

**FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE**  
Young Catholic Professionals  
Seek Mentors

**THE HOLY GHOSTS  
OF HALLOWEEN**  
Resurrecting a Catholic Feast

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE**  
Caring Choices for  
Mothers in Need

**FLORIDA MARTYRS**  
Parishes adopt martyrs to  
support their canonization

St. Augustine

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St. Augustine  
**catholic**

The *St. Augustine Catholic* is the official magazine of the Diocese of St. Augustine, which embraces 17 counties spanning Northeast and North Central Florida from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. The diocese covers 11,032 square miles and serves more than 157,000 registered Catholics.

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# Connecting People to the Gospel Message

BY KATHLEEN BAGG

**IN SEPTEMBER,** the **Help Spread the Faith Catholic Communications Appeal** will occur in all parishes of the Diocese of St. Augustine. The appeal supports the mission to share the Good News of Christ and his church. As Catholics, we are called to share this message with everyone. We are called to go and make disciples.

The appeal supports the work of the church through various communications initiatives. One of those initiatives is the *St. Augustine Catholic* magazine. The magazine is vital to our mission because it reaches nearly every Catholic household of the diocese, sharing inspiring stories of how ordinary Catholics in our midst live extraordinary lives of faith and service to God's people. It also provides an avenue to open up the church's teachings, explain key doctrines of Catholicism, and empowers Catholics to share their faith with others.

The outreach of the magazine is extended through its digital version and, most recently, the myParish app, which allows people to take the content of the magazine wherever they go and quickly and easily share it with friends and family.

If you enjoy the *St. Augustine Catholic* magazine, consider donating to this year's *Help Spread the Faith Catholic Communications Appeal*, Sept. 19-20, in your parish. Ninety cents of every dollar given to this appeal goes directly to the diocese to cover the cost of our communications efforts. The remaining 10 cents is sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist with evangelization efforts on the national level as well as projects in developing countries.

Last year, Catholics in the Diocese of St. Augustine were very generous and gave \$54,999.96 for our communications outreach. Funds collected last year are helping us produce inspiring videos for Advent and Lent and develop communications workshops for parishes.

**Here are some the areas the appeal helps fund:**

- *St. Augustine Catholic* bimonthly magazine
- New weekly digital newsletter, *Go Make Disciples*, for current news
- Diocesan mobile website (www.dosafli.com)
- Social media evangelization through Facebook, Twitter, and now Instagram
- Weekly Spanish radio Mass live from Blessed Trinity Parish on 92.9 FM in Jacksonville
- Digital videos that provide answers to everyday questions Catholics have, and more.

Even if you are not able to give financially, please pray for our staff that we will continue to do God's work well and spread the Good News across the Diocese of St. Augustine. 🕊️

“  
If you enjoy the *St. Augustine Catholic* magazine, consider donating to this year's **Help Spread the Faith Catholic Communications Appeal**, Sept. 19-20, in your parish.



## Saint | Patron of Charities



### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – 1580-1660


- ▶ **Feast day: Sept. 27**
- ▶ **Patron of all Charitable Societies**

***IN THE LATE 16TH CENTURY, although St. Vincent de Paul was initially attracted to the priesthood to acquire a comfortable life and retirement, he became a source of inspiration for those moved to compassion for the poor and sick. His preaching to peasants across France attracted donations from the wealthy that enabled him to build hospitals, homes for orphans, and the elderly poor and buy freedom for more than 1,200 galley slaves. Today, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul cares for the poor in 132 countries.***

Ordained at 19 in rural France, he continued his theological studies until he was sent to Paris to become a chaplain for the wealthy Gondi family. Encouraged by Countess Gondi, he preached to the peasants on the estate and was moved by their plight. The countess convinced her husband to support Vincent and other missionaries to work among the poor in the surrounding areas. The Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentians, was born.

In 1617, he began working with the Daughters of Charity, a group of wealthy Paris women. In helping organize their relief efforts for victims of war and slavery, he established the Confraternity of Charity, a lay organization for social action. With St. Louise de Marillac, he established the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the first uncloistered religious order for women dedicated to charitable service. He accomplished what many consider the greatest work of charity of the 17th century – the building of an asylum that provided housing and useful employment for 40,000 people.

Several charitable societies inspired by the generosity of Vincent are known as the Vincentian Family. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established in 1833 by Blessed Frederic Ozanam and French university students.

His story provides another example of the surprising way that God touches hearts, changes plans, and brings people together to serve one another. 

**For information on the local work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, email Bart O’Leary at [bart.oleary@comcast.net](mailto:bart.oleary@comcast.net) or call (904) 217-7650.**

### ATTENTION

The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner.

To Report Abuse, call the police or the Department of Children and Families at (800) 962-2873. Or call the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 208-6979 or email [inquiries@dosafll.com](mailto:inquiries@dosafll.com).

To report abuse by a bishop, call (800) 276-1562 or visit [WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG](http://WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG).

### ATENCIÓN

La Diócesis de San Agustín trata seriamente todas las acusaciones de conducta sexual inapropiada, de manera rápida, confidencial y minuciosa.

Para reportar Abuso, llame a la policía o al Departamento de Niños y Familias al (904) 962-2873. O llame al Coordinador Diocesano de Asistencia a Víctimas (904) 208-6979 o envíe un correo electrónico a [inquieres@dosafll.com](mailto:inquieres@dosafll.com).

Para denunciar abuso por parte de un obispo, llame al (800) 276-1562 o visite [WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG](http://WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG)

### LƯU Ý

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Para denunciar abusos de um bispo, ligue para (800) 276-1562 ou visite [WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG](http://WWW.REPORTBISHOPABUSE.ORG).



# PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISON / NOV 3, 2020

Compiled by the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops

**I**N KEEPING WITH ITS MISSION, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (FCCB) aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information compiled here has been gathered from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites, and other resources, as of September 1, 2020, to help voters form their consciences before voting in November. The issues that appear here do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The FCCB neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

## PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



## FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



### ABORTION

In 2016, Trump said that the overturning of Roe v. Wade “will happen automatically ... because I am putting pro-life justices on the [U.S. Supreme] Court.”

In 2017, Trump signed into law a resolution to allow states to restrict Title X funding for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

According to his website, “As president, Biden will work to codify Roe v. Wade, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop the rash of state laws that so blatantly violate the constitutional right to an abortion ...”

“As president, Biden will ... reverse the Trump Administration’s rule preventing Planned Parenthood and certain other family planning programs from obtaining Title X funds.”

### DEATH PENALTY

In July 2020, the Trump Administration presided over five executions, the first to be carried out by the federal government in 17 years. Two additional executions are scheduled, two in August and two in September 2020.

According to his website, “Biden will work to pass legislation to eliminate the death penalty at the federal level, and incentivize states to follow the federal government’s example. These individuals should instead serve life sentences without probation or parole.”

### EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In February 2020, Trump said, “Yet, for too long, countless American children have been trapped in failing government schools. To rescue these students, 18 states have created school choice in the form of Opportunity Scholarships ... no parent should be forced to send their child to a failing government school.”

In January 2020, Biden tweeted, “When we divert public funds to private schools, we undermine the entire public education system. We’ve got to prioritize investing in our public schools, so every kid in America gets a fair shot. That’s why I oppose vouchers.”

### ENVIRONMENT

Trump has begun the process of withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change, an international agreement to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

According to his website, a Biden administration will re-enter the Paris Agreement on day one.

### ETHICS IN RESEARCH

In 2019, the Trump Administration announced its decision to discontinue research conducted within the National Institutes of Health “involving the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortion”.

While serving in the U.S. Senate: In 2007, Biden voted in favor of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007 (S.5), which provides for human embryonic stem cell research. In 1998, Biden voted against the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S.1601).

### GENDER ISSUES

In 2019, the White House confirmed Trump’s opposition to the Equality Act, which would add the new terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the definition of “sex” in federal civil rights laws, and would exempt itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993: “The Trump Administration absolutely opposes discrimination of any kind and supports the equal treatment of all. However, this bill in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights.”

According to his website, Biden believes the Equality Act is the “best vehicle for ensuring equal rights under the law for LGBTQ+ Americans, and will guarantee that LGBTQ+ individuals are protected under existing civil rights laws.” Biden lists enacting the Equality Act as a top legislative priority.



## HEALTH CARE ACCESS

According to his website, Trump “repealed the Obamacare individual mandate, expanded plan choices and increased competition to bring down costs for consumers.” In June 2020, the Trump administration argued in a legal brief that the entire Affordable Care Act (ACA) should be invalidated. Signed into law in 2010, ACA expanded access to health care coverage for the uninsured.

According to a White House fact sheet, Trump “is using all available means to ensure safe vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics are developed, manufactured, and distributed in unprecedented time and scale in response to COVID-19.”

According to his website, Biden will protect the Affordable Care Act and build on it by “giving Americans a new choice, a public health insurance option like Medicare; increasing the value of tax credits to lower premiums and extend coverage to more working Americans; [and] expanding coverage to low-income Americans.”

According to his website, Biden’s COVID-19 plan “ensures the wide availability of free testing; the elimination of all cost barriers to preventive care and treatment for COVID-19; the development of a vaccine; and the full deployment and operation of necessary supplies, personnel, and facilities.”

## IMMIGRATION/REFUGEES

According to his website, “Upon entering office, President Trump called on Congress to fully fund a wall along the Southern border, to close legal loopholes that enable illegal immigration, to end chain migration, and to eliminate the visa lottery program.”

In July 2020, the Trump Administration announced it would reject applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program stating, “... the fact remains that Congress should act on this matter.”

The Trump Administration proposes resettling 18,000 refugees under a new refugee ceiling. The number admitted in 2016 was nearly 85,000.

According to Biden’s website, “As president, Joe will prioritize a comprehensive immigration reform to finally give 11 million undocumented immigrants a roadmap to citizenship.”

In June 2020, Biden stated, “As President, I will immediately work to make [DACA] permanent by sending a bill to Congress on day one of my Administration.”

Biden will set the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000.

## POVERTY

In 2019, the Trump Administration opposed a House-passed bill that would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15, stating, “efforts to reduce taxes, eliminate regulations, and implement fairer trade deals are driving economic growth and increasing workers’ take-home pay far more effectively and efficiently than legislation like H.R. 582.” The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour; a number of states and localities have adopted higher rates.

According to Biden’s website, “He firmly believes all Americans are owed a raise, and it’s well past time we increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 across the country. This increase would include workers who aren’t currently earning the minimum wage, like the farmworkers who grow our food and domestic workers who care for our aging and sick and for those with disabilities.”

## RACIAL EQUITY

In June 2020, Trump announced four steps to address racial inequity and police reform: 1) aggressively pursuing economic development in minority communities; 2) confronting healthcare disparities, including addressing chronic conditions and investing in minority-serving medical institutions; 3) an executive order that will encourage police departments nationwide to meet the most current professional standards for the use of force, including tactics for de-escalation; and 4) renewing a call on Congress to enact school choice.

In a June 2020 op-ed, Biden said, “We should also be directing our resources to actively undo the negative effect systemic racism has had on opportunities for black Americans,” citing inequities for African-American entrepreneurs, the gap in home ownership and discriminatory lending practices. Biden also said, “... I’m proposing an additional \$300 million to reinvigorate community policing in our country. Every single police department should have the money it needs to institute real reforms ...”

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In 2017, Trump signed an executive order, which states, “Federal law protects the freedom of Americans and their organizations to exercise religion and participate fully in civic life without undue interference by the Federal Government.

The executive branch will honor and enforce those protections.” In response to a July 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling preserving the religious liberty of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a White House statement said, “As the Supreme Court has previously stated, protecting the ability of people to worship and live according to the dictates of their conscience is part of ‘the best of our traditions.’”

According to Biden’s website, “The Trump-Pence Administration has deliberately and systematically attempted to gut protections for the LGBTQ+ community by carving out broad religious exemptions to existing nondiscrimination laws and policies across federal agencies. Biden will reverse Trump’s policies misusing these broad exemptions...”

Regarding the July 2020 ruling, Biden said the decision, “will make it easier for the Trump-Pence Administration to continue to strip health care from women – attempting to carve out broad exemptions to the Affordable Care Act’s commitment to giving all women free access to recommended contraception.”



# POLITICS AND RELIGION

Dear Father Joe: Can I be a politician and a Catholic?



