

Celebrating individual faith stories in *Catholic Herald* Magazine

Catholic Herald magazine celebrated its ninth anniversary with the September-October 2019 issue. For the past nine years, we have shared with you the moving faith stories of Catholics in our diocese. *Catholic Herald* is a critical part of our diocese's evangelization and spiritual formation efforts.



Individual faith stories are the cornerstone of *Catholic Herald* magazine. Since our inaugural edition, we have told dozens of faith stories of Catholics across the 20 counties of the Diocese of Sacramento. Here's just a sample of stories from 2019:

- **Bill Koppes, principal of St. Joseph School in Redding, and Laura MacDonald, principal of Our Lady of Grace School in West Sacramento**, shared how Catholic students through the "Disciple of Christ - Education in Virtue" curriculum are learning about and living out the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.
- **Loree Lippsmeyer**, the diocese's pastoral care coordinator for victims of abuse, shared how help and support is available to assist persons who have suffered sexual abuse by members of the Catholic clergy or other church personnel. Healing for victims is a journey, she said. "They may have already started to heal, or this might be a very first move in their healing. But it's an important piece to try to reconcile their difficult situations. I want to be a safe place for them to tell their stories."
- **Retired Sacramento Superior Court Judge Talmadge Jones, Thomas Flynn** of Sacred Heart Parish in Sacramento and **Patricia Aguiar** of St. Anthony Parish in Sacramento, members of the diocese's Independent Review Board, shared how the board is dedicated to strong policies and procedures to prevent and address sexual abuse and to keep children safe.
- **Dan and Justine Gemo**, youth and young adult ministers at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Vallejo, said they try "to evangelize in ways that show that living a virtuous life in purity and chastity is worth working toward." Having temperance, patience, kindness, charity and being able to embody these virtues is definitely challenging, they shared, but is spiritually important.
- **Fathers Blaise Berg, William Kinane, Andres Emmanuelli and Guillermo Hernandez**, in their own words, discussed embracing and living the promise of celibacy. They shared how the promise of celibacy adds a special dimension to priestly holiness and how living the promise has its challenges, but is also a source of great joy, life and vitality for the church and God's people.
- **Vicente Rosas, Linda Springer, Vince Bottoni, and Deacon Errol and Julie Kissinger**, all graduates of the diocese's Lay Mission Project for advanced formation, shared how they will use their newfound knowledge and skills to minister in their parishes, as well as to influence others and witness to Christ in their professions.
- **Bob Laywell** of St. Mel Parish in Fair Oaks shared how "eyes light up, smiles come and it's a joy" when as a eucharistic minister he brings Jesus to patients at Mercy San Juan

Medical Center in Carmichael.

- Once an immigrant herself, **Miriam Sammartino**, executive director of Catholic Charities of Yolo-Solano, shared how her agency's mission is "show it through love." She described the work of Catholic Charities as a "vehicle of service," building bridges and accompanying people until their needs are met.
- **Deacon Sergio Diaz** of Sacred Heart Parish in Sacramento, **Angela Lai** of Cathedral Parish in Sacramento, and **Nilda Valmores** of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Carmichael, shared their experiences of helping survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking rebuild their lives. "The victims are often right among us, in plain sight," Nilda said.
- **Brent Roden and Judith Rojas** of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's conference at Our Divine Savior Parish in Chico, shared how in the aftermath of the Camp Fire in November 2018 they assisted victims as part of an emergency response team and later collaborated with Northern Valley Catholic Social Service on long-term disaster recovery.
- **Deacon Michael and Barbara Turner** of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Roseville, grief ministry trainers for the diocese, share the prayerful and pastoral journey with those grieving and their families through the ministry of consolation. They note that a parish ministry of consolation can be a source of comfort and support to those who have suffered a loss.
- **Kevin Danz and Diane Gordon**, Family Service Advisors for Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at St. Mary Cemetery and Funeral Center in Sacramento, shared how with faith and expertise they guide families and feel comfortable and even gifted to work with people at deeply emotional and difficult times. Both are sure that God led them to their work.

Readers have been captivated by the moving faith stories and high-quality photos in *Catholic Herald* magazine. Each issue also features columns exploring the Catholic faith and educating people on the teachings of the church.

Catholic Herald magazine is sent six times a year to some 40,000 households in our diocese, both to donors of the Annual Catholic Appeal and donors to the magazine (for publication schedule, please see the reverse side).

I look forward with enthusiasm to continuing to share stories of faith with our diocesan community and working closely with you to alert me to stories you believe our parishioners will want to read.

Yours in service,
Julie Sly, Editor, *Catholic Herald*

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