undermine, the rule of law.” — Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia (www.catholicphilly.com)

[catholicphilly.com](http://www.catholicphilly.com))

“While there has been much talk about the economic, social and enforcement aspects of this issue, we also should understand that immigration is a humanitarian, and ultimately a moral issue, as well.” — Bishop Michael Pfeifer of San Angelo, Texas (www.themonitor.com)

“We believe it is imperative that the people of the United States see that the broken immigration system of this land comes with tragic human cost. ‘Families are torn apart, children are separated from their mothers and fathers, husbands are divided from wives, not just for days or weeks, or even months. Many may never see their families for decades, if ever.’” — Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio (catholicphilly.com)

“What is happening to the immigrant family in the United States is an offense against God and the human conscience.” — Family Beyond Borders, An Open Letter from the Bishops of the Border Region of Mexico, Texas and New Mexico To Catholics and All People of Good (www.archsa.org)

“Immigration reform is a life issue and it is a family issue. And it is a question of our soul.” Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles (www.the-tidings.com)

“As a moral matter, however, our nation cannot continue to receive the benefits of the work and contributions of undocumented immigrants without extending to them the protection of the law. Studies have demonstrated that undocumented immigrants contribute substantially to our nation’s economy, working in industries such as service, construction, and agriculture. Keeping these human beings as a permanent underclass of workers who are unable to assert their rights or enjoy the fruits of their labor is a stain on the soul of the nation.” — Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org)

“There is something very flawed with a law that separates families and demands that a husband separate from his wife and sometimes children due

to immigration laws.” — Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI of Milwaukee (www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

“What is happening to our American sense of fairness and justice? We need comprehensive immigration reform in order to preserve our most fundamental American values.” — Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio (www.satodayscatholic.com)

“In the immigration experience of the last two centuries, the Catholic Church played a major role in settling, resettling, educating, inculcating, medicating and safeguarding the rights of immigrants. I hope our generation of Catholics will be known for the same.” — Bishop Robert Lynch of St. Petersburg (www.bishopsblog.dosp.org)

“Jesus was the ‘divine immigrant’ who lived his life ‘traveling from place to place,’” — Bishop David O’Connell of Trenton (N.J.), Justice for Immigrants Mass Oct. 11, 2013 (ncronline.org)

“Our prayer today, like that of Pope Francis, finds us imploring God to so touch the hearts of all within this great land of ours in order to recast our immigration system in a way that secures the safety of our nation but also welcomes and respects the strangers among us.” — Bishop Joseph Bambera, Diocese of Scranton (www.dioceseofscranton.org)

“As you may know, the House of Representatives will shortly be considering another important moral issue, one which the House must also

act upon without further delay; namely the urgent need in our country for comprehensive immigration reform.”

— Bishop Michael Burbidge of Raleigh, N.C. (www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

“The Catholic bishops are focusing on comprehensive immigration reform which guarantees a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented men, women and children already in the United States. The status of those people — whose lives, dignity and human rights are at stake — is the central moral issue at this moment in the policy debates.” — Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley, Archdiocese of Boston (www.thebostonpilot.com)

“Working together in a spirit of compassion, we can — and must — create a system that promotes human dignity, enhances respect for our nation’s laws, and reflects our proud heritage as a nation of immigrants.” — Washington State Catholic Conference representing the Catholic Bishops of Washington State: Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of the Archdiocese of Seattle, Bishop Blase J. Cupich of the Diocese of Spokane, Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of the Diocese of Yakima and Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle. (www.seattlearchdiocese.org)

“Getting involved in immigration reform is about more than law, it’s about faith.” — Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha (www.catholicvoiceomaha.com)

For many more immigration quotes from Catholic bishops, see www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

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Celebrations of faith sustain, enrich our lives

Clocks tick around us all the time. They remind us the moment they mark will never come again. The passage of time can be agonizingly slow, but a year often can seem to come and go in the blink of an eye.

A full-scale 10,000-year Clock is under construction. Designed to run for 10 millennia, the object is to foster long-term thinking. The designer, Danny Hillis wrote of his brainchild:

"I cannot imagine the future, but I care about it. I know I am part of a story that starts long before I remember and continues long beyond when anyone will remember me. ... I sense that I am alive at a time of important change and I feel a responsibility to make sure that the change comes out well. I plant my acorns knowing that I will never live to harvest the oaks."

We are part of a faith story that started long ago and will survive our lifetime. Sometimes it is very helpful to pause in the liturgical year and remember how the celebrations of our faith sustain and enrich our lives.

Last year, we had to hurry the shepherds, the Magi and the other major players of the Christmas season off the liturgical stage very quickly as



Sister Maria's column

Easter was so early that Ash Wednesday almost collided with the Feast of the Presentation. This year with Easter occurring on April 20, we get the opportunity to catch our breath and look at the Liturgical year in a more leisurely fashion. There are now two and a half weeks before the profound season of Lent and its call to repentance.