**I'M THINKING OF** going into politics someday. Am I obligated to assure that my political opinions all reflect the church's teaching exactly? What if I disagree about something such as abortion or the use of our military?



I think it's wonderful that you are thinking of going into politics. As much as we joke about politicians and are often saddened by the public sins of some politicians, there always is the possibility and call of public service done in the spirit of Jesus.

You should make sure to be preparing yourself for this great and noble calling. Begin now by reading all you can on the Catholic Church's teachings on social justice. *Our Catechism of the Catholic Church* has a great many teachings on who we are called to be. This can be your guide.

It's a sad reflection of our country that the Catholic Church is often criticized for "using its influence" to tell politicians how they should vote. I believe that the official way to respond to that kind of statement is, "That's garbage."

No one tells people that their family or their upbringing shouldn't affect them as politicians until it conflicts with what they want their politicians to do. The fact is, if our faith is not an integral part of our lives, then it's not faith, it's something else. The church has a right and a duty to share its wisdom with its children. Add that wisdom to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and you'll find that the church can be a great guide in our decision-making.

When we get to abortion, we're hitting on one of those subjects where



there simply is no wiggle room. The church says that the right of every human to exist never can be reduced to the choice of another person. On this issue, there can be no compromise and no equivocation; abortion is immoral, and a crime and we can never support it in any way, shape or form.

When we get to the issue of war, if the church tells us it is an unjust war, then the same principle applies for the same reason: The taking of human life is always a huge issue for us, as every person in the world has a right to his or her God-given dignity.

A website, <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/on-the-duties-of-catholic-politicians-and-voters-3664>, has a great article from Bishop Michael Sheridan on the duties of Catholic politicians that he wrote in 2004. He starts off strong, and it only gets better; I highly recommend reading it.

Due to space limitations, I'm just going to quickly summarize the beginning of his article, share a couple of his great quotes and then ask you to read the rest on your own time.

One of the key points Bishop Sheridan makes is the idea that our well-formed conscience is to be our highest guide and that the phrase "well-formed" is an important one. A well-formed conscience is tied to objective truth and must always be in union with the good that God wills and has given through natural law and divine revelation. Our own judgment cannot be placed higher than that.


Sheridan next points us to number 2302 in the Catechism, which states: ...to the church belongs the right always and everywhere to announce moral principles, including those pertaining to the social order, and to make judgments on any human affairs to the extent that they are required by the fundamental rights of the human person or the salvation of souls.

He then states: When Catholics are elected to public office or when Catholics go to the polls to vote, they take their consciences with them. ...

Anyone who professes the Catholic faith with his lips while at the same time publicly supporting legislation or candidates that defy God's law makes a mockery of that faith and belies his identity as a Catholic.

That's all I have room for, but it's a

dynamite letter. Let's pray that our Catholic faith always is reflected in our actions so our "light will shine before the world that others may see our conduct and glorify God" (Mt 5:16).

Enjoy another day in God's presence! 



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BBB Rating: A+

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■ Dr. Akey and her team have been able to safely treat patients thanks to hazmat suits donated by a local company.

## Faith in the Fight Against COVID-19

BY SAVANNA KEARNEY

**O** N MARCH 13, the day President Trump declared a state of emergency, Dr. Angeli Maun Akey was supposed to be educating patients while on a retreat in Italy. The topic of discussion? The reversal of autoimmune diseases.

Instead of enjoying a work trip abroad, Dr. Akey was seeing patients as usual at her practice, North Florida Integrative Medicine in Gainesville, when COVID-19 struck. A parishioner of Queen of Peace Parish and a Gainesville native, she's had her own practice for more than 20 years, and she is no stranger to stressful medical situations. But a global pandemic was something she'd never dealt with before.

Dr. Akey had patients to see the week following the president's declaration, but she didn't have any personal protective equipment (PPE) for herself, her staff, and patients to protect against the virus. So, she did what any Christian would do. She asked for God's help.

She contacted a local mold remediation company her office had previously worked with to see if they could provide the equipment. First thing Monday morning, they brought two full hazmat suits for herself and a staff member to wear while seeing patients outside.

"You can't outdo God in generosity," said Dr. Akey.

But as soon as she overcame one obstacle,

another arose. Temperatures in Gainesville in mid-March climbed to nearly 90 degrees some days; couple that with wearing a thick hazmat suit all day outside, and Dr. Akey and her staff had a few close calls with heatstroke. And so once again, she asked God for a solution.

"The more you trust, the more you'll trust," she said.

Dr. Akey filmed a Facebook live event asking her followers to borrow tents to provide shade for her team. Within a day, someone came forward with tailgating tents and built-in misting fans.

Not long after the pandemic began, Dr. Akey's office nearly went bankrupt, and she was forced to furlough half her staff. Their response? Almost every staff member volunteered to work without pay.

"You just try to do the right thing, and God sends help," she explained. "And our focus was to keep our more than 6,000 patients safe and well."

These are just a few miracle stories that Dr. Akey attributes to the power of prayer. After completing her residency at Yale University, she founded the Palm Beach Institute of Preventative Medicine before returning to her hometown of Gainesville to start her practice in 2000. She was raised Catholic, but at the age of 35, after working hard for years, getting married and having two sons, she stopped and asked, is this all there is to life? She attributes her journey back to her faith to Father Al Esposito, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, and making a total consecration

to Jesus through Mary. Today, she has a much different outlook on life.

"I believe all of my previous training and study has led me to this point. All I want is to follow the will of God in my life. I know that if I do that, I'll be happy," she explained. "And I'm really happy."

In addition to safely treating patients daily, Dr. Akey took her fight against the coronavirus to pen and paper, by writing a book with her teaching partner, Dr. Kathleen O'Neil-Smith, entitled *The Go-to Guide to Fortifying Your Immune System*. The book details the basics of the virus, the human immune system and how to strengthen it, a section on frequently asked questions, and a guide to monitoring symptoms. Her goal is to help people who are exposed to or contract coronavirus to monitor their symptoms from home and only go to the hospital when necessary.

Dr. Akey's work involves not only saving lives but also saving souls. She says her mission is to bring as many people to Jesus as she can. And in this uncertain time, her mission is more critical than ever.

"When things are crazy and stressful and unknown, we have to go back to trust – a total reliance upon saving truth," she said. "Remember that Jesus is our divine mercy. I pray, 'Jesus, I trust in you' under my breath all day long."

Kick COVID-19 to the Curb is available at <https://firrimupdoctors.com/product/kick-covid-19-to-the-curb/> and on the Amazon Kindle. 🐦



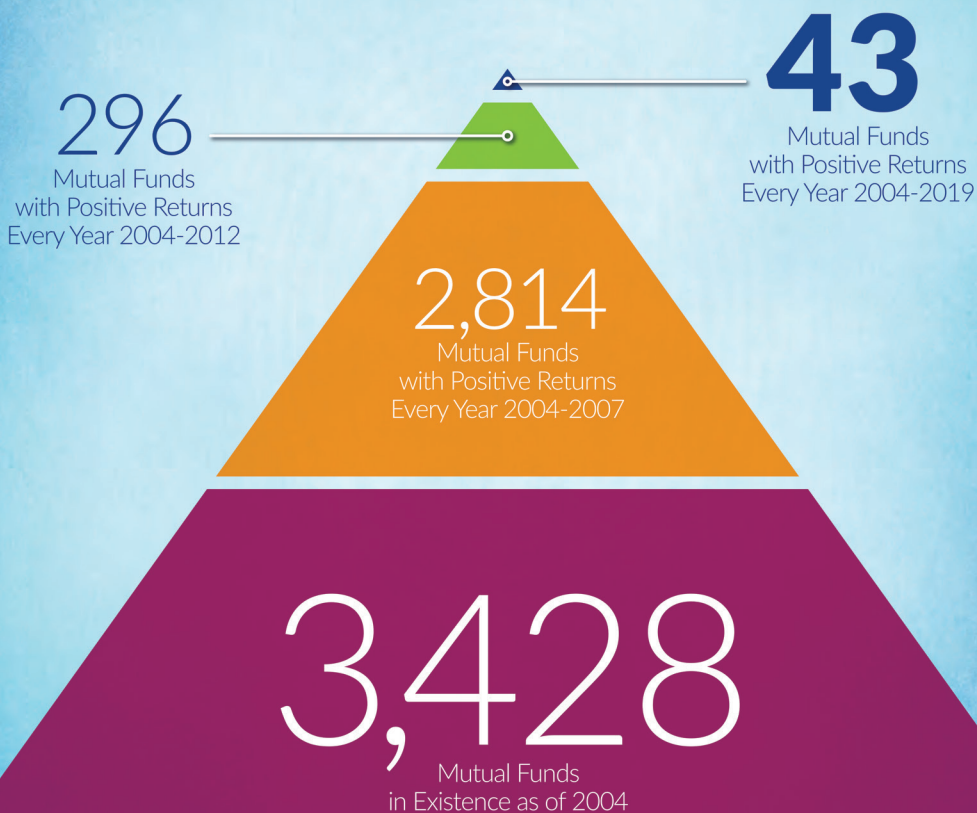


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■ Members of the YCP 2020-2021 leadership team, from left, Mara McGurl, Anton Whiteford, Lauren Harrison, Chris Walters, and Kramer Leitman.

SPECIAL

# Faith in the Workplace

## Young Catholic Professionals Looking for Mentors

BY SAVANNA KEARNEY

**T**HE YEARS FOLLOWING college graduation can be difficult. Gone are the comforts and safety of past friendships. Ahead lies the unique transition from school to real life. Even into their late 20s and early 30s, many young adults have a hard time balancing work, social life, family, mental health and faith. In fact, work-life and faith life may seem like they're worlds apart, but they overlap more than you might think.

That's where Young Catholic Professionals comes in. YCP is a nonprofit organization designed to bring together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at all stages of the faith journey. YCP empowers and equips them to live their Catholic faith through everyday work and to perform their work with excellence for the glory of God.

"I think a lot of people assume YCP is just another Bible study or young adult ministry," said Mara McGurl, director of marketing for YCP Jacksonville. "But we want the Jacksonville community to know that

YCP is a one-of-a-kind, Catholic-based organization, specifically designed to help young professionals excel in their careers and their faith."

YCP National has been around since 2010, and a local chapter was formed in 2016. Since then, YCP Jacksonville has been offering free events, such as an executive speaker series and quarterly networking happy hours. But this year, they're rolling out something new and unique to YCP – a mentorship program.

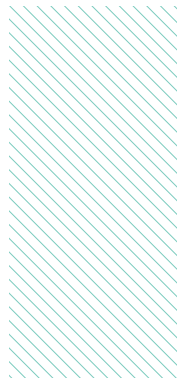
The mentorship program, which is included with the annual \$150 dues, pairs YCP members with established, Jacksonville-based professional Catholics. Not only will the mentors guide young professionals to get involved in parish life, but they'll also be matched with older professionals in their field of work.

"It's that unique one-on-one time with local, Catholic mentors that doesn't compare to other young adult groups," said McGurl. "To have the aspect of faith in a mentorship program is incredible. Young adults can sign up to be mentored anywhere, but as Catholics, we need guidance in work life and faith leadership."

Jeff Mall knows a thing or two about mentorship. As an established financial advisor, he's been chairman of the YCP Jacksonville board since the beginning. Jeff said he remembers well the mentorship he received as a young adult, and the wisdom he has imparted on young professionals today.

"I've tried to lead by example and teach others to lead by example as well," said Mall. "If I expect someone to take my advice, I need to put the time and effort into my mentoring."

According to Mall, the YCP mentorship program







■ Mara McGurl, director of marketing for YCP Jacksonville



■ Jeff Mall (left) and Mel Rio at a YCP Jacksonville's kick-off event in 2016.

WOODY HUBAND

BRANDON DUNCAN

**“I’ve tried to lead by example and teach others to lead by example as well. If I expect someone to take my advice, I need to put the time and effort into my mentoring.”**

connects young professionals with someone who’s been where they are and who’s navigated things like a first job, switching to a second job, volunteering in the community, dealing with a difficult boss, being self-employed, getting married and having children, and giving back to their church.

Catholics have a vocation in life and a vocation in the church. As separate as they may appear, your career and your faith intersect more than you might think.

“Your work life and church life should not be separate,” explained Mall. “Our faith should direct the decision we make at work. That doesn’t mean we can’t work hard or be successful, but it does mean we need to consider, is this what Christ would want me to do?”

