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Part 2 of Ed Langlois' report on the country of Jordan.  
Pages 20-21



# Catholic Sentinel

Dec. 18, 2015

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Sentinel.org

## Mater misericordiae



### Christmas Message

Archbishop Alexander Sample

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope!

#### My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

These familiar words which begin the traditional prayer, the *Salve Regina*, take on special meaning for us during this Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. In fact, our Holy Father has asked that we pray this prayer regularly during this year of grace. Our Lady is truly the "Mother of Mercy" (*Mater misericordiae*) because she is the Mother of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus has come

to reveal the Father's mercy, and the Blessed Virgin Mary brings him into the world, first by her "yes" to the angel's message, and then in the manger at Bethlehem.

At this beautiful time of the year, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. With great affection, sentimentality, devotion, and maybe even a touch of nostalgia, we remember the coming among us of the eternal Son of God. We hail him as the Prince of Peace, the eternal Son of the Father, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel ("God with us"), along with his other worthy titles. As we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, let us not forget to reflect on the reason for him coming among us, i.e. his mission. It is a mission of mercy.

Many are surely familiar with the private revelations of Divine Mercy given by Jesus Christ to St. Faustina Kowalska, which are recorded in her diary. On April 4, 1937, on the Sunday after Easter (which would later become known as Divine Mercy Sunday), our Lord delivered these words to St. Faustina: "Tell all people, my daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls."

We should not be surprised that Jesus would speak in this way. Sacred Scripture reveals to us that "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." (1 John 4:16) The most powerful and personal revelation of God's love for us is shown in the mercy he has poured out for us in his beloved Son, Jesus Christ. God is love. Jesus is God. Jesus is love, the mercy of God in the flesh. Mary is the Mother of God, the mother of Divine Love, the Mother of Mercy!

What a joy it is to celebrate these mysteries of God's love

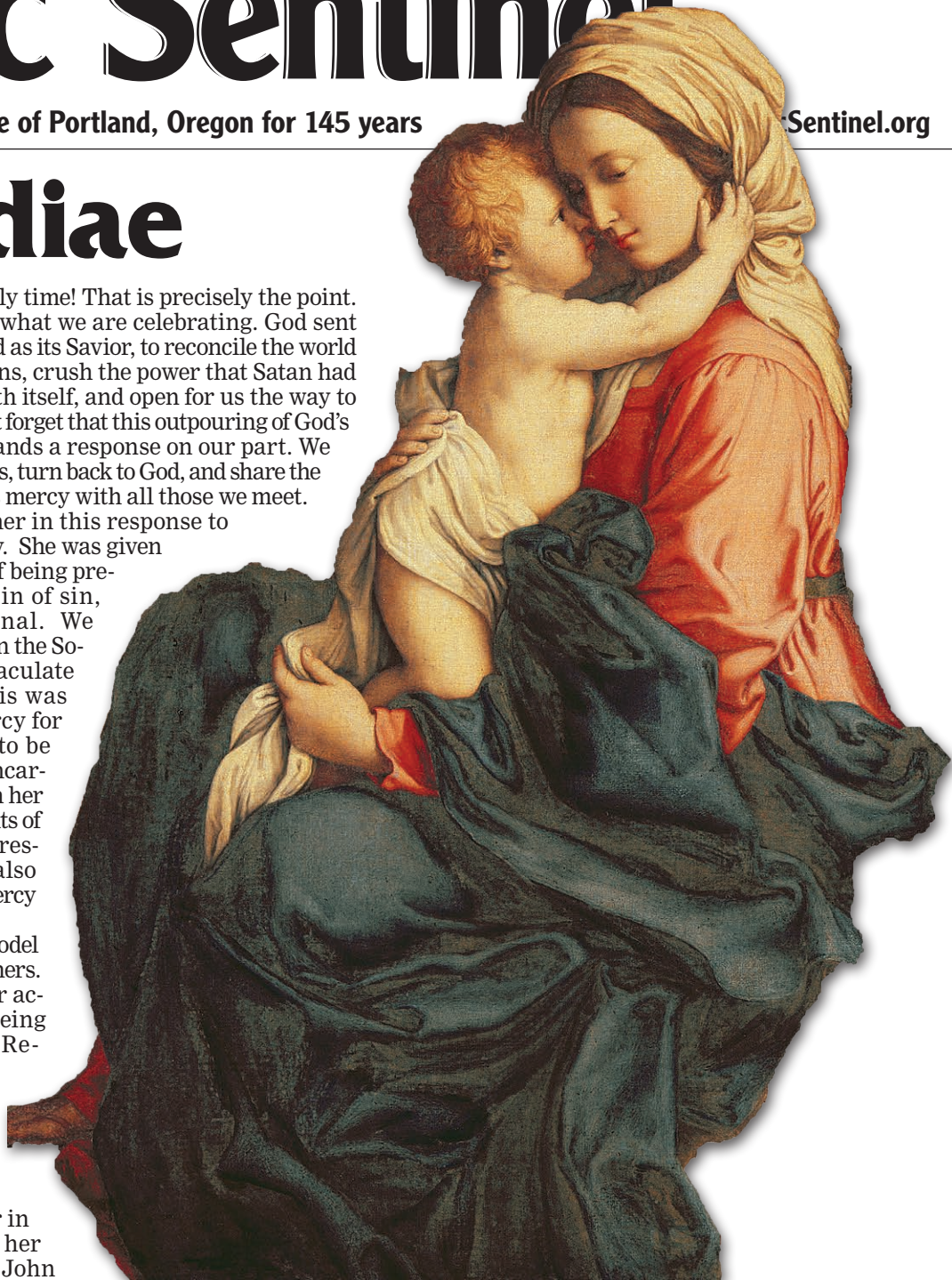
and mercy at this holy time! That is precisely the point. We must remember what we are celebrating. God sent his Son into the world as its Savior, to reconcile the world to himself, forgive sins, crush the power that Satan had over us, destroy death itself, and open for us the way to eternal life. Let us not forget that this outpouring of God's mercy upon us demands a response on our part. We must repent of our sins, turn back to God, and share the precious gift of God's mercy with all those we meet.