The liturgy holds the hope we may one day come face to face with God and be transformed. In the meantime, in times of crisis, times of change, times of joy and times of sorrow, the faith community

gathers with us to support us on the journey. Together, we find life, hope and faith and a gathering around table and the word. Our ritual activity forms, creates, shapes, molds and brings into being the church.

Liturgy is not words about God, but the language of our encounter with God and with our fellow believers. The symbolic ritual language of liturgy both expresses and creates our relationship to self, others and our God.

The liturgy expresses, celebrates and intensifies this trifold relationship. Coming together as a community of faith reminds us who we are and what we believe both as individuals and corporately.

While reminding people of this time and place, we are more deeply connected or reconnected to the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ in which we find the meaning of ultimate reality. Christ's life, self-giving unto death, resurrection, ascension and gift of the Spirit is more than a memorial — it is the reality of our everyday life.

The sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, celebrated tomorrow, bears a message to the community to seek this deeper wisdom.

First Reading: (SIR 15:15-2)

"If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand."

Second Reading (1 COR 2:6-10)

"We speak wisdom to those who are mature, not wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the world was made.

It is written: eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and it has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit."

This afternoon or on Sunday morning, let us be present to our liturgical experience — the awe-filled experience of being loved by God which God extends to every human being.

Let us cultivate the willingness to re-locate ourselves, if only for the brief minutes of liturgy in a faith journey ... a journey that started long before we remember and will continue long beyond when anyone will remember us.

Sights, sounds of Walk for Life leave lasting impressions

By Linda Ugalde

You have to get up very early in the morning, leave while it's still dark, travel by bus or car for several hours, walk a few miles with tens of thousands of people and then return home late at night, tired but exhilarated.

While those are the logistical details of the Walk for Life West Coast, which took place Jan. 26 in San Francisco. The sights, sounds and incredible sense of encouragement and optimism leave lasting impressions on participants.

Surrounding you are families with infants and young children in strollers, people in wheelchairs, priests and nuns, men and women of all ages and youth.

Thousands of teens and young adults join together joyfully to express

their support for life and opposition to abortion. Many participants stroll along quietly, while others sing or pray the rosary. You can hear the beating of a drum echoing off the buildings along the route.

There usually is a small number of counter-protesters, some of whom wear stark and strange costumes, who shout angrily but stay on their own side of the sidewalk. The streets along the route are closed for the walkers, and a police presence keeps order.

It is incredible to see the enormous crowd making its way peacefully through San Francisco's streets. Being amidst the multitudes of people who are walking in shared witness for life is an extraordinary experience, and brings to mind the teachings of our Catholic faith

about the sacredness of all human life, from conception to natural death.

One individual who has attended this event many times said, "The first time I attended the WFLWC, I went with great trepidation. I worried about the conflict, the bus ride, the anti-life protestors. I had no idea what I was in for when I stepped off the bus in San Francisco. What I found was an amazing, joyful crowd of prayerful and hopeful people.

"The age skews younger than I expected, although all age groups, from days old to 90 plus are represented. The walk is a reminder that our greatest asset in the right to life movement is hope, love and prayer," he said.

The size of the WFLWC crowd has grown from 7,000 people in 2005 to more than 50,000 last year. Many people go

back year after year.

Chuck Clement, who has participated in several walks in San Francisco, said, "It's an amazing experience to be with tens of thousands of people who, along with you, want to change the hearts and minds of our nation and protect the life of innocent unborn babies."

The Respect Life Commission of the Diocese of Reno, along with the Knights of Columbus, has made donations toward the cost of six buses to travel from the diocese to the WFLWC. The donations have enabled the bus costs to remain reasonably priced for attendees, including the youth.

Following the walk, Father Francisco Nahoe, rector at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral, celebrated a traditional Latin Mass at the Shrine of Saint Francis.

Former St. Vincent's client achieves success after years of homelessness

By Auburn Harrison

Vincent Goss, 51, said he had hit rock bottom in 1997 when he decided to hitchhike back to his hometown of Reno and turn his life around. The Grateful Dead fan and drug addict said he spent the early 1990s following his beloved band on the East Coast, ending up in Vermont.

"I was homeless, a high school dropout, an ex-felon and a complete sociopath criminal. But I had had enough," said Goss.

When he arrived in Reno, he got a job washing dishes and began a string of stays at low-end monthly hotels, he said. In his first few months back, he did a variety of odd jobs just to survive, working as a fry cook, a tow truck driver, and a vacuum cleaner salesman.

"I was just barely surviving," he said.

During this low point, Goss said he relied heavily on Catholic Charities and the St. Vincent's Programs for poverty relief services. He received clothing from the St. Vincent's Thrift Shop and food from St. Vincent's Food Pantry. He also ate countless meals in St. Vincent's Dining Room.