This balance can be especially difficult for young adults, who are at the beginning of their careers and transitioning to a new faith community, said Mel Rio, a board member of YCP Jacksonville.

“For the first time, your parents aren’t telling you to go to Mass, and you don’t have the structure and convenience of a ministry,” he explained. “This is the first time you’re self-sufficient, you’re earning your income, and you’re paving your way. And there are no guardrails.”


Rio, who is one of the founding members of YCP

Jacksonville, said that young adults often tend to “stick to their own,” mainly surrounding themselves with people their age.

“But we’re so blessed to have strong Catholic leaders and role models in our community,” he said. “In a sense, we’re able to reap the harvest that we did not sow. And the talents that we’re given are meant to be multiplied out into the world.”

Father Philip Timlin, pastor of Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish in Jacksonville, handles the faith aspect of YCP Jacksonville. As the chaplain for the Jacksonville chapter and priest ambassador for all young people in the diocese, Father Timlin says it is vital to young people to be spiritually fed in all aspects of life.

“There are an estimated 50,000 young Catholic adults in Jacksonville, and I want to find all of them and form them into intentional disciples,” he said. “Our world needs heroic Catholics to change the current climate of our culture, and these are the people to do it.”

The newly formed 10-person YCP Jacksonville team, consisting entirely of young adults, had big plans for the local young adult community, which they’ve had to adapt to the uncertain circumstances surrounding COVID-19. However, that hasn’t stopped YCP from connecting young adults across the country virtually. Each diocese that has a YCP chapter is hosting virtual events that are open to young professionals everywhere. Visit [youngcatholicprofessionals.org/](http://youngcatholicprofessionals.org/) events to stay up to date with events like the executive speaker series, speed networking, and more. If you would like to become a mentor or mentee, email [info@ycpjacksonville.org](mailto:info@ycpjacksonville.org) or visit [youngcatholicprofessionals.org/join](http://youngcatholicprofessionals.org/join). 





SHUTTERSTOCK

■ To reclaim the true celebration of All Hallows Eve, the author encourages parents to consider choosing saintly costumes over the ghoulish secularized costumes of Halloween.

# The Holy Ghosts of HALLOWEEN: Resurrecting a Catholic Feast

BY DR. MARCEL ANTONIO BROWN

**POPULAR CULTURE** has so eroded the observance of Halloween that it is difficult to discern its evangelical religious roots. The celebration of the feast of All Saints - Halloween - is a time when God's pilgrim church on earth rejoices in the lives of all his holy ones.

As the annual celebration of Halloween approaches, we who are "in the world but not of it" (John 15:19, *Evangelium Vitae*, 82) are reminded of the importance of maintaining the Catholic meaning and purpose of all holy days, especially those which have been most widely adopted, adapted, and consequently distorted by our culture's prevailing secularism.

Halloween provides us with an opportunity to express devotion to God through the veneration of all his saints. Anything which detracts from the glory of God and his saints is to be avoided.

## Hero for a Day

Indeed, it is difficult to think of a holy day more distorted by secularism than Halloween. Viewed by many as "a time for children," the young typically seize the opportunity to dress as some "hero" from a favorite film or television show, often with the encouragement of parents, teachers, and mentors. Whether child or adult, dressing in costume means adopting an alternative "I," entering "into" or "becoming" the character imitated outwardly.

This newfound persona represents a whole ethos, after which is fashioned a "new self," a moral phantasm transcending every day and reaching for an ideal. To don, such a costume is to incarnate the imagination, an inherently human and deeply spiritual act. What does it mean when children adopt non-Christian and anti-Christian personas for Halloween?

Young adults clinging to the secularized "Halloween" of their childhood discard the attributes of superheroes (cape, sword, headband) for some daring or risqué ensemble, a fancy suit with fedora and innuendo or some scandalously avant-garde frippery.

Halloween today points towards proleptic anticipation, not of beatitude, but its opposite, the second death.

Props such as scythes and skulls have historically recalled our mortality and Christ's victor over death. A fresco by Guisto de Menabuoi in the Baptistry in Padua, for example, depicts our Lord as the prototype of the reaper, as "one who looked like a son of man, with a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand." (Revelation 14:14)



## Smashing Pumpkins

If Catholics are to reclaim the authentic meaning of Halloween for all ages by making a genuine religious observance on All Hallows Eve, the first step is to reject the secularization of the feast and to creatively recover the evening's authentic devotional festivity.

The process of cultural recovery begins, of course, with the word "Halloween" itself, its history and what it signifies. The verb "to hallow" means "to make holy," while the word "e'en" derives from a shortening of the word "evening." Those who have been "sanctified" or "made holy" are God's "hallowed ones," "holy ones," or "saints." "Hallow-e'en" or "Hallows' Eve" thus refers to the "Eve of All Hallows," which is the Eve of All Saints Day.

Observed as a holy day of obligation in parts of Western Europe from as early as the year 835, the feast of All Saints has for centuries begun at vespers on the evening prior, Oct. 31, following the custom of all Sundays and solemnities. Halloween is the earliest possible celebration of the feast of All Saints, a devotional response to a largely pagan world.

Like many feasts on the liturgical calendar, Halloween is an instance of syncretism, the intentioned consecration to God of a formerly pagan festal celebration. The Old Celtic calendar had observed Nov. 1 as the first day of the year, which made Oct. 31 the Old Celtic calendar's "New Year's Eve," a "night of all the witches." To turn the attention of the faithful towards God and away from divination, astrology, clairvoyance, magic, sorcery, occult powers, and spiritism (see Exodus 20: 1-3, Deuteronomy 5:6-7, and CCC 2115-17), the church situated the feasts of All Saints in a manner which would turn the evil of pagan culture to some good. No longer would the evening be devoted to "all witches" or "all evil ones;" instead, Oct. 31 would be dedicated to all saints.

## Costume Customs

The custom of dressing up for Halloween has a devotional dimension, which, when undertaken with thoughtful

intentionality, can aid in recovering Halloween's authentic meaning. By dressing up as the saints whom they most admire, the young begin to consciously follow the saints' example of Christian discipleship. The alternative "I" of Halloween costumes presents a golden opportunity for the young to appropriate devotion to particular saints whose witness they admire.

Nourished by continuous reading about the lives of the saints, children naturally pick a "favorite." Dressing in festive commemoration, they fashion themselves after historical witnesses of real life in Christ. They become "living icons" by those who have testified to the Christian faith but in history and truth. By imitating the saints, Christians young and old make discipleship their own in a special way, following the exhortation of St. Paul, who instructs the Corinthians, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)

St. Basil the Great extends this logic to the lawful veneration of images, writing, "the honor rendered to an image passes to its prototype," to which he adds, "whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it." (CCC 2132) Proper veneration of the saints naturally leads to adoration of the Lamb who was slain (Revelation 5:12), whom all the saints adore (Revelation 7) and whom the 144,000 virgins joyously follow wherever he goes (Revelation 14). By imitating their witness, true devotion to the saints leads us sinners back to Christ.

A trick-or-treat child dressed as a saint will undoubtedly be asked, "And who are you supposed to be?" This question invites the young to bear witness to God by succinctly teaching the uninitiated about the lives of the saints.

## Praise without Disguise


As we draw near to All Saints Day and Halloween, we turn at long last to the question of how best to keep holy this vigil and its feast. As the Second Vatican Council has affirmed in *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, "Popular devotions of the Christian people are to be highly commended, provided they accord with the laws and norms of

the Church...; these devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with sacred liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses any of them." (13)

Halloween represents an unsurpassed opportunity for the lay faithful to express devotion to God through the veneration of all his saints. The good to be done is evident, and evil is avoided. The saints are to be glorified, Christ's victory over sin and death recalled. Anything which detracts from the glory of God and his saints is to be avoided.

Because "praise is fitting for loyal hearts" (cf. Psalm 33:1), let us resolve this Halloween and feast of All Saints to express our cultural observance – in each activity, craft, song, skit, celebration and costume – the beauty and theological understanding of this great feast, witnessing in our very lives the words of Pope St. John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* (82):

"In the proclamation of this Gospel, we must not fear hostility or unpopularity, and we must refuse any compromise or ambiguity which might conform us to the world's way of thinking (cf. Romans 12:2). We must be in the world but not of the world (cf. John 15:19; 17:16), drawing our strength from Christ, who by his Death and Resurrection has overcome the world. (cf. Jn 16:33)"

As for the youth, trick-or-treating children dressed as saints will certainly be asked, "And who are you supposed to be?" This question invites the young to bear witness to God by succinctly teaching the uninitiated about the lives of the saints. In small intentional communities such as families, schoolrooms, and parishes, costume parties and competition easily become the locus of the New Evangelization. The top prize in a contest might go to the one who tells best the short vita of their saint, or perhaps to the boy who has represented most realistically St. Francis's stigmata, or maybe to the girl who has remembered to sew the Star of David upon the identifiably Carmelite habit of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. 

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

## How Caring Choices Supports Mothers-to-Be

BY SAVANNA KEARNEY

**In October, the Catholic Church in the U.S. kicks off their annual Respect Life program, calling on the community to cherish, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable – from the moment of conception until natural death and every point in between.**

One of the many ways the Diocese of St. Augustine supports life are through its pregnancy counseling services, which are administered by Catholic Charities' Caring Choices program. Another is the "Walking with Moms in Need" initiative that was launched in March by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The initiative aims to equip parishes with information that will help the faith community know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

Caring Choices offers free and confidential pregnancy counseling, parenting and adoption options, pregnancy and birthing education, support for mothers, fathers, and family members, and more.

"We want women of all faiths and no faith at all to know that we are here for them and that they can come to us for good, quality pregnancy counseling without judgment," said Geralyn Ryan, a licensed clinical social worker and the director of Caring Choices. "We just want to help them make the best decision for their pregnancy."

May Oliver, director of the Human Life and Dignity Office for the diocese, describes the partnership she has with Caring Choices as "two sides of the same coin."

"While both are diocesan entities, our office does work in prayer, education, advocacy and action, while Caring Choices provides hands-on social services," explained Oliver. "The Walking with Moms in Need program is the perfect joining of our strengths in the diocese."

Cassie is one of the many who has benefited from this partnership. A little more than a year ago, Cassie was six-months-pregnant and homeless. She had zero support from her family, and she'd been struggling with schizophrenia for years. She spent most of her days wandering the streets of downtown St. Augustine and visiting the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at



■ Nan Duffy, left, works with women on the eastern side of diocese, while Regina Honorat, center, and Geralyn Ryan offer their services in the western counties of the diocese.

GINOY HUBANA

## Walking with Moms in Need

a year of service



“The resources, empathy and willingness to help without conditions make this program one of a kind.”

Mission Nombre de Dios. Father Joseph Kuhlman said he noticed Cassie sleeping outside the fence of the shrine.

"Seeing her asleep on the side of the road gripped my heart," said Father Kuhlman. "Her situation seemed so dire."

He would approach Cassie regularly to make small talk and pray with her. He even gave her a miraculous medal.

"I wondered why she chose to sleep near the shrine," he said. "I think without even realizing it, her soul sensed the presence and comfort of Our Lady of La Leche."

Father Kuhlman said he encourages his brother priests to be attentive to their neighbors, especially women in the community they might not regularly see at church. Many pregnant women in need, including Cassie, go unnoticed. The Walking with Moms program encourages parishes to get involved, especially clergy and parish staff, who can help by referring women to nearby resources.

Father Kuhlman said once he noticed that Cassie was pregnant, he knew how to get help for her. May Oliver and Nan Duffy, a Caring Choices pregnancy





■ Cassidy, left, holds her baby boy, Leo, with Nan Duffy looking on.



■ Meghann and her 4-month-old daughter, Arcelia.

““ We want women of all faiths and no faith at all to know that we are here for them and that they can come to us for good, quality pregnancy counseling without judgment.”

counselor and registered nurse, met with the mother-to-be, and Duffy developed a trusting relationship with Cassie over the next few months.

“Even in her despair and mental anguish, Cassie understood that she wanted more for her baby,” explained Duffy. “She prayed for a life for him that held much more than she ever had or could provide due to her current circumstances.”

Eventually, Duffy was able to find housing for Cassie, take her to obstetric appointments, and ensure that she got the help she needed for her mental illness. Cassie finally confided in Duffy her desire for her son to be raised by a loving, Christian family and hoped that she could still be a part of his life after the adoption.