Mary is our mother in this response to

God's love and mercy. She was given the singular grace of being preserved from all stain of sin, original and personal. We just celebrated this on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. But this was an act of divine mercy for her, preparing her to be the Mother of God Incarnate, by sharing with her ahead of time the fruits of her Son's death and resurrection. She was also redeemed by God's mercy in a singular way.

Mary is also the model of mercy shown to others. Her first action after accepting the role of being the Mother of the Redeemer in response to the angel Gabriel's greeting was to set out in haste to visit Elizabeth, her older cousin, in order to assist her in the final months of her pregnancy with St. John the Baptist. Her response to God's favor and mercy shown to her was to reach out and help others. Consider also her later concern for the embarrassed wedding couple at the wedding feast at Cana who had run out of wine, prompting her Son's first miracle. That should be our response as well, the response of mercy toward others, especially those most in need. Remember how we conclude the "Fatima prayer" at the end of each decade of the rosary: "Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy."

My wish for all of you at this Christmas time is that you



open wide the door of your hearts to receive the gift of God's mercy. May his love fill your hearts and homes. And may we all show the merciful face of Christ to the world, by practicing mercy toward all. Holy Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Ed Langlois*

## Jubilee of Mercy opens with Mass at St. Mary Cathedral

By Ed Langlois  
OF THE CATHOLIC SENTINEL

A year focusing on God's mercy began in the Archdiocese of Portland, Dec. 8, with a Mass that drew worshippers from different walks of life to St. Mary Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Some came in Mercedes, others with shopping carts. All left with a deeper sense of divine forgiveness.

"No matter how often we have sinned, no matter how deeply we have sinned, no matter how grievously we have sinned, no matter what heavy, heavy, heavy burden of sin any one of us might carry at any moment in our life, it's not too big for God's mercy," Archbishop Alexander Sample told worshippers.

Archbishop Sample temporarily sealed the central

doors of the Cathedral. In concert with Catholic cathedrals worldwide, the doors were unsealed Dec. 13, in a symbol of conversion and the opportunity to cross the threshold from sin to grace.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, was the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The archbishop explained that God extended to Mary the mercy of not being touched by sin and that mercy

is "poured out" for all of us, too.

The Mass came on a wet, blustery evening when a few blocks away thousands of other Portlanders were at a rally congratulating Portland's national champion soccer team.

Those who attended the Mass were pondering mercy, not glory.