"I was terrified that people would see me eating there. I wondered, 'What would they think of me?'" Goss said.

But Goss said he wouldn't have been able to meet his basic needs without the help of St. Vincent's. After extensive drug and alcohol treatment, Goss ended up back in school, earning first his G.E.D. and then certificates in paralegal studies and office management.

In February of last year, he opened up his own business, a tattoo shop called Vintage Ink. Goss said it feels amazing to be able to support himself and not have to stand in a food line to survive.

"Until you've been really hungry

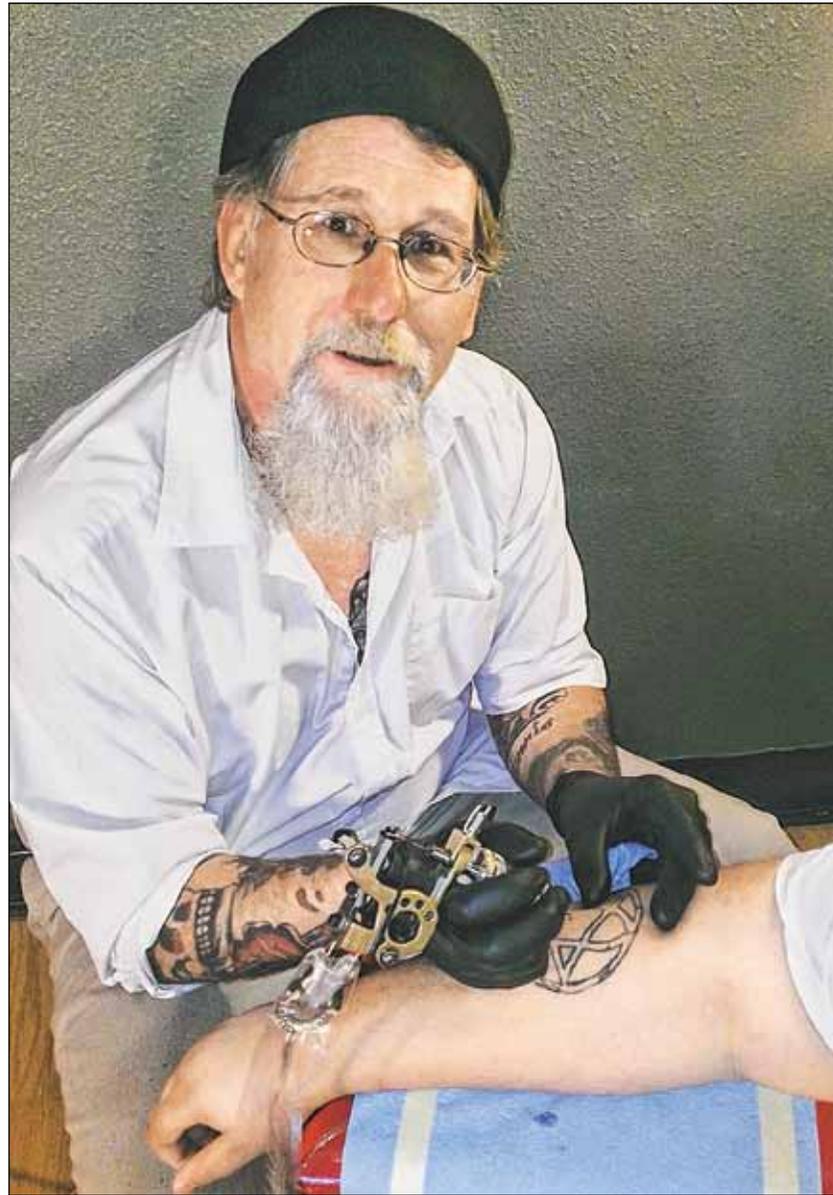


PHOTO PROVIDED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN NEVADA

Vince Goss works on covering up a tattoo at his shop, Vintage Ink.

and not know where your next meal is coming from, it's impossible to understand what that's like," he said.

Goss said while he's not a rich man by any stretch of the imagination, he is proud of how far he's come. He's now 16 years sober, and when he's not busy touching up tattoos, he dedicates his life to helping people who are in recovery.

"It's what keeps me going," he said. "I love watching people pull

themselves up and succeed."

Goss said he's forever grateful to the St. Vincent's Programs for helping him survive when things seemed hopeless. He said our community is lucky to have such a valuable resource.

"St. Vincent's helps people make ends meet without losing their pride or sense of self. They help people help themselves," he said.

Vintage Ink is at 742 Mill St. He can be reached at 775-333-0848.