In August 2019, Cassie gave birth to a healthy baby boy named Leo, and Caring Choices placed him with a loving and devoted family that occasionally meets with Cassie for picnics.

Adoptions aren’t the only option for struggling mothers. Since the age of 12, Meghann has dealt with the battle of diabetes. When she discovered she was pregnant earlier this year, she was terrified of the difficulties and complications that diabetes would cause her pregnancy. She had little personal support, and a few people even encouraged her to abort her baby.

“But God intervened to help me choose life,” said Meghann.

Meghann’s mother contacted Caring Choices, and Duffy was able to assure her that with specialized obstetrical care and diabetes management, she could have a safe and healthy pregnancy.

“At first, Meghann was a bit resistant to meeting with me,” said Duffy. “But I worked on building a relationship guided by genuine concern and understanding. I’ve discovered that people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Duffy and Meghann met many times throughout her pregnancy, where they covered topics from breastfeeding to daycare.

“What surprised me most about Caring Choices was the miracles they’ve performed, from adoption to parenting to support after termination,” said Meghann. “The resources, empathy and willingness to help without conditions make this program one of a kind. In a world that seems so full of hopelessness, Caring Choices gives women a sense of security and love we all need.”

The Human Life and Dignity office and Caring Choices work closely with parish respect life ministries to ensure women in all areas of the diocese receive the help they need.

Queen of Peace in Gainesville has a very active and thriving pro-life parish ministry. Their coordinators have developed a list of area resources for mothers in need, established relationships with local pregnancy centers, and made “comfort pillows” to help moms and their babies with the transition from hospital to home. And that’s just the beginning. 🕊

■ **To learn more about the Caring Choices program**, email GERALYN RYAN at [gryan@ccgnv.com](mailto:gryan@ccgnv.com) or NAN DUFFY at [nduffy@ccdosa.org](mailto:nduffy@ccdosa.org) or visit [ccpregnancyservices.org](http://ccpregnancyservices.org). Or call them at (904) 228-3833.

■ **To learn more about the pro-life work in the diocese**, and the Walking with Moms in Need initiative, email MAY OLIVER at [moliver@dosafll.com](mailto:moliver@dosafll.com) or call (904) 262-3200, ext. 159. Or visit <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/walking-moms-need>.

*The Human Life & Dignity Office and Catholic Charities’ Caring Choices program are partially funded through your donation to the Bishop’s Annual Stewardship Appeal.*





■ Mackenzie Tucker and Katie Gunkle.



■ Rachel Atter with Mae Frymann of San Juan del Rio Parish.



■ Carolyn and Larry Schaffer of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Santa Maria del Mar parishes.

# INVESTING IN MINISTRY

Catholic Foundation Awards \$100,000 in Grants for New Initiatives

BY LILLA ROSS

**Catholics' investments in the diocese have paid off again. Seventeen parishes, schools and ministries received a total of \$100,000 from the Catholic Foundation this year.**

The foundation, established in 1987, is a permanent endowment to meet the religious, charitable, and educational needs of the Diocese of St. Augustine.

The mission of the foundation is to build a Christ-centered future for the good works of the church in North

Florida through inspired charitable giving. It helps parishes, schools and ministries set up their own restricted funds within the endowment.

“Many times, a grant is seed money for creating new initiatives that ministries and parishes wouldn't have had the capacity

to do financially,” said Executive Director Patricia DiSandro.

One of those seed grants went to San Juan del Rio Parish in St. Johns County for the diocese's first parish-based faith formation program for children with special needs.

The parish has 42 families with children with special needs such as autism and other spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, hearing and speech impairments, and mental health issues such



as eating disorders, anxiety and suicide ideation, said Monina Mulleague, the parish religious education coordinator.

Those health issues can create several challenges. Some of the children need adapted lesson plans or hands-on lessons to help them understand the faith and form a deeper relationship with God, she said.

The program uses a faith formation curriculum published by Loyola Press that is adapted for children with special needs. The parish's Knights of Columbus purchased it, she said.

Mulleague said she is assembling a library of books and materials that can be used as resources.

She also has put together a core team of special needs catechists to help develop the program. And, she is taking certification classes in special needs from the University of Dayton.

"I have written the blueprints for this program so it can be transferable and customized depending on the dynamics of the parish," Mulleague said. "I've talked with the religious education coordinator at St. Joseph's, and she's interested in starting a program. I'm hoping there are others."

Mulleague said she would like to expand the program to become a parish ministry to families with children with special needs.

"They are so overwhelmed. I've had parents come to me in tears because they can't go to Mass because the music overly sensitizes their children, such as bells, even coughing," she said.

She said she would like to sponsor a monthly event for parents to provide resources and allow them time to socialize.

"And I want to teach our community to have awareness for children with special needs. I feel like God put this in my lap. He makes it doable."



■ Members of the San Juan del Rio Parish religious education program for special needs students, from left, Sol Coyne, Kayla Garza, Maricel Conception (parent), Laura Atter and Monina Mulleague, the coordinator. Seated are Rachel Atter and Joseph Concepcion (student).

### AN APP FOR THE SHRINE

► The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine received a grant to develop a mobile app, "Walk with Our Lady," that will enhance visitors' experience as they explore the 26-acre property.

"This technology will help us support the continuing evangelization and deeper conversion of all the faithful while sharing our Catholic faith legacy," said Joanna Stark, director of development.

The app will track the number of visitors who come to the shrine, their favorite spots, how many donate, solicit feedback about their visit, and prayer requests. That data will be analyzed monthly to help us improve the site, Stark said.

The app, which will be developed by Instituto Nauto, a Spanish nonprofit, will be expanded as interest grows.

### A GROWING RURAL INITIATIVE

► A seed grant made five years ago continues to bear fruit.

The foundation gave an initial grant to Epiphany Catholic School in Lake City to fund the Rural Education Initiative, which helps economically disadvantaged, struggling immigrant families, or those who have to travel extensive distances to attend a Catholic school.

With the money, the school established outreach to four



■ Mackenzie Tucker and Katie Gunkle enjoy the many features that will soon be available on the new mobile app for the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios, St. Augustine.

counties: Alachua, Columbia, Lafayette and Suwannee counties, said Epiphany Principal Rita Klink.

The initiative now has two buses and an 11-passenger van. They transport 40 children, K-8, to Epiphany School and 24 high school students to St. Francis Academy in Gainesville, Klink said.

The grant offsets some of the costs of maintaining the buses and hiring drivers, she said.

Last year, the initiative expanded,



SPECIAL

■ (Above) Father Heriberto Vergara, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Crescent City, greets students of his parish as they prepare to board the bus to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Palm Coast.

with St. Patrick Interparish School in Gainesville acquiring a bus to transport children from Starke, Waldo and Macclenny.

This year the initiative is expanding to the eastern part of the diocese.

The Office of Catholic Schools, in partnership with the Office of Development and Stewardship, recently raised \$90,000 to purchase two school buses from Nations Bus in St. Augustine for their third Rural Education Initiative.

The buses will transport 24 students from St. John the Baptist Parish in Crescent City to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Palm Coast.

“I am so proud that these programs have been such a success in the rural areas of the 17-county diocese. But most important to its success is how well these students are doing in

school and life,” said Deacon Scott Conway, school superintendent.

The initiative would not have been possible without the generosity of an anonymous donor and Carolyn and Larry Schaffer, parishioners of Mary, Queen of Heaven, and Santa Maria del Mar.

According to Carolyn, they were happy to donate not only because she went to Catholic school, but also because Larry’s family sold buses for a living for many years, making this initiative a perfect fit for them.

“I know this initiative is a tremendous opportunity for those kids because I know what Catholic school did for me. I went to Assumption and then Bishop Kenny, and we’ve put our children and grandchildren through Catholic school,” she said. “It gives them a big advantage.”

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

► Any Catholic entity in the diocese can apply for a grant, which is capped at \$10,000. The application period is from November to February. The grants cannot be for salaries, direct service, or regularly occurring operating expenses, DiSandro said.

This year the foundation received 21 applications. They are reviewed by a committee of board members and may include a site visit.


The grants are made possible through an unrestricted fund in the endowment. But the endowment also includes 130 restricted accounts such as endowments for parishes or specific ministries. Last year, more than \$1.2 million was distributed from the restricted accounts, DiSandro explained.

“The entire endowment, which is now valued at more than \$38 million, has been gifted over time,” she said. “The gifts are in perpetuity, and we will earn income from those gifts and investments benefitting our faith community forever.”

“Many people don’t realize we have a Catholic Foundation. It’s an important resource for our diocese, for our parishes, schools and ministries,” DiSandro said.

It is a way for Catholics to continue to support the organizations and ministries that they have already invested in with their time, talent and treasure.

“They are an important part of our lives now, but we can continue to support them after we’re gone. We can make sure our parish, our school is still here for our children, our grandchildren, so they can continue their faith-filled walk for many years. The endowment helps ensure the church is sustainable.”

For more information about the Catholic Foundation, go to [cf.dosafl.com](http://cf.dosafl.com). 

*Savanna Kearney contributed to this report.*

## ► THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION ALSO AWARDED GRANTS TO THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES, PARISHES AND SCHOOLS OF THE DIOCESE:

- **St. Patrick Parish** | \$8,000 | paint the sanctuary
- **San Juan Mission** | \$3,500 | clothing and food distribution program
- **St. John the Evangelist Parish** | \$3,720 | Emmaus and Cursillo programs
- **Bishop Snyder High School** | \$1,500 | advertising in Baker County
- **St. Paul Catholic School, Riverside** | \$8,600 | laptops for students
- **St. Francis Academy** | \$9,000 | student assistance, travel and laptops
- **Christian Formation Ministry** | \$2,000 | assist parishes in certifications
- **Office of Communications** | \$7,080 | assist parishes in digital communications
- **Family Life Office** | \$7,900 | Stephen Ministry for those suffering a loss
- **Youth and Young Adult Ministry** | \$9,000 | Middle School service days and mission trips
- **Catholic Charities** | \$7,400 | recruit, screen, hire and train leaders





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21 Cemetery Rd.  
Korona, FL 32110





■ An unnamed clergyman, marches with Dr. Ralph David Abernathy and his wife Juanita, Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, and the Abernathy children from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery in 1965.



SPECIAL

■ The first parish assignment for Father Edward Rooney was the City of St. Jude, in Montgomery, Ala. It was there that marchers began their final leg of their march from Selma to the Montgomery capitol on March 24, 1965.

# How a Catholic Parish Aided the Passage of the 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT

BY FATHER EDWARD ROONEY

**IN MARCH 1965, I was a young Irish priest attached to the City of St. Jude Catholic Church on Fairview Avenue in Montgomery, Ala. I was a teacher and counselor at the parish high school, one of the few black Catholic schools scattered throughout the Diocese of Mobile. It was a time of strict segregation in most public places, restaurants, schools, etc. It was a time when four young black girls were murdered by white men in the bombing of their church in Birmingham.**

It was a time when black men and women were systematically prohibited from voting in elections, contributing to white dominance in social and civic affairs. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) spearheaded the struggle for voting rights for all citizens. The Freedom Riders came to the South to integrate lunch counters. Alabama Gov. George Wallace, Birmingham Police Chief Bull Connor and Dallas County Sheriff James Clark in Selma and many white leaders offered strong resistance to the calls for change.

Prior to the Selma March in 1965, which was an iconic event in the history of the U.S., President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, preventing employment discrimination due to race, color, sex, religion or national origin. But that did not prevent the white sheriffs and white politicians from denying the right to vote to black men and women. Voter registration drives were met with violence, hostility and death throughout the region. The country had not yet lived up to the true meaning of its creed: We

hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

The Voting Rights Act was introduced into Congress in early 1965 but had not yet found its way to the president's desk. It still was not law, and there was much apprehension and hostility towards its passage in Congress. It was not a done deal by any stretch. However, when Martin Luther King endorsed the bill in 1965, it stood a better chance of being signed into law.

What focused much attention on the Voting Rights Act was the Selma March. It gave impetus and push to the passage of the bill.

There were two attempts to march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. The first was met by what has become a memorable scene of white policemen, beating, clubbing, kicking peaceful demonstrators on the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma. That scene, like Pearl Harbor, will live in infamy. The second attempt was halted by King because he hadn't received adequate permission. The request was tied up in the courts, and he didn't want to jeopardize the case by marching a second time to Montgomery.

