

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY UPDATE

WHAT'S BUZZIN' IN FORMATION?



April 24, 2019 (Easter Wednesday)

Dear Friends:

I pray that you and your families had a wonderful Holy Week and a glorious Easter. Not only do we have many images of the resurrection in our liturgy and prayers at this time of year, but God gives us the beauty of nature to remind us that once again we begin anew. The birds are chirping, daylight is longer, grass is being cut once again, and the smell is so pleasant. It is a wonderful time of the year to get in touch with God's magnificence in creation. I love to read and reflect on the poem of Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ: ***God's Grandeur at this time of the year.***

In this Buzz News, I review Pope Francis' *Apostolic Exhortation: To Young People* "**Christus vivit – Christ lives.**" You will recall from Year II of Formation that the pope writes several different letters, exhortation, and encyclicals as leader of the Church. An exhortation is meant to encourage a community of people to undertake a particular activity but does not define Church doctrine. It is considered lower in formal authority than a papal encyclical, but higher than other ecclesiastical letters.

Nationally, Washington, D.C. has a new Archbishop, and many of you are familiar with him as he led the Archdiocese of Atlanta for many years.

Last, I mention a spiritual experience offered by the Family Life Office for those who were abused, their families and parishioners occurring this month in Charleston.

Peace and all good,

Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF



GLOBAL NEWS

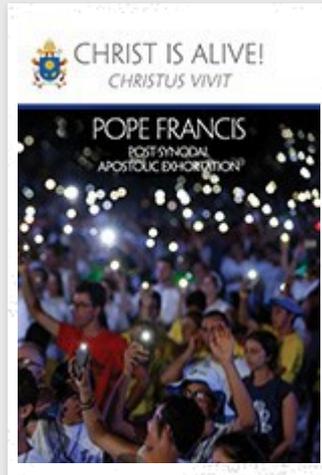
“CHRISTUS VIVIT – CHRIST LIVES” -- POPE FRANCIS' APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE

April 2, 2019

WASHINGTON-The release of Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation today is “a wonderful summons to the Church to more vigorously invest in youth and young adults, especially those on the peripheries and those disconnected from the Church,” said the President and committee chairmen of the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops'](#) (USCCB).

The inspiring text calls on young people to pursue a life of holiness and to grow in their commitment to their vocation. Read the exhortation, share it with your friends and purchase your own copy. Pope Francis's *Christus Vivit* may be ordered online at:

<http://store.usccb.org/christ-is-alive-p/7-628.htm>



EARTH DAY -- CARE FOR CREATION

Earth Day is observed on April 22 each year. The USCCB has stated that care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

(Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home* [Laudato Si'. . .], no. 159)

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.



NATIONAL NEWS

POPE FRANCIS NAMES ARCHBISHOP WILTON GREGORY OF ATLANTA AS NEW ARCHBISHOP OF WASHINGTON

I remember a couple years ago, Bishop Guglielmone hosted the Diocese of the Province of Atlanta which includes the Dioceses of Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Charlotte, North Carolina. As I was walking to my office, I noticed the bishops and welcomed them to our beautiful pastoral center in West Ashley. I remember one in particular for his smile, casual attire and warmth. I would later come to learn that this African American bishop was the Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory.

On April 4, 2019, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, (the Holy Father's representative here in the US) remember from Year II of Formation, announced that his eminence would be going to Washington, DC to be Archbishop of that Diocese. The difference between a diocese and an archdiocese is that the former is smaller in size. A larger diocese is an archdiocese, and thus the leader is an Archbishop.

Archbishop Wilton Gregory, 71, is the only living African American U.S. archbishop. He will become one of the most visible Catholic leaders in the country. He was born on December 7, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois. While attending St. Carthage Catholic School, he converted to Catholicism. He attended the University of Saint Mary at Mundelein Seminary, and completed his doctorate in sacred liturgy in 1980 at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute (Sant' Anselmo) in Rome.

He was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 9, 1973. On December 13, 1983, he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Chicago. He was then installed as bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, IL on February 10, 1994. Pope John Paul II appointed him as the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He was installed on January 17, 2005.

Archbishop Gregory served as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from November, 2001 to 2004, following three years as USCCB vice president. Under his leadership, the USCCB implemented the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." He also previously served on other committees including the Committee on Doctrine,

Liturgy, Administrative, and International Policy and also as Chairman of the Bishops' Committees on Personnel and the Third Millennium/Jubilee Year 2000.