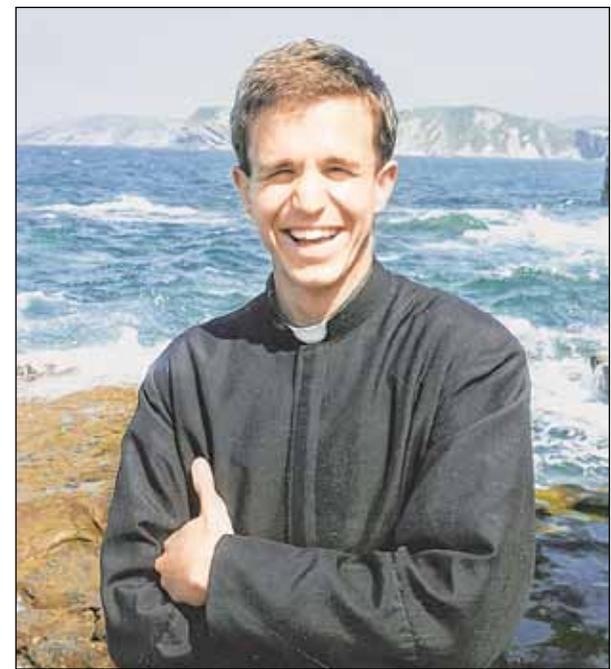


PHOTO PROVIDED BY BEN GURRIES

Ben Gurries is studying for the priesthood in Spain.

Gurries reaches next stop on his path to priesthood

By Jackie Allen

Bishop Manogue High School is proud of alumnus Ben Gurries, who in July professed first vows as a religious of Siervos del Hogar de la Madres (the Servants of the Home of the Mother) in Spain.

The Hogar was founded in the 1980s in Spain, but it is now present in Ecuador, Italy and the United States. The order is dedicated to bringing the Gospel to youth, Eucharist Adoration and the promotion of devotion of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Gurries is a member of Manogue's Class of 2006, and one of five brothers: Raymond, Class of '05; Spencer, '09; Luke, '11; and Jack, who will graduate this May.

Much of the family were able to travel to

Spain to watch Gurries take his vows.

In November, Gurries made a visit home, spending Thanksgiving with his family, and paying a visit to his Bishop Manogue family as well.

He and his superior, who traveled with him, co-celebrated Mass for Manogue.

Gurries also spoke to students in theology class. He talked of how the call to priesthood reached him — on a trip to Florida conducted by his future order — and of his life with Hogar. He helped build his own housing there, and he has been working with youth.

Academic studies are next on his path toward priesthood. Please send him your prayers as he takes this marvelous journey!

Teachers learn to present values in classroom

By Karen Barreras

Ongoing education is necessary for teachers in the Diocese of Reno. Catholic schools are Catholic first, and each teacher's faith journey will form classroom instruction and interactions with students in fulfilling our commitment to having a truly Catholic culture.

In addition, Catholic schools are to offer excellence in academic instruction and achievement. With that said, teachers in the Diocese of Reno gathered at the Diocesan Conference "Come Into the Light" to participate in prayer, faith formation, and information designed to assist them in fulfilling the mission of Catholic schools.

A reflection written by the Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain, archbishop of Seattle, found in the new United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Education booklet

"Renewing Christian Witness" supported the theme of the conference and correlated it to Catholic schools.

The reflection reads: "Catholic schools are vital to the New Evangelization, because they reflect the light of Christ in a powerful way. They place a candle in children's hands, and God lights it with his Son. Catholic schools guard and nurture Christ's light because we know it is only by his light that children will see and learn the truth.

"I am convinced that Catholic education is one of our most effective tools for preparing a new generation of Catholic citizens who will offer the world the gift of a well-formed conscience and a true vision of life, hope and peace," Sartain wrote.

At the Diocesan Conference, school administrators from each school led a prayer for our schools.

Daniel Mulhall of RCL Benziger, which provides educational materials,

presented the morning session, "Character Welcome: Being a Teacher in a Catholic School." Teachers were asked to form small groups to identify the three most essential elements needed to make a school Catholic.

Mulhall emphasized the difference between evangelization and proselytization, and he encouraged teachers in the evangelizing mission of Catholic schools.

In addition, Mulhall made important connections regarding the integration of faith and knowledge, and the important role of the teacher in attaining this.

One concept that was introduced was the work of Peterson and Seligman on Character, Strengths and Virtues (CSV), and how this is essential as we educate students of all ages and stages in Catholic schools.

Six core CSV were identified: wisdom and knowledge, courage, humanity, justice, temperance and transcendence.

The Catholic perspective on virtues also was addressed. Teachers were challenged to use these precepts in education and in guiding students to "learn to think deeply and differently, develop internal motivation, how to persevere when faced with difficulties, how to overcome obstacles and to be guided by faith in Christ and the Church."

In an anonymous survey entry, one Catholic school teacher commented, "The morning session was extremely informative and pleasant to attend. The speaker presented many ideas that affirmed what I already do in my classroom and several new ideas that I could implement right away."