Before the third attempt, the leadership of the SCLC sat down with the pastor and



staff in the rectory of St. Jude's. They asked if the property of the church and school could be used as a staging area for the last and final leg of the march, the trip to downtown Montgomery and the rally on the steps of the capitol building – the heart of the Confederacy. The SCLC was unable to obtain any other venue close to the city that could be used by the marchers. Across the street from St. Jude's were two black high schools with plenty of room, but the authorities refused the SCLC permission to use these properties.

The pastor, Father Paul Mullaney, and Archbishop Joseph Toolen, granted permission. I remember well on the eve of the final leg of the march, a concert was organized by Harry Belafonte and many other celebrities – Mahalia Jackson, Tony Bennett, Alan King, Joan Baez, Peter, Paul and Mary, Sammy Davis Jr. on the ballfields of the school and church property to entertain the 25,000 people who had gathered for the final leg of the march.

St. Jude's Church was about four miles from downtown Montgomery and an ideal place to gather for that final leg. As I said, the Selma March was really a final push for the passage of the Voting Rights Act, which President Johnson signed into law five months later on Aug. 6, 1965.

Had St. Jude's refused the request of the SCLC, would the march have progressed? Probably yes. Would the logistics of the final leg been more difficult? Probably yes. Would the marchers have had the same passion, enthusiasm and stamina for the final leg if they had to camp somewhere on the roadside or in the streets, and minus the concert? Probably no.

Looking back now, I believe that our church played a significant role in the struggle for racial justice during the last half-century. Popes have spoken, bishops have issued statements on the inherent dignity of every man and woman. Their recent pastoral against racism *Open Wide our Hearts* ought to be read by every believing Catholic to know where our church stands when it comes to racial justice and harmony, something that is so much needed in our times. 🐦

*Father Edward Rooney, retired pastor of St. Luke Parish in Middleburg, is a priest of the Diocese of St. Augustine.*



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ARTIST: JACLYN WARREN

■ Apalachee Antonio Cuipa was tied to a cross and tortured with a fire burning under his feet for hours in 1704 in what is now Tallahassee. Moments before his death, he cried out and the Virgin Mary appeared at his side.



ARTIST: JACLYN WARREN

■ Father Agustin Ponce de León, America's first native-born priest and martyr, tried to save two native altar boys, Jacinto and Julio, from English captors in 1705, but all three were killed for their faith.

# ADOPT A MARTYR:

## How to support the cause for canonization

BY LILLA ROSS

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN FLORIDA** is seeped with the blood of martyrs. At least 82 Catholics, lay and clergy, were killed for their faith in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The dioceses of Florida, led by the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, are supporting the cause for the canonization of Antonio Cuipa and 81 companions as the Florida Martyrs.

To promote the cause in the diocese, Bishop Felipe Estévez is asking parishes to adopt one of the martyrs.

The martyrdoms occurred between 1549 to 1706, during the First Spanish Period, said Dr. Mary Soha, a vice postulator for the cause. The Diocese of St. Augustine has ten martyrs.

Almost all the killings occurred at the hands of the British and their native allies, the Creeks, Soha said.

"The British taught them to mock Catholics. They wanted to break the people and make them more subdued, so it would be easier to make them slaves," she said.

Sometimes people were made to watch as a priest or chief, called caciques, were tortured.

"It backfired on the British because it made the Catholics more resilient in their faith," she said.

Soha said the purpose of the adoption program is to help people form a personal relationship with a martyr or martyrdom event.

"How they were martyred is not as

important as the intensity of their faith and the power of their catechesis," Soha said. "That's the only thing that would help someone endure a martyrdom; they could easily have escaped by renouncing their faith.

"My goal is to have pastors fall in love with one of these events, to look at the theology, morality, the defense of the Eucharist, and share the love with their parishioners."

She would like to see the parishes develop a prayer for their martyr and find ways to support the canonization.

"Why is this coming to our knowledge today when it's been hidden for hundreds of years? Why do we need to understand their catechesis, their faith, their life? Why were they willing to die defending their belief in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist?"

Putting together the documentation is a lengthy process that involves tracking down historical documents all over the world.

"Queen Isabella was brilliant because she required documents in triplicate to protect them from fires, hurricanes and





ARTIST: JACLYN WARREN

■ Mariana Viuda, daughter the Timucuan chief, and her 9-year-old son, Jacinto, continuously prayed the rosary together through their torture and martyrdom during an attack on their tribe in San Juan del Puerto in 1702.

raids. They were sent to different areas in hopes of preserving them.”

They’ve been found in the archives of the Vatican and the religious orders as well as in Seville and Madrid in Spain.

Currently, the cause is in the diocesan phase, when information is gathered and sent to the Vatican for verification. Because they are martyrs, no medical miracle is required as in other canonizations, Soha said.

Once the Vatican makes the determination that the people proposed for canonization died a martyr’s death, their name is forwarded to the Holy Father, who makes the final decision.

“Canonization is a journey,” she said. “You don’t go from point A to point B in the canonization process. It’s up to the Holy Spirit when each of these steps takes place.”

Soha has worked as the physician who investigates medical miracles in other causes, including Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the children of Fatima and Sister Marie de Mandat-

Grancey, who helped find the Blessed Mother’s house in Ephesus.

Here is more about the diocese’s ten martyrs:

• **Father Pedro Martinez** was a Spanish Jesuit who came to Florida in 1566 as part of a short-lived Jesuit missionary effort. While trying to get to St. Augustine, he and his fellow travelers were stranded. He was attacked by natives and bludgeoned to death a few days before his 33rd birthday.

• **Father Vicente de Andrade** was a Cuban priest who came to St. Augustine in 1607 and was assigned to the mission of Cofa near the mouth of the Suwannee River. In 1611, Father de Andrade and about 25 Native Christians were taking food and Mass supplies from St. Augustine back to the mission when they were attacked by other Natives. Father de Andrade tried to protect the supplies and the Native Christians, but he and about 17 of the Natives were shot with arrows. Father de Andrade later died at the mission.

• **Father Agustín Ponce de León** was a Franciscan friar who was born in St. Augustine. He served a little mission south of St. Augustine, Nombre de Dios Chiquito. About 1705, the friar, and three Native Christians, Roberto and two boys, Jacinto and Julio, were attacked by the British. He begged his attackers to free the boys, but instead, he was shot with arrows and had to watch as they killed the boys in front of him. Roberto was killed trying to take the priest back to the mission.

• **Father Domingo Criado**, a Franciscan priest, was killed with the Apalachee cacique Patricio de Hinachuba and de Hinachuba’s wife and children in the late part of the First Spanish Period. Father Criado was captured by the British, enslaved, and then killed. The cacique, his family and other members of the community were killed at the mission. 🐦

To learn more about the Florida Martyrs, visit [www.martyrsofloridamissions.org/](http://www.martyrsofloridamissions.org/).





■ Greg and Karen Montana at the 2019 Black and White Ball that raised \$200,000.



■ Chuck Petruska participates in the 2018 Youth & Young Adult Ministry golf tournament. They raised \$36,000 to help fund youth programs in the diocese.

# Being *RESOURCEFUL* about *RAISING RESOURCES*

BY LILLA ROSS

**T**HE MINISTRIES of the Diocese of St. Augustine rely heavily on annual fundraising events to support their work, but during the coronavirus pandemic, ministry leaders are being forced to become resourceful about finding new resources.

## ▶ CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Robin Shipley, director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, had to cancel the annual golf tournament, which raises between \$25,000 and \$40,000 for the ministry. She appealed to the sponsors and golfers and received \$8,000 in in-kind donations.

“That was a significant cut to our budget. It really hurt,” Shipley said. “It’s our largest fundraiser. As a result, the youth budget was cut significantly.”

The ministry’s programs include Urban Plunge, the summer at-home mission program, Theology on Tap, Days of Reflection, and the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Shipley has turned to grant writing, and

she has had success, having received grants from the Catholic Foundation and Clay Cooperative, which donated \$8,000.

The ministry also has received funds from the Super Bowl of Caring at San José Parish, the casino night at Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Knights of Columbus at St. Catherine’s.

“This ministry is really important,” Shipley said. “This demographic is at risk. Our young adults and teens are disengaging and leaving in droves. We have to find ways to continue to invest in them and look at it as an investment. We want them to know the church is here to walk with them. We can only do that if we have the necessary resources.”

In early March, when everything started shutting down, Catholic Charities in Jacksonville began going virtual, including case management and job readiness classes.

The food pantry at St. Pius V Parish remained opened, serving 140 families a week, and rules were eased so that people could come as often as they need.

Catholic Charities’ big fundraiser, the Black and White Ball, was canceled.

“We contacted all the sponsors and asked them to consider making a donation of their sponsorship for emergency relief,” said Nicola Barnack, director of development.

For the Feed a Family campaign, Catholic Charities put together an online letter-writing campaign asking for donations to support the food pantry at the St. Pius Center. Greg and Karen



■ In 2019, Catholic Charities Gainesville hosted a Polynesian Paradise themed Spirit of Charity Gala and raised \$186,840 for emergency assistance..



■ Despite budget cuts, youth ministry continues to provide opportunities for the youth of diocese to serve their community as part of the Faith+Action service days.





KRISTEN DESMIDT

■ In 2019, Festival d’Vine raised nearly \$110,000.

Montana stepped up and offered to match donations up to \$50,000.

Their efforts set a fundraising record with \$321,000 raised for the Black and White Ball and Feed a Family, Barnack said.

Catholic Charities has also canceled the Festival d’Vine event in October, but it has scheduled the next Black and White Ball for March 20, 2021.

Camp I Am Special, the summer camps for people with disabilities, went virtual this year. And the sponsors and donors made sure the campers could attend for free, Barnack said. This enabled many more campers than usual to get in on the fun via Facebook and other social media sites.

The staff from Camp I Am Special was hired to run a new downtown pop-up food pantry that Catholic Charities put together in partnership with the Jessie Ball du Pont Fund and Farm Share. They have been serving 300 clients a day.

In Gainesville, Catholic Charities canceled its big March fundraiser, the Spirit of Charity Gala.

“We offered sponsors and ticketholders a refund. We only had to refund five tickets. Everyone else said, keep the money. We made as much as we normally would without the expense of the event,” said John Barli, director of the Gainesville office.

Over the summer, Catholic Charities hosted a week-long auction, Christmas in July, with the goods and services that had been donated for its annual live and silent auctions that had been canceled.

Barli said he expects to raise as much

money with the virtual event as they did last year.

Their sponsor WJCB TV20 has given the event lots of attention, and they did a virtual fundraiser in April that raised \$170,000 for direct client assistance.

Those programs include emergency financial assistance, a food pantry and mobile outreach to Bradford, Levy, Gilchrist and Dixie counties.

In addition, they provide a weekend hunger backpack program to 870 families at 21 schools who would go hungry on weekends. That program continued until the end of the spring term, with the backpacks being delivered to the schools where they are picked up by families. They plan to resume the backpack outreach in the fall, depending on the status of school openings.

Barli said people have been incredibly generous

“We’ve had several people giving us their \$1,200 stimulus checks,” he said. “And one lady from Bradford County said she wanted to help and handed us a check for \$50,000. We don’t know how long the generosity will continue, but for now, they are continuing to come in.” 🐦

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## GO TO JOSEPH

### **CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH** Activities for Schools, Social Media and Zoom Novena

**A**T THE REQUEST OF BISHOP FELIPE ESTÉVEZ, the Sisters of St. Joseph have planned three activities in the Diocese of St. Augustine to commemorate the year 2020 as a Year of St. Joseph with the theme “Go to Joseph.” In 1870 – 150 years ago – Pope Pius IX proclaimed St. Joseph the patron of the Universal Church. The year extends until March 21, 2021, the feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary.

“

During this coronavirus pandemic, when so many people are hurting financially and are at risk of contracting the virus, especially essential workers, St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus Christ, and the provider and protector of the Holy Family, is a good saint to remember.”

The first activity, which was done in early August, was distributing holy cards with an age-appropriate prayer to St. Joseph to all Catholic school students in grades K-12 in the diocese, including school faculty, with the request that they pray aloud at least once a week until March 19, 2021. The prayers, as well as the original artwork (left), were done by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister Kathleen Carr, general superior of the congregation, said: “The theme of ‘Go to Joseph’ came from St. Teresa of Avila, a Spanish Carmelite, who advised people to pray to St. Joseph for almost anything, as she had found him a powerful intercessor to God on her behalf.” Sister Kathleen formed a planning committee comprised of Sisters Ann Kuhn, Florence Bryan, Jane Stoecker, Stephanie Flynn, and Carol Stovall.