Andrew Beck, a member of Cathedral parish knows

they are called holy days of obligation. But for him, coming to Mass is a treat. He chuckled when he said that mercy means "not getting what we deserve."

Helen Heller, leader of the Indonesian Catholic Community in Oregon, said the world is full of wrongdoing and mercy is derived from Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

YEAR OF MERCY, PAGE 16



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Ed Langlois/Catholic Sentinel

Archbishop Alexander Sample prays before sealing the holy door at St. Mary Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The act marked the start of the Jubilee of Mercy, which will extend into November 2016.



Ed Langlois/Catholic Sentinel

Worshippers recite the creed during the opening Mass for the Jubilee of Mercy.

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# Year of Mercy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sandy Martinez, a 24-year-old administrative assistant at the Archdiocese of Portland, sees mercy as “putting others in front of ourselves,” and “letting go of the natural instinct for self comfort.”

Martinez has been inspired by what church leaders have said about mercy over the years, and lauds Pope Francis for acting on mercy so well.

Kathleen Campos, a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Portland, said the year will be a good time for everyone to realize that God’s mercy is there to receive — from the church.

“The world misunderstands the church,” Campos explained. “We are a merciful church, not a condemning church. We believe in the truth first and foremost.”

Thierry Wuilloud, a member of the Cathedral parish,

said people sometimes tease him for going to Mass because he is such a good person. He always tells them it’s quite the opposite. “I go to Mass because I need forgiveness like everybody,” Wuilloud said.

For more on the Jubilee of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Portland, go to [pdxmercy.org](http://pdxmercy.org).



Related video at [catholicsentinel.org](http://catholicsentinel.org)



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## Helping victims

Local Catholic hopes to open center for victims of human trafficking.  
Page 6



## Christmas Masses

Listing of Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese of Portland  
Pages 18-20



# Catholic Sentinel

Dec. 4, 2015

Serving the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon for 145 years

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## Christianity in Jordan is ancient, rich

By Ed Langlois  
OF THE CATHOLIC SENTINEL

AMMAN, Jordan — A Jordanian Christian bookstore owner has said that when Christianity went to Rome, it became an institution; when it spread throughout Europe, it became a culture; in the U.S., it became a business. In the Middle East, he says, Christianity has always been about relationship.

The bonds between Christians gained strength when Islam grew in the region starting in the seventh century and have been cemented in the past few years as ISIS extremists in surrounding nations have targeted and expelled the followers of Jesus.

“Nothing in Jordan is here without a base of Christianity,” says Daoud Sa’maan, a resident of the largely Christian town of Fuheis. Sa’maan’s grandfather played a role in bringing Roman Catholicism to Jordan, which also has Catholic Melkites and many Orthodox Christians.

Jordan, east of Israel, is a land where Jesus was baptized. He walked, taught and performed miracles here. The Decapolis, where he began his final journey toward Jerusalem, is mostly in Jordan. John the Baptist, who lived and ministered here and was beheaded in a palace

**“You need to understand that this was a Christian land for centuries and the Muslims came later. But we and the Muslims here in Jordan have no problems. We are friends.”**

— Mary Naber, resident of Salt, Jordan

overlooking the Dead Sea, is patron saint of the country. Jordan is home to some of the oldest Christian communities on the planet. The nation is covered with ruins of Byzantine-era churches and monasteries, many buried under mosques.

Jordanian Christians number about 400,000 or 6 percent of the population. Of those, most are Orthodox. Catholics of various rites add up to about 70,000 and Protestants number about 30,000.

And now, Christian refugees from Iraq and Syria have been welcomed by the tens of thousands, aided both by the government and churches.

The royal family of Jordan, which claims to be descended from the Prophet

SEE JORDAN, PAGE 11



Ed Langlois/Catholic Sentinel

Nour Rabadi, 16, lights a candle at Sts. Peter and Paul Old Cathedral in Amman.



Ed Langlois/Catholic Sentinel

Celeste and James, who preferred to withhold their last names, pray for Paris attack victims during a vigil at Marylhurst University.

## Local vigils held after terror attacks

Catholic groups led vigils to pray for peace and comfort Oregonians stunned by the Nov. 13 Paris attacks.

On a cold, windy, wet night in Beaverton, about 35 people stood in solidarity the victims of shootings and

explosions, which also hit Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq in mid-November. Members of the social justice committee from Holy Trinity Parish in Beaverton put the event together.