Teachers had the opportunity to attend sessions in the afternoon, and many participated on Saturday, accumulating important information for their catechist certification, but most importantly, for their own spiritual growth.

Catholic Schools Week's theme matches Little Flower's mission

By Bri Thoreson

With the recent Catholic Schools' Week (Jan. 26 to Feb. 5), we remembered who we are as Catholic schools and why we do what we do.

The week brought a heightened awareness of our mission statements, philosophies and student learning expectations and how we live each of those things every day for the empowerment of our students.

Catholic schools are distinctive because of their attention to the whole student. We have the ability to work with, and nurture, a student's intellectual and spiritual being.

This year's Catholic Schools Week theme was "Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." Little Flower School's Mission Statement, revised in 2012, closely mirrors this theme: "Little Flower School community provides children a Catholic education rooted in

high academic expectations, leadership, and service opportunities in a faith-filled environment."

Our teachers and staff work each day to make sure lessons, activities, and events in their classes are rooted in this mission.

The mission also supports our Student Learning Expectations; our work is focused on producing students who are Servants, Educated, Leaders, and Faith-Filled. We ask students to focus on SELF, remembering that all of these components make us who we are as individuals and as members of a Catholic school community.

Little Flower School celebrated Catholic Schools Week this year by participating in the diocesan-wide service event and Mass, hosting a parent appreciation, celebrating a Legacy Mass, and having students complete a special writing project about why they are thankful to attend Catholic school.

Pancake Breakfast was one highlight at Our Lady of Snows' Schools Week

By Mikaela Woodhead

January was a special time at Our Lady of the Snows School. Refreshed by the spiritual blessings of Christmas, students were back to school and ready to focus on learning, praying and serving together.

Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26-Feb. 5) was our opportunity to shine a spotlight on our school and share the benefits of a Catholic education with our parish and friends in the community.

During our annual Open House, guests toured each classroom, met our amazing teachers and discussed the many ways they contribute to our faith-based education.

One highlight was the Pancake Breakfast hosted by our Knights of Columbus and a way for our Snows school, our parish and friends to celebrate the impact our school has on the lives of our children.

A Vintage Affair, our annual school fundraiser, was Feb. 7, and it featured live and silent auctions, wine tasting and dinner.

We want to thank our many donors, table sponsors and guests for making this event a great success. This important event is essential to keeping the technology in our classrooms up to date, provides supplies for teachers, and allows us flexibility in keeping our school running smoothly.

In our Catholic tradition of teaching the value of service, Our Lady of the Snows School joined together with other local Catholic schools to provide toiletry items for Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, which in turn, offer them to local families in critical need. Items donated through our schools receive a special blessing from Bishop Randolph Calvo.

Mikaela Woodhead is the student body president at Our Lady of the Snows School.

It takes humility to forget others' wrongdoings

By Denise Bossert

Never underestimate the Holy Spirit in revealing those things one needs to jettison. Recently, the Holy Spirit sat me down and had a come-to-Jesus chat with me.

I was replaying someone's offense over and over in my mind. Every time I remembered the offense, I would feel the betrayal anew, which led to another act of forgiveness. My memory was hijacking me.

I needed some help from the gifts of the Holy Spirit. A little wisdom. Some understanding. A helping of right judgment.

It would be so much easier to get amnesia. Forgiveness may be an act of the will, but what can a person do with an active memory? How could I stop remembering? Would I ever get out of the spin cycle I had fallen into?

With a little help from the Holy Spirit, I realized the problem was arrogance and

pride — which meant the antidote was meekness and humility.

So, each time I remembered, I would hit my knees.

If I did that the very second in which my memory took me back to the offense, my hurt evaporated and peace took its place. And I mean in the very second — like when stepping out of the shower and I'm shivering cold or when snuggled down under the covers for the night. I immediately began to pray on my knees.

Within a few weeks, I stumbled across this quote by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: "Forgiving requires love; forgetting requires humility."

The Holy Spirit was nodding.

Humility was the key. I knew I loved the offender. I truly did. That's why I was able to forgive again and again — every time the memory took me back. Humility enabled me to let the memory go.

I didn't have to be a spiritual giant to take down the memory monster. I just had to appeal to the Holy Spirit.

When we fall into the trap of labeling other people solely in light of their sin, we stop seeing the good in that person. That's what my confessor says, and then he adds, "Who wants to be defined by his or her worst moments?"

I certainly don't. And it is a pretty awful existence to see others and immediately think of just one thing — that "thing."

Within weeks, I began remembering the good in the one who had hurt me in the past. That's some kind of spiritual miracle. That's the power of God active in the life of a believer. I stopped remembering the "thing," and I remembered how to love.

This is not a self-improvement program. It's not about working on one's bad habits. Jesus Christ changes us.

We talk about the good news and saint-making, but what does that mean?