The committee has planned two other activities – “Go to Joseph” short videos to air on the congregation’s social media postings on Wednesdays starting in the fall, and a virtual Novena retreat, March 10-18, by the congregation’s St. Joseph Renewal Center, with half-hour Zoom sessions.

“During this coronavirus pandemic, when so many people are hurting financially and are at risk of contracting the virus, especially essential workers, St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus Christ, and the provider and protector of the Holy Family, is a good saint to remember,” shared Sister Kathleen.

To download a copy of the St. Joseph Prayer, visit <http://www.dosafl.com/yearofstjoseph/>.



## The 2020 Candidate Questionnaire Project is Ready!

Each election cycle, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (FCCB) conducts the Candidate Questionnaire Project to assist Catholics and the broader community with the obligation to become active citizens and informed voters. Knowing where the candidates stand on matters concerning human life and dignity and the advancement of the common good is essential to responsible, faithful citizenship.

All U.S. Congressional and Florida Legislative candidates appearing on the ballot in both the primary and general elections were invited to participate. Candidates were asked to identify whether they support or oppose a range of issues that are important to our faith community. Although the questionnaires do not address every area of concern, care has been taken to identify proposals that may be acted on by lawmakers during the coming term. In addition to their positions on the issues, candidates are permitted to include brief comments on each question.

Candidate responses are posted in two formats: 1) lists of all candidates on the primary and general election ballots.

Catholics are called to consider a wide range of issues



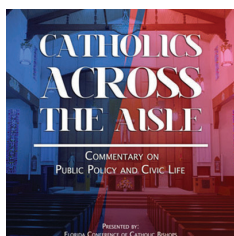
important to the common good before voting, weighing each according to its moral importance. During this process, it is beneficial to research the ballot ahead of time, gathering the facts for every question or candidate. To help you with the process, read *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility* from the Catholic Bishops of the United States by visiting <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>.

To read more on the Candidate Questionnaire Project, visit <https://www.flaccb.org/cqp>.

Candidate positions on issues are gathered for informational purposes only and are not used for endorsement of any candidate or political party.

## Bishop Estévez Makes Guest Appearance on New FCCB Podcast

In June, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a new podcast called *Catholics Across the Aisle: Commentary on Public Policy and Civic Life*.



On this podcast, the FCCB seeks to bring a non-partisan, moral voice to the public dialogue on key policy issues of the day and assist listeners in becoming educated and active participants in civic life.

Bishop Felipe Estévez was a guest on *Catholics Across the Aisle*. In the episode, released July 27, Executive Director Michael Sheedy sits down with Bishop Estévez to discuss the death penalty and why we as Christians should fight for the end of this law. *Catholics Across the Aisle* is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts.

## Spanish Catholic Radio Comes to Jacksonville

For more than 20 years, *Relevant Radio* has brought interactive, faith-filled programming to an audience of 220 million people across the United States, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. And now they are bringing their content to a Spanish-speaking audience.

As of July 1, *Relevant Radio en Español* is broadcasting on 1600-AM in Jacksonville, covering current events, news, marriage and family, faith and more. They also provide English programming in Jacksonville on 1460-AM.

Original programs include the daily Mass, the rosary, Lo Más Relevante, covering news, politics, health and more, Siempre Juntos, helping listeners to grow in faith through themes of family, children, marriage and theology, and Relevant Radio en Vivo con John Morales, addressing current issues from a Catholic perspective.

The Diocese of St. Augustine also sponsors a weekly live radio Mass on La Raza 92.9-FM, which is broadcast from Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Jacksonville on Sundays at 2 p.m.

To learn more, visit [relevantradioenspanol.com](http://relevantradioenspanol.com).

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## FORCED LIKE JESUS CHRIST TO FLEE

### Commemorating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

In 2018, there were about 28 million newly displaced persons around the world. Some were displaced by conflict, others by environmental disasters. The Catholic Church accompanies these vulnerable people on the move who are among the most forgotten and neglected of our times.

Sept. 27 marks the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. This year, Pope Francis has chosen the theme “Forced like Jesus Christ to Flee.”

Leading up to this day, the Holy Father has asked Catholics to reflect on the plight of the displaced with these four sub-themes:

- To know in order to understand
- To be close in order to serve
- To listen in order to be reconciled
- To share in order to grow

This year especially, Pope Francis asks us to focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced persons around the world. To learn more, visit <https://migrants-refugees.va/>.



### Giving to those Who have Given a Lifetime

The parishioners of the Diocese of St. Augustine were extremely generous last December in support of the Retirement Fund for Religious appeal. Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM, executive director of the retirement office, wrote to Bishop Felipe Estévez to share, “We are very grateful to you and your parishioners for your generous support of our mission.”

In 2019, the diocese collected \$138,129.82, which will enable the retirement office to distribute financial and educational assistance that helps religious communities provide for older members while continuing to serve the people of God. Proceeds offer much-needed support for medications, nursing care, and other day-to-day necessities. These resources focus on helping communities to reduce costs, enhance eldercare, and identify additional sources for income.

“Joined with the 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious, I offer a daily prayer of thanksgiving for all whose love and sacrifice make the work of our office possible,” said Sister Still.

The 2020 Retirement for Religious parish collection is scheduled for Dec. 12-13. For more information, visit <https://www.usccb.org/offices/national-religious-retirement-office>



## 2020 Anniversary Celebration

Due to safety concerns surrounding COVID-19, there will not be an in-person gathering or reception for the annual diocesan Mass celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries this year. The Office of Family Life is working on a virtual alternative and is developing materials to commemorate this special occasion.

Couples observing their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th (or more) wedding anniversary between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 this year, are invited to register to participate and be recognized. Registration will be available in September, with more details.

The diocese remains committed to honoring your remarkable witness of marital love this year. Visit family.dosafl.com for more information or call (904) 262-3200, ext. 156.



■ Bishop Estévez gave a special blessing and a yellow rose to couples at the 2019 Anniversary Celebration.

## Luncheons for Life Resume Sept. 16

Luncheons 4 Life, a monthly luncheon and pro-life meeting, will resume on Wednesday, Sept. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Marywood Retreat and Conference Center in St. Johns. Luncheons 4 Life is a grassroots effort designed to bring together like-minded, life-affirming people to network with agencies, churches and pro-life organizations, and concerned individuals to end the demand for abortion.

This month, the featured guest speaker and co-founder of Luncheons 4 Life, Janine Marrone, will present her research on *Reaching Women After Abortion*. Marrone founded the organization five years ago in the Diocese of Venice with her friend Kathie Majerchin, who passed of cancer in 2016. Since its founding, Luncheons 4 Life has spread to



■ Members of the community hold an open discussion about pro-life issues at a Luncheons for Life in February.

various cities throughout Florida and beyond.

To register for the free luncheon and talk, email May Oliver at moliver@dosafl.com or call (904) 262-3200, ext. 159.



■ May Oliver, director of the Office of Human Life & Dignity, left, and Jeanine Marrone, co-founder of Luncheons for Life.



# Calendar | What's Happening?

## SEPTEMBER 19

### Blue Mass

A Mass for police officers, firefighters, corrections officers and paramedics. Celebrant: Bishop Felipe Estévez. 4 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Palm Coast.

## SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 2

### Second Annual Rosary Congress

Seven days of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, hourly rosary and daily Mass across ten parishes in the diocese. Visit <http://www.dosafl.com/event/2nd-annual-rosary-congress/> for details or email [moliver@dosafl.com](mailto:moliver@dosafl.com).

## SEPTEMBER 26

### Gainesville Area Faith Formation Day

An event designed to help people develop & deepen a relationship with Jesus Christ and his church. 10 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Queen of Peace Parish, Gainesville. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/202243970589159>.

## SEPTEMBER 30

### St. Francis Feast Day Mass

Bishop Felipe Estévez will celebrate Mass at St. Francis Catholic Academy for their namesake's feast day. 10:30 a.m., St. Francis gym, Gainesville.

## OCTOBER 10

### Public Rosary Rally

Pray a Rosary for our nation with more than 20,000 other rallies being held across the U.S. at the same time. 12 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Fleming Island. Call (904) 703-1635 for details.

## OCTOBER 10

### Patriotic Rosary

Pray for our nation, government officials and all souls in each state. Hosted by the Order of Malta. 4 p.m., Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine

## OCTOBER 10-11

### Feast of Our Lady of La Leche Celebration

Oct. 10: Perpetual Adoration from 3 p.m. to midnight. Oct. 11: English Masses at 9

# September/October CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FOR MORE DIOCESAN, PARISH AND ORGANIZATIONAL EVENTS, visit [www.dosafl.com/events](http://www.dosafl.com/events)



GETTY IMAGES/MICROPISTOCK

a.m. and 12 p.m., Spanish Mass at 3 p.m. Walking tours led by Dr. Mary Soha at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Vespers at 5 p.m. outside Historic Chapel, National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche. For details email [sr.christine@missionandshrine.org](mailto:sr.christine@missionandshrine.org).

## OCTOBER 11

### Feast of Our Lady of La Leche Celebration

Bishop Felipe Estévez will celebrate Mass for the feast of Our Lady of La Leche. 11:30 a.m., St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic Church, High Springs.

## OCTOBER 11

### \*POSTPONED\* Canonical Coronation of Our Lady of La Leche

In an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, the Diocese of St. Augustine has decided to postpone plans for the 150th anniversary celebration of the Canonical Coronation of Our Lady of La Leche. New date is Oct. 10, 2021.

## OCTOBER 15

### 100th Ultrasound for Life Celebration

Blessing by Bishop Felipe Estévez 10:30 a.m., Community Pregnancy Clinics, 1800 W. University Blvd., Suite 310, Gainesville. RSVP to Ariel Aguilar at (504) 236-9377.

## OCTOBER 17

### Knights on Bikes

Knights of Columbus and anyone with a motorcycle is welcome to ride from Resurrection Catholic Church in Jacksonville to the Columbia Correctional Institution in Lake City to raise money for the Diocese of St. Augustine Prison Ministry. Please consider donating via PayPal by visiting <https://www.konbfla.com>. Email Gregg Bell at [gbell50.att.net](mailto:gbell50.att.net) for details.

## OCTOBER 17

### St. John Paul II Installation Mass

Bishop Felipe Estévez will celebrate Mass to name St. John Paul II Mission a parish and to install Father Richard Pagano as pastor. 4 p.m. Mass, followed by a ticketed banquet, St. John Paul II, Nocatee. Call (904) 330-0153 for more information.

## NOVEMBER 1

### All Saints Day

Celebration in all parishes for the feast of All Saints.

## NOVEMBER 2

### All Souls Day Mass

A Mass of prayer and remembrance for all souls who have died, celebrated by Bishop Felipe Estévez. 10 a.m., San Lorenzo Catholic Cemetery, St. Augustine. Email [krezendez@dosafl.com](mailto:krezendez@dosafl.com) for details.



# católico



► Lizmar y Eliú Ramos, presentadores del programa "Siempre Juntos".

## Radio Relevant en Español En Sintonía con Cristo

POR LORENA ESPINOZA

**Desde hace 23 años, Radio Relevant se ha encargado de llevar a Cristo a su audiencia católica en inglés, a través de una programación interactiva, 24 horas al día, siete días a la semana.**

Hoy en día, Radio Relevant se transmite de costa a costa en los Estados Unidos, en 168 estaciones propias y afiliadas, llegando a más de 220 millones de personas.

En vista de la necesidad de una radio católica en español, en el 2019, Radio Relevant crea dos estaciones en el estado de Texas, la 88.1 FM en McAllen y 88.9 FM en Harlingen. Y, el 1 de julio del

2020, tres en la Florida, la 1080 AM en Orlando; 1380 AM en Tampa y 1660 AM en Jacksonville. Y una en Indiana, la 1270 AM en Gary.

Un total de 6 estaciones que buscan llegar a los 17 millones de católicos de habla hispana en los Estados Unidos.

Relevant en Español produce 40 horas de programación cada semana. Los programas pueden ser escuchados en vivo, a través de las 6 estaciones ó 24/7 en todo el mundo por su página web, [relevantradioenespanol.com](http://relevantradioenespanol.com) o su aplicación Relevant Radio en Español.