“We need to proclaim

SEE VIGILS, PAGE 22



Catholic News Service

Women touch the Holy Door at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls Nov. 19. The Holy Doors of Rome’s four papal basilicas will be opened during the Holy Year of Mercy, which begins Dec. 8.

## ‘Great river of mercy’

Jubilee to begin Dec. 8

By Ed Langlois  
OF THE CATHOLIC SENTINEL

The opening Mass of the yearlong Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Portland is set for 5:30

p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at St. Mary Cathedral in Portland.

The Jubilee of Mercy, proclaimed by Pope Francis, runs until Nov. 20, 2016. It’s a time to remember that God loves us forever despite our sinfulness.

SEE MERCY, PAGE 22



Catholic News Service

A child holds a prayer card with a photo of Pope Francis in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Pope brings hope to Africa

By Kristen Hannum  
and Ed Langlois

OF THE CATHOLIC SENTINEL

Africans in Oregon watched the pope’s visit to Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic with special interest.

“I think he will energize the people,” said Fidelis Wachana, a Kenyan immigrant who works as an administrative assistant at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Father Mark Gikenyi, administrator of Nativity of the

Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Rainier and St. John the Baptist in Clatskanie, said people in his homeland of Kenya were heartened by the visit. He visited his village of Kisii South in western Kenya in May, and



POPE FRANCIS

SEE AFRICA, PAGE 15



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# Mercy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly," the pope wrote in his document announcing the jubilee.

A letter about the local jubilee observances from Archbishop Alexander Sample will be read at weekend Masses Dec. 5 and 6. St. Mary Cathedral in Portland will be a designated pilgrimage site for the year, as will The Grotto in Northeast Portland and Sacred Heart Church in Medford.

A new website, [www.pdxmercy.org](http://www.pdxmercy.org), will provide information, reference materials and other resources to support parishes, schools, and the faithful in their efforts to learn more about and live out the jubilee. It's set to launch Dec. 4.

"Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life," Pope Francis wrote. He called God's mercy "the beating heart of the Gospel."

The pope calls Jesus "the face of the Father's mercy" and says that during the year, the church looks forward to opening itself to people on the "outermost" fringes of society.

Pope Francis is carrying on a project that began with the Second Vatican Council. St. John XXIII began that council in 1962 with these words: "Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity."

"How can we show others the mercy of God?" says the U.S. Catholic bishops' web page about the jubilee. "We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but we hold grudges against our friends. Our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy."

The Vatican is designating priests throughout the world as official missionaries of mercy. Pope Francis says the clergy are to be

signs of God's willingness to welcome people in search of pardon. Dominican Father Brian Mullady of Holy Rosary Parish in Northeast Portland applied and was accepted. He travels to give missions and this year will speak on mercy and offer many chances for people to go to confession. He will lead a mission during the second week of Advent at Holy Rosary.

Father Mullady quotes his fellow Dominican, St. Thomas Aquinas, who called mercy "the primary virtue." He urges people to be aware of their faults, to seek God's mercy and to be ready to extend mercy to others.

He reminds people that divine mercy has "a requirement of conversion." He cites the story of the woman caught in adultery. Jesus saves her, but commands her to "sin no more."

Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles says many people are confused about what the pope means by mercy. It's not as if the sin does not exist.

"Mercy is what love looks like when it turns toward the sinner," Bishop Barron wrote after the pope's U.S. visit. "Many receive the message of divine mercy as tantamount to a denial of the reality of sin, as though sin no longer matters. But just the contrary is the case. To speak of mercy is to be intensely aware of sin and its peculiar form of destructiveness."

## What is mercy?

God is love and mercy is love turned toward the sinner, says Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los An-



FR. BRIAN MULLADY

geles. Mercy characterizes God in scriptures. In the Old Testament, God's anger flares, but he often ends up relenting and giving his people chances despite their hardheartedness. Again and again in the arc of history, God took the initiative to sustain a relationship with his people — at creation, through the covenant with Abraham, through the Law given to Moses, via the kings of Israel, through the words of the prophets. Even though the people wandered from the covenant, God was faithful and kept bringing new

## "Our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy."

— U.S. Catholic bishops' website

chances, culminating in his son, Jesus Christ. Our lack of faithfulness and God's steadfastness continue to this day.