Are we really just the same people, doing the same things in all the same ways? Is the only notable difference

between us and everybody else a mere label? What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? What does it mean to be Catholic?

It means even the most ingrained habits can change. In fact, the things in us that don't look like Christ must change!

I must be conformed to the image of my Lord Jesus Christ — the one who forgives even the worst sinner — even me.

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead can transform us. And then the spin cycle of sin will lose its hold on our lives.

Go ahead. Hit your knees. There is power there. You were meant for far greater things than relentless bitterness. You have been called to the abundant life in Christ.

It's kind of amazing that one can discover joy and freedom in the simple act of kneeling before God.

Denise Bossert is a Catholic columnist and author.

Service more than acronym for students

By Maizie W. Pusich

St. Albert's students returned from their Christmas break to prepare for their semester tests. All grades are using the midyear as the transition from learning skills to applying them, with a view toward moving to the higher grades.

Our first grader teacher summed it up well, telling her class, "You are closer to being second-graders now than kindergartners!"

Screening for entering kindergarten students will be Feb. 22.

Our third-graders are learning to write and organize newsletters.

The fourth grade has been focusing on the Ten Commandments. They also have been writing their Student Learning Expectations superhero essays. Each month, every student chooses someone he or she knows or knows about who best represents the values expressed in our school-wide learning expectations.

Personalizing the values and giving the children the opportunity to recognize real heroes in their lives reinforces the importance of the SLEs. SLEs include being Spirit- and service-driven, Ethically motivated, Responsible, Value-directed, Independent and

well-rounded Critical thinkers who communicate Effectively. We use the shorthand "SERVICE" to easily remember them.

The junior high students have just completed finals, and they are gearing up for spring sports and the Science Fair. As with the younger classes, the second semester is used to strengthen what they have learned and transition to the next grade.

St. Albert's participated in Catholic Schools Week (which occurred at the same time as School Choice Week) in January.

Classes presented artistic and scholastic projects to show their skills and progress.

Our students also joined in the related diocesan service project, collecting food and personal toiletry items for the homeless and disadvantaged.

Junior high students can be found during weekends and vacations working as volunteers for the Northern Nevada Food Bank, the libraries, St. Albert and other churches, St. Vincent's programs and other nonprofits. All junior high students volunteer each year as part of their religious education.

The children do not merely learn about service in a classroom. They each perform service for our community.

In memoriam

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

November

- Katherine T. Morlan
- James H. McKernan
- Skyla Marie Cadez
- Marc Guina
- John C. Lovelace

December

- Linda Pauline Kalili
- Sylvia S. Torres
- Anthony J. Morgan
- Ruben B. Rodriguez
- Nancy Lou Griffin
- Mary J. Borkowski
- Alejandro Ramirez

January

- Juan Luis Fuentes
- George William Harman
- Martha Aida Reed
- Josephine Cable
- Elizabeth C. Novak
- Dorothy Rose Robello
- Bennie Faye Williams
- Carolyn Yvonne Smith
- Robert E. Jacobs
- Thomas J. Finnegan
- Belandina E. Strickland
- Pedro T. Spina
- Ramona Roskoski
- Virginia P. Zorio
- Bernard J. Anderson
- Kenneth C. Eymann
- Duane L. Dickman

Friends for Life will honor Casa de Vida

By Melissa Clement

Make plans to attend the Eighth Annual Friends for Life Dinner and Auction on Feb. 21 for an evening with friends, old and new, in the pro-life movement. This event is open to people of all faiths.

The event takes place from 5:30-10 p.m. at the Reno Ballroom, 401 N. Center St.

This year's recipient of the Heroes for Life award is Casa de Vida, Reno's home for unwed, pregnant women. Over the last 32 years, Casa de Vida has helped hundreds of women and their babies make a better life for themselves.

Long ago, Casa de Vida

recognized all efforts to advocate for life must be accompanied by real help to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Their work is done with love and hope and has left a lasting legacy.

The keynote speaker, Chet McDoniel, was born with no arms and shortened legs. McDoniel refers to himself as a "Walking Case Study for Pro-Life." Immediately after his birth, he was placed in a corner of the room and left to die.

Tables of eight are available for \$600, tables of 10 for \$1,000. Individual tickets are \$75. Visit www.NevadaRightToLife.org to buy tickets.

New St. Patrick's parish hall fulfills prayers and dreams

By Brother Matthew Cunningham, FSR

The people of St. Patrick's Parish in Fallon had a dream and now, after much talking, planning and giving, the dream will become a reality.

Many felt it couldn't be done at this particular time because of the financial downturn. Prayer, hard work and generosity of many have brought the dream to fruition.

The parish has long hoped to enlarge and improve its facilities. The church building, built in 1964, is sufficient for the parish's needs, and a few years ago, a small extension added office space and small meeting rooms.