Su programación incluye la Misa diaria, el Santo Rosario, los programas "Lo más Relevante", "Relevant Radio En Vivo con John Morales" y "Siempre Juntos con Eliú y Lizmar Ramos".

### "LO MÁS RELEVANTE" Y "SIEMPRE JUNTOS CON ELIÚ Y LIZMAR RAMOS"

"Los más Relevante", un noticiero que se transmite desde las 8 a las 9 de la mañana ET, el cual incluye noticias nacionales e internacionales, noticias del Vaticano, temas de economía, política, salud, religión, entre otros.

Por otro lado, "Siempre Juntos con Eliú y Lizmar Ramos", es un programa de variedades que se transmite en vivo desde 9 de la mañana hasta las 12 del mediodía ET.

Se divide en tres segmentos, el primero "Conociendo Nuestra Fe", con amenas entrevistas a sacerdotes y conocedores de la fe católica y meditaciones.

"Queremos que las personas vuelvan a las Iglesias, vuelvan a su fe, se acerquen más a Dios", afirma el presentador Eliú Ramos.

"Tiempo de Familia", un espacio para conversar con especialistas sobre matrimonio, hijos, crianza, economía

familiar, psicología. Todo lo concerniente a la Familia.

Y el “Tercer Tiempo”, incluye temas de actualidad, salud, economía, migración, educación, y un análisis de las noticias más relevantes con un experto.

Sus presentadores, Eliú y Lizmar Ramos, son un matrimonio católico de origen venezolano. Ambos locutores de radio de profesión en su país, que un día decidieron emigrar a los Estados Unidos para iniciar una nueva vida.

“Llegamos a Miami, allí trabajé como profesor de religión en una escuela. Luego, después de pedirle a Dios y a la Virgen de Guadalupe, mi esposa y yo recibimos la propuesta de trabajar en Relevant Radio en Español. Desde primer día, supimos que esta era nuestra misión”, nos cuenta Ramos.

El programa ya tiene un año en el aire y para los conductores ha sido una experiencia muy enriquecedora. “Nuestro principal objetivo es lograr que nuestros radioescuchas logren una conexión directa con Cristo”, finaliza el presentador.

Para sugerencias o preguntas de este programa: [eramos@relevantradio.com](mailto:eramos@relevantradio.com)

### **“RELEVANT RADIO EN VIVO CON JOHN MORALES”**

Este programa se estrenó el 15 de agosto del 2019 y es transmitido desde las 3 hasta 6 de la tarde ET.

“Un programa de muy alta calidad, con temas relevantes y de actualidad, siempre vistos desde una óptica católica”, comenta el presentador John Morales.

“Relevant Radio en Vivo” tiene una lista de invitados católicos hispanos de calidad, y aborda una variedad de temas que incluyen la familia, la santidad de la vida, las vocaciones, la defensa de la fe católica, finanzas, deportes, música, y más.

“Entre los invitados regulares están el Padre Ezequiel Sánchez, director del Santuario de la Virgen de Guadalupe en Chicago; el Doctor en Teología, Héctor Márquez de Puerto Rico; el Padre Everardo Cázares, con la meditación diaria del Evangelio; Lourdes Varela de la ciudad de México, directora en Latinoamérica de 40 días por la vida;

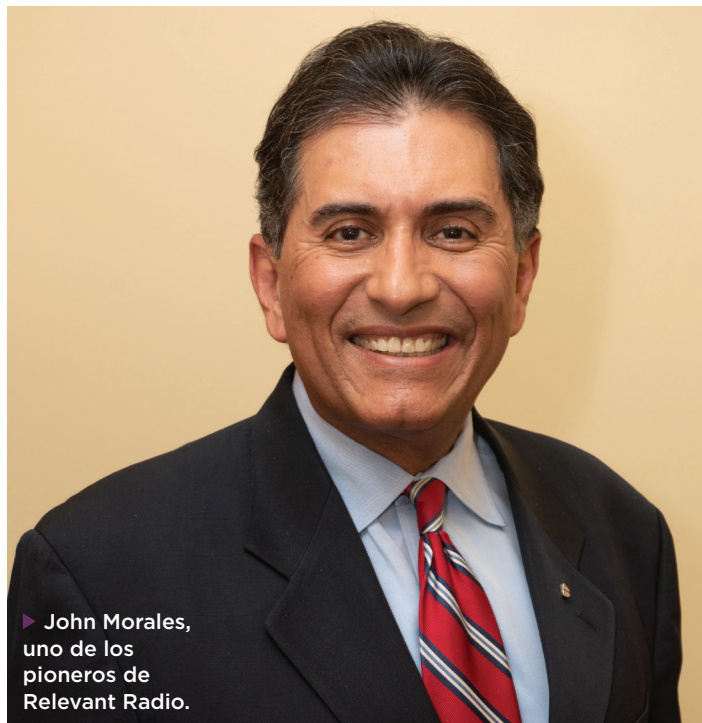
Padre Lucas Buch, desde la Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, y muchos más”, agrega Morales.

Asimismo, John Morales dirige a los oyentes a rezar la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia todos los días a las 3 de la tarde y después el Santo Rosario para poner fin a la pandemia.

“La respuesta ha sido increíble. Recibimos muchas llamadas en nuestras estaciones originales en Texas, pero pronto esperamos recibir de la Florida e Indiana”, dice Morales

John Morales nació de Chicago, de padres colombianos. Trabajó como reportero y conductor de deportes para Fox Sports Net Chicago y Detroit, también en ABC Houston.

En los inicios de Relevant Radio, fue corresponsal en inglés, luego se dedicó a producir la película “The Forty Film” y



fue coproductor, escritor y narrador de Campeones en la Fe: Edición Béisbol.

“Después de 10 años, regresé a Relevant Radio en español. Dios me llamó para usar mis talentos en el mundo católico”, comparte el periodista.

El objetivo de este programa es educar, motivar e inspirar a los hispanos de los Estados Unidos sobre la fe católica y como vivirla en sus vidas diarias.

Para sugerencias o preguntas de este programa: [jmorales@relevantradio.com](mailto:jmorales@relevantradio.com) 

## **RADIO CATÓLICA CUBANA EN LÍNEA**

“Radio El Sonido de la Esperanza” de la Red Católica Juvenil (RCJ), es la primera estación católica de Cuba en transmitir 24 horas al día por internet.

La RCJ nace en febrero del 2019 y busca principalmente capacitar e informar a la comunidad católica cubana a través de las redes sociales como Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram y Whatsapp, construir puentes y conectar a sus miembros dentro y fuera de la Isla, así como alentar a los jóvenes a comprometerse concretamente con la vida cristiana.

Esta iniciativa cuenta con el apoyo de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Cuba (COCC).

A través de su página web de la Red Católica Juvenil, <https://rcj.cubana.wordpress.com>, usted podrá acceder a la radio en vivo, a programas grabados, noticias nacionales e internacionales, información sobre la Red Católica Juvenil y la voz de la Iglesia.





# COMPARACIÓN DE CANDIDATOS PRESIDENCIALES / 3 DE NOV DE 2020

Compilado por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de la Florida

**D**E ACUERDO CON SU MISIÓN, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Florida (FCCB) tiene como objetivo educar e informar a los católicos sobre una amplia gama de temas. Esta información se ha recopilado de políticas, declaraciones públicas, sitios web oficiales y de campaña, y otros recursos, a partir del 1 de septiembre de 2020, para ayudar a los votantes a formar su conciencia antes de votar en noviembre. Los temas que aparecen aquí no representan una lista completa de temas que pueden ser de importancia para los católicos. La FCCB no apoya ni se opone a ningún candidato a un cargo público.

PRESIDENT

**DONALD TRUMP**



FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT

**JOE BIDEN**



## EL ABORTO

En 2016, Trump dijo que la revocación de Roe v. Wade “sucederá automáticamente ... porque estoy poniendo jueces pro-vida en la Corte Suprema [de los EE. UU.]”.

En 2017, Trump promulgó una resolución para permitir que los estados restringieran los fondos del Título X para Planned Parenthood y otros proveedores de servicios de aborto.

Según su sitio web, “Como presidente, Biden trabajará para codificar Roe v. Wade, y su Departamento de Justicia hará todo lo que esté a su alcance para detener la erupción de leyes estatales que violan tan descaradamente el derecho constitucional al aborto...”

“Como presidente, Biden... revertirá la regla de la Administración Trump que impide que Planned Parenthood y algunos otros programas de planificación familiar obtengan fondos del Título X”.

## LA PENA DE MUERTE

En 2020, la Administración de Trump presidió cinco ejecuciones (3 en julio y 2 en agosto), las primeras llevadas a cabo por el gobierno federal en 17 años. Se han programado dos ejecuciones adicionales para septiembre de 2020.

Según su sitio web, “Biden trabajará para aprobar una legislación que elimine la pena de muerte a nivel federal e incentivar a los estados a seguir el ejemplo del gobierno federal. En cambio, estas personas deberían cumplir cadenas perpetuas sin libertad provisional ni condicional”.

## LIBERTAD PARA ELEGIR EL TIPO DE EDUCACIÓN

En febrero de 2020, Trump dijo, “Sin embargo, durante demasiado tiempo, innumerables niños estadounidenses han estado atrapados en fracasadas escuelas gubernamentales. Para rescatar a estos estudiantes, 18 estados han creado opciones escolares a través de Oportunidades de Becas ... ningún padre debe ser obligado enviar a su hijo a una fracasada escuela gubernamental”.

En enero de 2020, Biden tuiteó, “Cuando desviamos fondos públicos a escuelas privadas, socavamos todo el sistema de educación público. Tenemos que priorizar la inversión en nuestras escuelas públicas, para que todos los niños en los Estados Unidos tengan una oportunidad justa. Por eso me opongo a los vales”.

## EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

Trump ha comenzado el proceso de retirar a los Estados Unidos del Acuerdo de París, un acuerdo internacional para reducir las emisiones globales de gases de efecto invernadero.

Según su sitio web, la administración de Biden volverá a entrar en el Acuerdo de París en el primer día.

## LA ÉTICA EN LA INVESTIGACIÓN

En 2019, la Administración de Trump anunció su decisión de suspender la investigación realizada dentro de los Institutos Nacionales de Salud “que involucran el uso de tejido fetal humano de un aborto electivo”.

Como Senador de los Estados Unidos: En 2007, Biden votó a favor de la Ley de Mejora de la Investigación de Células Madre de 2007 (S.5), que facilita la investigación con células madre embrionarias humanas. En 1998, Biden votó en contra de la Ley de Prohibición de la Clonación Humana (S.1601).

## CUESTIONES DE GÉNERO

En 2019, la Casa Blanca confirmó la oposición de Trump a la Ley de la Igualdad, que agregaría los nuevos términos “orientación sexual” e “identidad de género” a la definición de “sexo” en las leyes federales de derechos civiles, y se eximiría de la Ley de Restauración de la Libertad Religiosa de 1993: “La Administración Trump se opone absolutamente a la discriminación de cualquier tipo y apoya la igualdad de trato para todos. Sin embargo, este proyecto de ley en su forma actual está lleno de píldoras venenosas que amenazan con socavar los derechos de los padres y de la conciencia”.

Según su sitio web, Biden cree que la Ley de Igualdad es el “mejor vehículo para garantizar la igualdad de derechos bajo la ley para los estadounidenses LGBTQ+, y garantizará que las personas LGBTQ+ estén protegidas por las leyes de derechos civiles existentes”. Biden enumera la promulgación de la Ley de Igualdad como una de las principales prioridades legislativas.

**DESCARGO DE RESPONSABILIDAD:** Como organización 501(c)(4) sin fines de lucro, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Florida no está asociada con ningún partido político y no respalda a ningún candidato, partido político o comité de acción política.

## ACCESO A LA ATENCIÓN MÉDICA

Según su sitio web, Trump “derogó el mandato individual de Obamacare, amplió las opciones de planes y aumentó la competencia para reducir los costos para los consumidores”. En junio de 2020, la administración de Trump argumentó en un escrito legal que toda la Ley de Protección al Paciente y Cuidado de Salud Asequible (ACA) debería invalidarse. Promulgada como ley en 2010, la ACA amplió el acceso a la cobertura de atención médica para las personas sin seguro.