## What is a jubilee?

The book of Leviticus, chapter 25, says that a jubilee comes every 50th year — seven years times seven. Slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven, land would be returned to owners and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest. It was a time to set matters right, reestablishing relationships according to God's plan at creation.

The first official Christian jubilee is thought to have come in 1300, when Pope Boniface VIII granted signs of God's mercy for people who made pilgrimages to Rome in a spirit of true repentance.

The church has held jubilee years every so often throughout history. The last was in 2000, marking the anniversary of the Incarnation.

It's motto was "Christ Yesterday, Today, Forever."

## What is a holy door?

A Holy Door is at a cathedral or designated site and represents the church's openness to everyone, sinners included. The Holy Doors for the Jubilee of Mercy will be opened to evoke the concept of forgiveness, which is the main focus of a Holy Year.

"The Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope," the pope wrote in his proclamation of the special year. The doors at St. Peter Basilica in Rome are unsealed by the pope at the beginning of the jubilee and then sealed again afterwards. Holy Doors at other major Roman Churches like St. John Lateran and St. Paul Outside the Walls are also in place.

"In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us," the pope said. "He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us."

The pope asked bishops of the world to designate holy doors in their parts of the world.

The holy door at St. Mary Cathedral will be sealed Dec. 8 and opened Dec. 13 at the 11 a.m. Mass.

## What is an indulgence?

An indulgence is the cancellation of all or part of the punishment in purgatory that results from sin, provided that the sin has already been forgiven.

Jesus told the apostles that what they bind on earth will be bound in heaven and what they loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Indulgences are based on these words of Christ and are outgrowths of God's great mercy.

"To gain an indulgence is to experience the holiness of the Church, who bestows upon all the fruits of Christ's

## The works of mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs:

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish sinners
- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offenses
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead

redemption, so that God's love and forgiveness may extend everywhere," Pope Francis wrote.

Protestant reformers criticized indulgences that were granted in return for money, a practice that has ceased. The Second Vatican Council revised indulgences, but did not abolish them.

Indulgences are now granted for acts of prayer and pilgrimage, usually at special times like the upcoming jubilee.

## What's a pilgrimage?

The ancient Jews would make several journeys to Jerusalem each year to the Temple, the place where God met earth. Psalm 84, an ancient Jewish hymn, describes the thrill of approaching the Temple and maintaining an inner sense of the journey at all times. The psalm says of believers, "in their hearts are pilgrim roads."

Early Christians would make their own treks to the Holy Land to be where Jesus lived, walked, taught, suffered and died. The journey is symbolic of the movement the soul must make to be in God's presence. When trips to the Holy Land became impractical, Christian pilgrims made treks to other holy sites, including the Santiago Compostela Cathedral in Spain, a pilgrimage site that has gained new popularity in recent years.

During the Jubilee of Mercy, local bishops will des-

ignate sites where pilgrims can come for prayer and to take advantage of spiritual benefits, including indulgences. St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland is one such site during the Holy Year.

## How do mercy and justice work together?

Mercy is not simply letting sin go past. There is always an element of conversion, based on the gospel story of the woman caught in adultery. Jesus commanded her to stop sinning.

Father Mullady quotes St. Thomas Aquinas, who said, "Justice without mercy is cruelty," and "Mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution."

Pope Francis, in his proclamation of the jubilee, wrote that mercy and justice are not contradictory, but are "two dimensions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love."

The pope cautions that the appeal to justice must not prevent attention to human dignity.

"Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe," the pope wrote. "If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected."

# Vigils

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

peace; more war is not the answer," said Eileen Sliva, head of the social justice committee.

Participants held candles and signs promoting peace. The group walked to a peace monument at Bethel United Church of Christ and read Pope Francis's prayer for the Earth.

Among the crowd were grateful French natives.

"It is important that we remember what happened after 9-11," said Lisa Stiller, an event organizer. "Rushing to war and more violence will only get us caught up in a continued cycle of violence. We must pursue diplomatic, peaceful, political solutions."

St. Alexander Parish in Cornelius held a vigil in Spanish, discussing violence, poverty, refugees and terrorism.

"Do not be afraid" — These are familiar words to many," wrote John Kingery, a blogger from St. Juan Diego Parish who attended the Cornelius

vigil. "You will find them in the old and new testaments. The Gospels record Jesus uttering that phrase 21 times. During this time of upheaval, we need to keep that in forefront of thoughts and the way we live."