The biggest challenge has been the parish hall, which also was built in 1964, and is used as a social

hall and classrooms for religious education.

With the parish's growth, the hall cannot accommodate the needs of the larger, active parish. And city codes also have changed with regard to buildings used for public gatherings.

The pastor and parish leadership set out to determine whether they could build a new facility and what would be needed to meet the community's needs for the next 40 years.

A master plan was developed that will allow for the build-out of the entire parish site in phases. The plan includes new parking, a new hall, a prayer garden and a covered walkway that will join the church to the new hall and, eventually, encircle both.

In 2013, the parish held a pledge

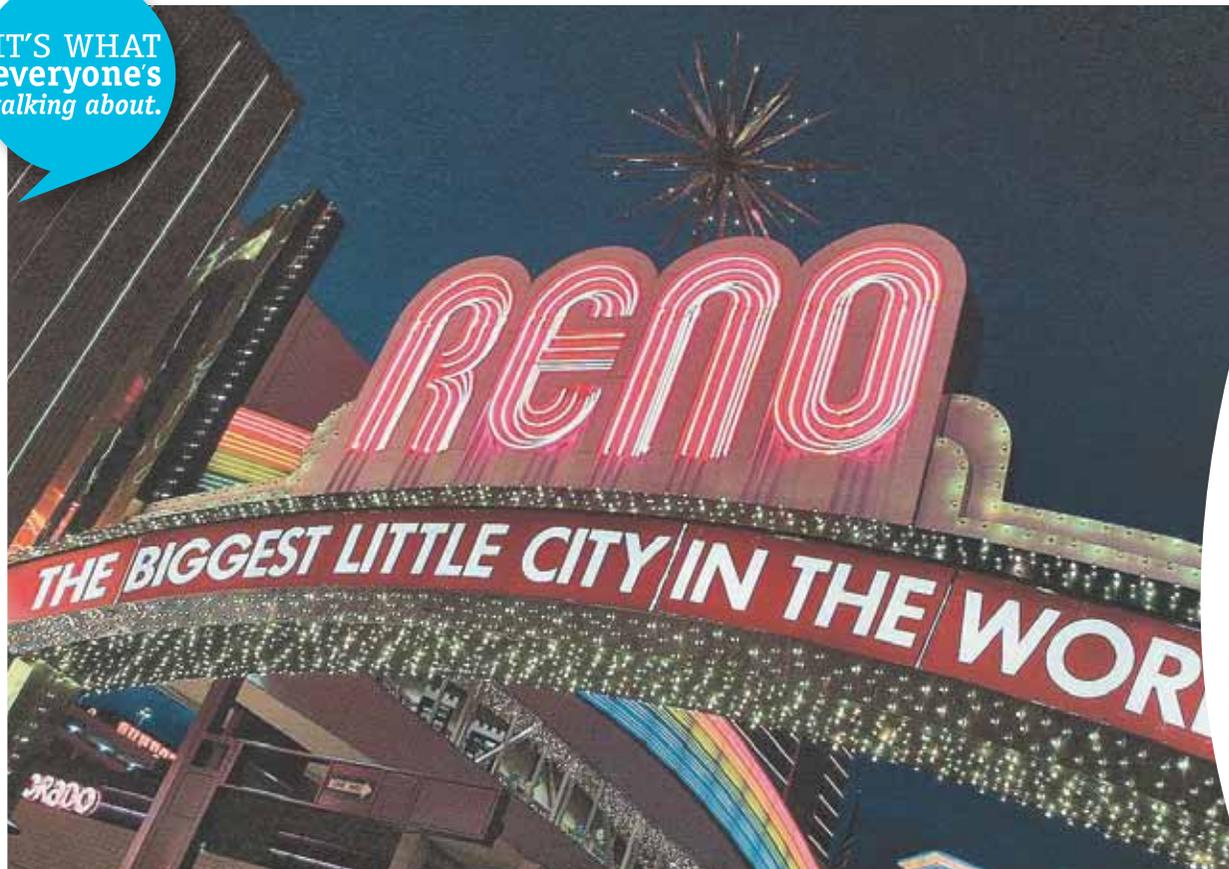
campaign to ensure money would be available to move forward with this vision. The campaign was successful, and the parish received the approval of the Diocesan Finance Council to go forward. The final touches have been added to the plan, and it is now in the architect's hands to complete the design and the construction plans.

The new hall will be 10,500 square feet. There will be a large meeting space, eight classrooms, restrooms, office space and a food pantry.

The kitchen will be designed to serve 350 people. There will be a prayer garden between the church and the hall.

Phase two will be to encircle the buildings with a walkway dedicated to the mysteries of the Rosary.

IT'S WHAT everyone's talking about.



OUR LIGHTS ARE SHINING AGAIN

Discover what is behind Reno's Rebirth.