Según una hoja de datos de la Casa Blanca, Trump “está utilizando todos los medios disponibles para garantizar que se desarrollen, fabriquen y distribuyan vacunas, terapias y diagnósticos seguros en un tiempo y una escala sin precedentes en respuesta al COVID-19”.

Según su sitio web, Biden protegerá la Ley de Protección al Paciente y Cuidado de Salud Asequible y construirá en ella al “dar a los estadounidenses una nueva opción, una opción de seguro médico público como Medicare; aumentar el valor de los créditos fiscales para reducir las primas y ampliar la cobertura a más trabajadores estadounidenses; [y] ampliar la cobertura a los estadounidenses de bajos ingresos”.

Según su sitio web, el plan COVID-19 de Biden “garantiza la amplia disponibilidad de pruebas gratuitas; la eliminación de todas las barreras de costos para la atención y el tratamiento preventivo de COVID-19; el desarrollo de una vacuna; y el despliegue y funcionamiento completo de los suministros, el personal y las instalaciones necesarios”.

## INMIGRACIÓN/REFUGIADOS

Según su sitio web, “Al asumir el cargo, el presidente Trump pidió al Congreso que financie completamente un muro a lo largo de la frontera sur, para cerrar los tecnicismos legales que permiten la inmigración ilegal, poner fin a la migración en cadena y eliminar el programa de lotería de visas”.

En julio de 2020, la Administración Trump anunció que rechazaría las solicitudes para el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA) ya que considera el futuro del programa, declarando, “... el hecho es que el Congreso debería actuar sobre este asunto”.

La Administración Trump propone reasentar a 18,000 refugiados bajo un nuevo techo de refugiados. El número de admitidos en 2016 fue de casi 85,000.

Según el sitio web de Biden, “Como presidente, Joe dará prioridad a una reforma migratoria completa para finalmente dar a 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados una hoja de ruta hacia la ciudadanía”.

En junio de 2020, Biden declaró, “Como presidente, trabajaré de inmediato para que [DACA] sea permanente al enviar un proyecto de ley al Congreso el primer día de mi administración”.

Biden establecerá el límite anual mundial de admisión de refugiados en 125,000.

## POBREZA

En 2019, la Administración de Trump se opuso a un proyecto de ley aprobado por la Cámara que aumentaría el salario mínimo federal a \$15, afirmando que “los esfuerzos para reducir los impuestos, eliminar las regulaciones e implementar acuerdos comerciales más justos están impulsando el crecimiento económico y aumentando el salario neto de los trabajadores mucho más eficaz y eficientemente que la legislación como H.R. 582”. El salario mínimo federal actual es de \$7.25 por hora; varios estados y localidades han adoptado tasas más altas.

Según el sitio web de Biden, “Él cree firmemente que a todos los estadounidenses se les debe un aumento, y ya es hora de que aumentemos el salario mínimo federal a \$15 en todo el país. Este aumento incluiría a los trabajadores que actualmente no están ganando el salario mínimo, como los trabajadores agrícolas que cultivan nuestros alimentos y los trabajadores domésticos que cuidan de nuestros ancianos y enfermos y de los discapacitados”.

## EQUIDAD RACIAL

En junio de 2020, Trump anunció cuatro pasos para abordar la inequidad racial y la reforma policial: 1) perseguir agresivamente el desarrollo económico en las comunidades minoritarias; 2) enfrentar a las disparidades en la atención médica, incluido el tratamiento de las enfermedades crónicas, y la inversión en instituciones médicas que atienden a las minorías; 3) una orden ejecutiva que animará a los departamentos de policía de todo el país a cumplir con los estándares profesionales más actuales para el uso de la fuerza, incluidas las tácticas para reducir la tensión; y 4) renovar un llamado al Congreso para promulgar la elección de escuela.

En un artículo de opinión de junio de 2020, Biden dijo, “También deberíamos dirigir nuestros recursos para deshacer activamente el efecto negativo que el racismo sistémico ha tenido en las oportunidades para los estadounidenses negros”, citando las desigualdades para los empresarios afroamericanos, la brecha en la propiedad de vivienda y discriminatorias prácticas de préstamos. Biden también dijo, “...Estoy proponiendo \$300 millones adicionales para revitalizar la policía comunitaria en nuestro país. Cada departamento de policía debería tener el dinero que necesita para instituir reformas verdaderas...”

## LIBERTAD RELIGIOSA

En 2017, Trump firmó una orden ejecutiva, que establece, “La ley federal protege la libertad de los estadounidenses y sus organizaciones para ejercer la religión y participar plenamente en la vida cívica sin interferencia indebida del Gobierno Federal. El poder ejecutivo honrará y hará cumplir esas protecciones”.

En respuesta a un fallo de julio de 2020 de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos que preservaba la libertad religiosa de las Hermanitas de los Pobres, una declaración de la Casa Blanca dijo, “Como la Corte Suprema ha dicho anteriormente, proteger la habilidad de las personas para adorar y vivir de acuerdo con los dictados de su conciencia es parte de ‘lo mejor de nuestras tradiciones’”.

Según el sitio web de Biden, “La Administración Trump-Pence ha intentado deliberada y sistemáticamente destripar las protecciones para la comunidad LGBTQ + al establecer amplias exenciones religiosas a las existentes leyes y políticas de no-discriminación en todas las agencias federales. Biden revertirá las políticas de Trump que usan incorrectamente estas amplias exenciones...”

Con respecto al fallo de julio de 2020, Biden dijo, “Estoy decepcionado con la decisión de hoy de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos que facilitará que la Administración Trump-Pence continúe despojando a las mujeres de la atención médica, tratando de forjar amplias exenciones al compromiso de la Ley de Protección al Paciente y Cuidado de Salud Asequible de brindar a todas las mujeres acceso gratuito a los anticonceptivos recomendados”.



# LA PANDEMIA: la socialización de niños y adolescentes

POR CLAUDIA ROJAS

**U**na de las causas de estrés para los padres y los hijos en este tiempo de pandemia es el cambio en los hábitos de socialización debido a las restricciones sociales. Los humanos somos seres sociales por naturaleza; estar continuamente con otros es como aprendemos normas de comportamiento para la convivencia. La socialización es un proceso durante el cual los niños aprenden a diferenciar lo aceptable de lo inaceptable en su comportamiento. Así, los niños aprenden el lenguaje verbal y corporal de la comunicación y los valores: el respeto, la disciplina y la responsabilidad. La primera escuela de socialización es la familia nuclear, después la familia extendida, el colegio, la iglesia, el vecindario, los amigos, etc. Estas interacciones, desarrollan su personalidad hasta que llegan a la edad adulta, e influyen para bien o para mal. Por eso, es importante hacer una pausa durante esta pandemia y evaluar como sus hijos están siendo influenciados y ser intencionales en realizar cambios por su bien.

En la presente cultura hay un concepto erróneo de la socialización. Por una parte, la creencia que ser “popular” y tener muchos amigos es algo positivo, o que, de lo contrario, algo está mal. El otro concepto es que la vagancia, o “hanging out” con amigos sin ninguna estructura o supervisión, es algo normal y necesario. Desafortunadamente, muchos padres no ponen límites, dejando en grave riesgo a los hijos. A medida que

el niño va creciendo, las expectativas y las necesidades físicas, intelectuales y sociales van cambiando. Los tres aspectos son muy importantes y deben ir a la par para el desarrollo integral de los hijos. La relación y conexión de los padres con los hijos permite que los niños se sientan seguros y que la estructura familiar establezca su mundo, lo que beneficia la salud mental.

La sociedad desalienta la supervisión constante de los hijos por parte de los padres, y así promueve una “independencia” desde temprana edad. Las consecuencias llegan en la adolescencia cuando ya no respetan ninguna autoridad. Es necesario que tengan reglas y enforzarlas en el hogar para que aprendan a disciplinarse, controlar y expresar sus emociones y acciones apropiadamente, tener metas y adaptarse a las circunstancias de la vida, como la pandemia. Sin reglas, los niños son impulsivos y voluntariosos, y es probable que tengan comportamientos peligrosos o antisociales.

Otros medios de socialización son los deportes, el arte y la religión. El deporte socializa al desarrollar la voluntad para que los niños no sean regidos por sus emociones. Al desarrollar un espíritu de sacrificio, competitividad y disciplina, aprenden a regirse por los principios y las normas. Aprenden a trabajar en grupo, comunicarse y usar su cuerpo, lo cual aumenta el desarrollo y la autoestima. Por medio del arte, socializan desarrollando la creatividad y la percepción. Aprenden a escuchar y exteriorizar su voz interna, expresar sus talentos y a tocar el mundo externo. La religión y la espiritualidad son muy importantes porque enseñan los valores de la vida; los niños aprenden a valorar y proteger la vida como un regalo de Dios. Aprenden a amar y respetar a sus semejantes, salir de sí mismos y vivir para otros. A medida que van pasando las restricciones de la pandemia, asegúrese de hacer cambios y crear nuevas normas de comportamiento y socialización para sus hijos. 🐦





CNS/VATICAN MEDIA VIA REUTERS



CNS/PAUL HARING

# Los migrantes en el corazón del Papa

POR IRAIDA M. MARTÍNEZ

**En su mensaje para la celebración de la 106ª Jornada Mundial del Migrante y el Refugiado, el Papa Francisco escogió el tema “Como Jesucristo, obligados a huir”. Con este mensaje, el Papa Francisco hace un llamado urgente a conocer la profunda realidad de los desplazados.**

Desde el principio de los tiempos, la gente se ha visto forzada a salir de sus tierras. Muchos han huido de la violencia, la persecución, la discriminación y la corrupción. Otros a causa de los efectos producidos por desastres naturales que les han dejado en la soledad, sin techo, sin trabajo, o en una tierra que ya no produce alimento. Algunos han huido para protegerse de enfermedades que han acabado con su comunidad. En los años que llevo haciendo trabajo comunitario siempre surge la pregunta: ¿Qué le ha traído a este país? La realidad es que todos tenemos una razón por la cual hemos llegado a los Estados Unidos.

En resumidas cuentas, si se pregunta ¿Cuál es la razón primordial para dejar su país? la respuesta siempre es: “Para tener una mejor vida”.

En el 2012, el presidente Obama creó el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA), el cual ampara a los jóvenes que, parecidos a Jesús, fueron llevados por sus familias cuando eran niños a un país extranjero. En años recientes, estos jóvenes han sufrido lo indecible debido a todos los intentos de dismantelar y detener este programa.

Recibimos con mucha alegría la decisión de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos indicando que la orden presidencial para rescindir el programa de DACA había violado el debido proceso administrativo. En julio, el tribunal de distrito de Maryland ordenó restablecer DACA a su estado previo a la orden presidencial. Con esta orden esperábamos que USCIS comenzara a aceptar los formularios de nuevos solicitantes y que reabriera la ventana para solicitar el documento de viaje. Lamentablemente, a la fecha de edición de esta columna, el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional notificó cambios adicionales al programa: rechazar toda solicitud pendiente o futura solicitud inicial del DACA o la obtención del documento de viaje y reducir el período de renovación a un año.

Tenemos que estar pendientes a lo que suceda en las próximas semanas. Por lo pronto, si usted ya es

beneficiario del DACA, asegúrese de presentar su solicitud de renovación antes de su vencimiento. Si considera que podría cualificar para obtener beneficios bajo ese programa, en el caso de que pudieran presentar solicitudes iniciales en el futuro, debe: verificar que todos sus documentos personales estén en orden, continuar acumulando evidencia de su estadía en los Estados Unidos y cuidar de no caer en problemas con la ley.

En estos meses, y en especial el domingo 27 de septiembre, abramos nuestros corazones a las palabras de nuestro querido Papa Francisco, quien nos dice que hay que conocer para comprender, escuchar para reconciliarse, compartir para crecer, acercarse para servir, involucrarse para promover, y colaborar para construir una mejor sociedad. Para más información de la campaña puede visitar [migrants-refugees.va/es/idp/](http://migrants-refugees.va/es/idp/).

Esta columna está escrita a modo de orientación general, no debe tomarse como una consejería legal formal. Todo asunto migratorio debe ser conversado con un profesional en inmigración, ya sea un abogado o un representante acreditado por el Departamento de Justicia que trabaje para una organización sin fines de lucro. Si tiene alguna duda o comentario, no dude en escribirme a mi correo electrónico [imartinez@ccbjax.org](mailto:imartinez@ccbjax.org). Hasta la próxima. 🐦





# help spread the faith

COMMUNICATIONS APPEAL

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