Marylhurst University hosted a candlelight vigil with music that included readings from Isaiah, the Koran, the psalms, the Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh and the

Gospel of John. One song implored the help of Mary, the Mother of God.

The dozen people in attendance voiced their prayer, including this: "For all those who responded and lent help. For protection of the people who saw things that no one should see."

Solatium, a music ensemble, led music. On the program was a photograph of the Eiffel Tower.

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Catholic News Service

A homeless man sits on a sidewalk in Philadelphia.

Mercy for the homeless

As the Year of Mercy approaches, perhaps it will open hearts to Oregon's growing homeless population. A recent Multnomah County report says 56 homeless people died on the streets of Portland last year. Between 2011 and 2014 that makes a total of 191 dead. It's not just Portland. Washington County has had a 46 percent growth from 2005 to 2013 in its homeless population.

Portland business owners and citizens have complained about homeless encampments in downtown Portland. Many have said that the growing homeless population threatens the vitality of downtown.

We're sad to hear conversations about homeless people elicit so much concern about how they affect our way of life. What about *their* lives?

Across the street from the Sentinel offices is a park where a growing population of homeless people camp out of their cars. Inspired by Pope Francis, one of our staff recently brought them tomatoes from his garden and sat and ate with them. They were all tired. Some obvi-

ously suffered from addiction. Some needed mental health care, and some were just down on their luck financially. We know a bag of tomatoes wouldn't defeat homelessness, but ignoring the problem doesn't either.

Pope Francis recently visited a homeless shelter for 30 men near St. Peter's Square that he helped establish. Reports suggest it has added to the vitality of the basilica. The pope installed public showers for the homeless, barbershop facilities, comfort rooms and more.

As Portland has grown, so has its homeless problem. The real question is this. How can we show mercy? What would we need if it were us and our family living in that van across the street? How would we want to be treated?

There are many organizations and people, both Catholic and non-Catholic, that have been helping the homeless for years.

But in this coming year of grace, perhaps the first way we can help is to at least recognize their humanity and use that old Golden Rule.

We're all catechists

Related stories, p. 1, 2, 4, 8.

If you're a catechist and you missed the archdiocese's annual catechetical conference last month, we'd suggest that you put it on your calendar posthaste for next year. Go ahead, do it now.

If you're not a catechist, we'd still recommend reading this issue's story about the conference, because at times we're all catechists — and if we're parents we're catechists almost all the time. The keynote speaker at the Spanish-language session, Maria Covarrubias, reminded the crowd that formation starts in the family. That's something that in the bustle of daily life is too easily forgotten.

It's up to every parent to help our children be open to the call of their vocation, whatever it might be, so that they can live as God intends.

At the chartering of the Tualatin Valley Serra Club Oct. 28, one of our staff overheard a young woman

shyly confiding to a sister that she thought she might have a vocation. Her mother, standing beside her, smiled proudly.

Formation starting in the family was also on display at St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Portland on Oct. 24 with the ordinations to the permanent diaconate of Michael Cihak, Larry Loumena and José Arturo Montoya. Deacon Loumena's son, Andrew, beamed from the pews as his father was ordained. After the rite, a friend of Deacon Montoya's talked about what a good father Deacon Montoya was. As for Deacon Cihak, he raised a priest: Msgr. John Cihak, who has for many years served at the Vatican.

As Archbishop Sample told the crowd in his homily, we all share in Christ's priesthood with our baptisms. That means, in part, that we're all called to be teachers, catechists teaching Christ's Gospel.

Our loving church does not forget anyone

On Saturday I went to the funeral of Gabe.

I had been visiting him in a care facility for 18 months. At the end of any prayer or song, Gabe would sing "Amen, Amen, Amen."

Later on, Gabe kept time while holding my hand and watching my lips while we prayed and sang with always

"Amen, Amen, Amen" at the end with laughter.

Time passed and Gabe fell and broke his hip. But attention to my voice was certain; his hand told me he was with me in glorifying God in prayer and song.

My last visit, I knelt by his bed holding his hand, praying and singing. He lay on his side facing me, and ever so slowly he

opened his eyes and I saw true peace. I knelt there quietly with Gabe next to eternity. He died a few days later.