Find an assortment of business columnists throughout the week and in Sunday's Business section that give you tips and insights into navigating the local economy.



RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Participants in the Just Run program at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School.

Running program fosters fitness, personal pride

By Peggy Burger

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School in Carson City has a youth fitness running program called Just Run.

This program is through International Big Sur Marathon organization. It is a nationwide nonprofit program, and we are so proud to have implemented it here at our school. It is centered on running, but also promotes fitness, healthy eating, good citizenship, pride and accomplishment.

We meet once a week after school for practice through fun drills and relays that help build agility and coordination in addition to actual running drills to build endurance. Along with our training and practices, we also will participate in “fun runs” and 5Ks throughout the area. The Nevada Day 2-mile Kids Fun Run was our group’s first race, and we were amazing — even with the temperature of 36 degrees at start time.

The students also are given a running log, and they are encouraged to run on their own throughout the week and weekend. All their time and mileage

is given to the group facilitator, who then inputs their information into the justrun.org website, where as a school group we can accumulate mileage in “virtual runs” that are tracked on the website to see how far in a school year we can “virtually” run across America or Europe. The kids develop a sense of pride as they contribute their personal mileage to assist the group in reaching a common goal. If the children run with a parent they get double credit for their miles, which is getting families out being active together.

We have had a great turnout of kids wanting to participate from day one, and what we thought would be a couple of dozen kids has turned out to be more than 60. The children are able to experience the benefits of physical activity, progress at their own speed in a safe, non-competitive environment, and experience pride in personal accomplishment and goal setting. Most importantly, they learn life-long healthy and positive habits while having a positive experience for all involved, including the adults.

BASH will honor Toner

By Jackie Allen

Save the date — April 5 — for Bishop Manogue Catholic High School’s annual fundraiser, BASH., Building a Scholastic Heritage.

It will be extra special this year, as the school celebrates the 25th year of the event, and it honors Jim Toner for his many years of service to the Catholic community in Northern Nevada.

Yes, it’s really been 25 years since a hardworking group of Manogue supporters put together the first BASH in support of Northern Nevada’s only Catholic high school.

Over the years, the event has featured motivational speakers, authors, comedians, Las Vegas performers and even a circus. Through it all, the goal has remained the same: to help as many students as possible enjoy the many benefits of a Bishop Manogue education.

In addition to the the always-delicious dinner catered by the Eldorado Hotel-Casino, hosted bar and exciting live and silent auctions, the evening will be the setting for the inaugural presentation of the Jim Toner Award for Distinguished Service to Catholic Education.

Toner’s ready smile, extensive knowledge and gentle manner have led many to a deeper understanding of Catholicism, and his dedication to the people

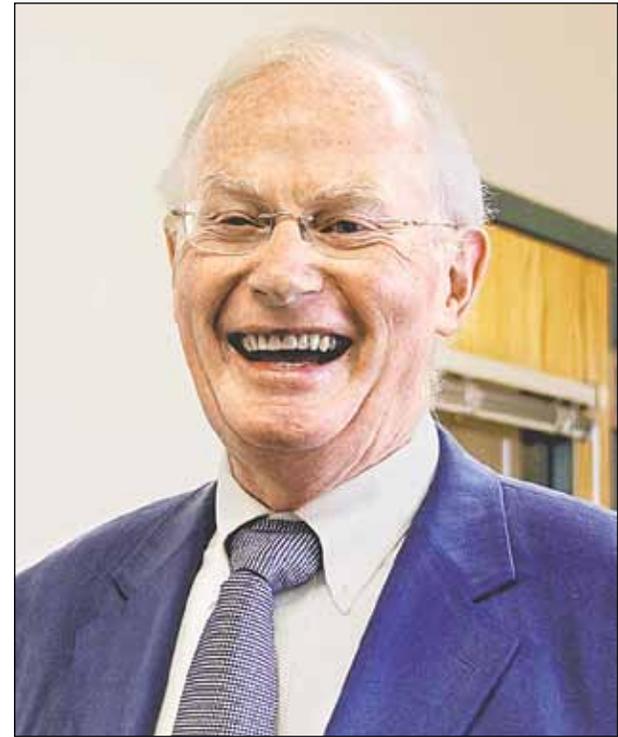


PHOTO PROVIDED BY BISHOP MANOGUE

Jim Toner was the president of Bishop Manogue Catholic High School from 2007-11.

of the church is a shining example of living one’s faith.

Toner served as president of Bishop Manogue from 2007-11 and interim president for a short period in 2013. He also continues to be an integral part of the Diocesan RCIA program, helping numerous

adults on their journey to becoming members of the Catholic Church.

Join us on April 5 to help honor this wonderful man. Information and tickets are available at www.bishopmanogue.org/BASH2014, or email Julie Dennis at julie.dennis@bishopmanogue.org.



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.

The Pregnancy Center
A Community Service of Renown Health