Why do I visit those with memory loss? Because I represent a loving church who does not forget their members whomever they may be.

Patty Grover  
Eugene



Meat feeds

Regarding "Environmental stewardship not optional" (Aug. 7, page 1): Creationism is really a form of paganism and has nothing to do with God's laws.

There are more than six billion people in the world to feed and clothe.

Prayer is certainly the answer, but not the only answer. There has to be action.

Animals were put on Earth to feed man. Millions are starving around the world and animals are the only way to feed them. Returning to Egyptian animal worship is not the answer.

There are four times as many animal shelters as human shelters. What are your priorities?

On final judgment day, how will you explain it? "I love cats and dogs." Where's that in the Bible?

William Purcell  
Lebanon

Speak for them

Pope Francis spoke and performed well on his trip to the United States. Yet we heard no mention of the primary cause of the millions of refugee deaths and displacements from Middle East countries. The U.S. as the strongest has abdicated its moral duty to help the weakest.

Jim Flynn  
Portland

Creation nixed

Mass media and our government sleep peacefully ranting about Cecil the Lion's death.

Yet, the sleeping giant is being disturbed by the roar of a cricket's increasing chatter. Another piece of creation destroyed — NAMELESS. This secret was pieced out and sold for parts.

Why this fuss over funding by Planned Parenthood?

Because we are all required to fund this organization even those who are in opposition. Planned Parenthood also receives corporate donations — none of which

are required to be known to the public.

Planned Parenthood seems to be accountable only to self-created rules.

Jeanine Mudd  
Eugene

Fight plague

Jesus gave us a beautiful and powerful prayer with words imperative for today: "Deliver us from evil."

The sexual revolution has spread like a plague across our nation bringing great harm to children and families; pornography, child abuse, abortion, human trafficking to name a few. Every Catholic parent must pray for the deliverance from evil and bless the home with holy water each day. Every pastor must pray for deliverance from evil for his parish and Catholic schools and bless them with holy water.

Pauline Lange  
Salem

Face it

Regarding "Wanted priest still in Philippines," (Sept. 4, page 1): I'm so glad that the Sentinel finally ran some sort of story on this. I know it's a developing story, but when nothing is said, the silence is deafening. All of the media coverage on this story was coming from the secular media and it gave an appearance that the diocese was running from the issue instead of facing it head on.

Hoa Nguyen  
Portland

Like a bomb

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling of June 26 on same sex marriage for the whole country has an unprecedented and catastrophic impact equivalent to the explosion of a megaton bomb dropped by a B52 on the enemy in battlefields during the Vietnam War.

I must admire the courage of Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland who has denounced

publicly the ruling as "simply wrong," as well as the hardihood of Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops who in a jiffy called it "a tragic error" and urged his flock to civil disobedience.

I categorically refuse to respect or obey the U.S. Supreme Court because of their blatantly erroneous and highly politicized ruling.

Julien-Joseph Nguyen  
Portland

Lost chance

Regarding: "Church, school to stay in talks" (Sept. 4, page 1):

Wow, who knew that something as deeply meaningful as "mission and beliefs" could change in just a few days due to Facebook whining, a millionaire yanking his money, and some children carrying signs they do not understand and defacing a statue?

When churches are being burnt to the ground and Christians are beheaded or crucified daily, it's hard to witness people pacifying adolescent defiance and keeping a gravy train going.

Here was an amazing teaching moment for these girls — lost, probably forever. These youngsters have been betrayed. Better they should all leave, and the school be closed, and as a result they learn that principle is more important than pride, than the school descend to this compromised and degraded position.

Bethany Hunt  
Waldport

About letters

Letters must contain the writer's address and telephone number and must be signed. Letters should not exceed 150 words. Be charitable. For our part, our editorial writers will refrain from using epithets for people with whom we disagree. Letters should be sent to Letters to the Editor, Catholic Sentinel, P.O. Box 18030, Portland, OR 97218; emailed to [sentinel@catholic sentinel.org](mailto:sentinel@catholic sentinel.org) or posted on the Sentinel website at [www.catholic sentinel.org](http://www.catholic sentinel.org).

Catholic Sentinel

Official Newspaper of the  
Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon  
Archbishop Alexander Sample

A service of  
OCP

John Limb, Publisher  
José Ortiz-Valladares, Managing Editor

Volume 146, Issue 21

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