The Archdiocese of Washington is comprised of 2,104 square miles and has a total population of 2,994,625 of which 658,818 or 22 percent, are Catholic. (www.usccb.org)



(image from Whispers in the Loggia)

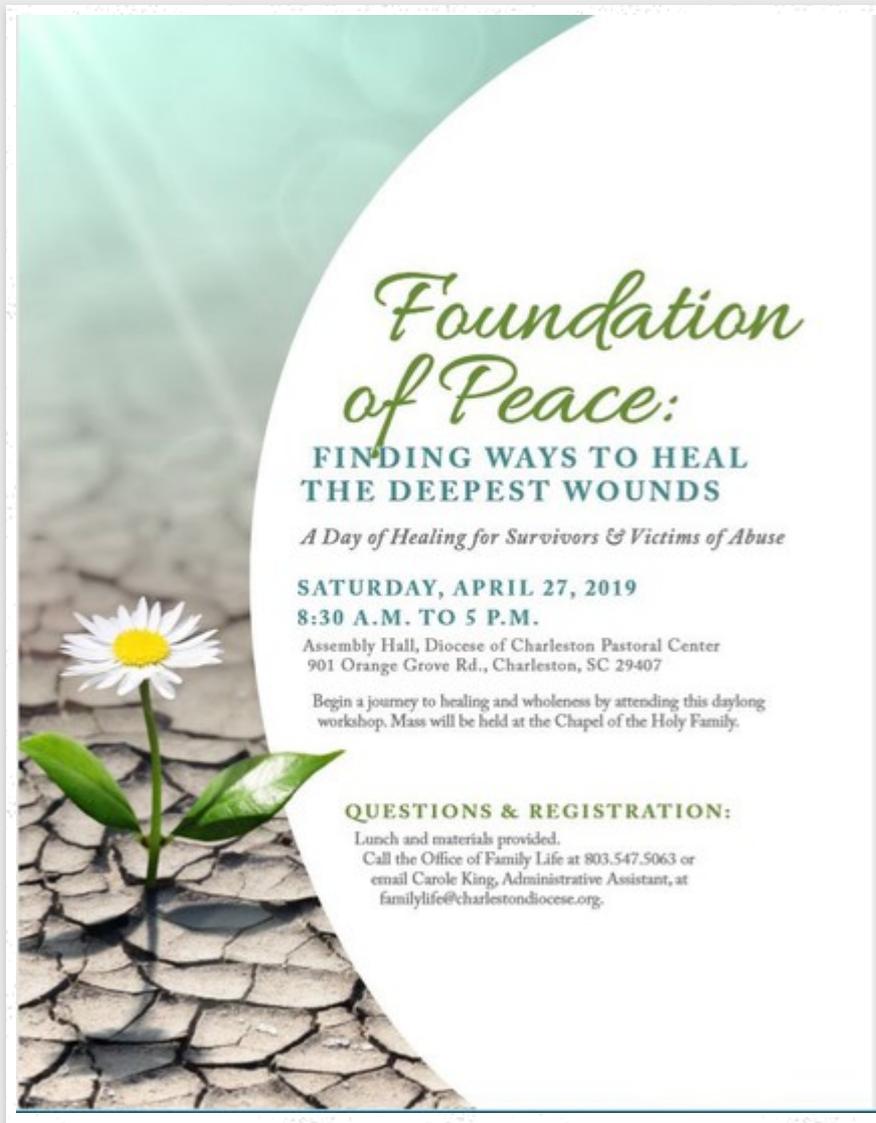
LOCAL NEWS

A DAY OF HEALING FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

The Office of Family Life is sponsoring Foundation of Peace: Finding Ways to Heal the Deepest Wounds, a much-needed healing retreat, at the Pastoral Center in Charleston on April 27. Contact the Office of Family Life to register. It is free and open to the public. I have spoken to people who have attended this retreat and they shared that it was very helpful in their healing process.

INVITED TO NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

I was privileged to be invited to Nativity by Carolyn Smith, intermediate teacher of religion. I met Carolyn at the Teacher Education Convention in Columbia last month. She invited me to experience the "live stations" presented by the students. I was so overjoyed to pray with the students, parents and Father Kingsley. All of the students were involved in some way. I am sure they will never forget the experience of the "live stations" at Nativity...kudos to Carolyn!



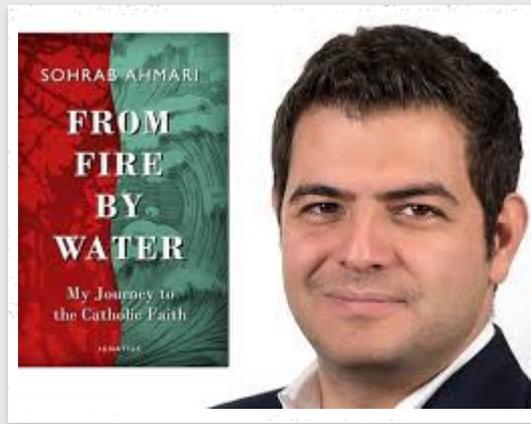
BOOK OF THE MONTH

FROM FIRE, BY WATER: MY JOURNEY TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH --SOHRAB AHMARI

Delve into the unlikely story of Sohrab Ahmari, who, moved by the beauty of the Mass, converted from atheism to Catholicism.

This compelling new Catholic voice will inspire you to engage your faith with renewed vigor!

Purchase your copy here: <https://store.augustineinstitute.org/products/from-fire-by-water-my-journey-to-the-catholic-faith>



FACTOID

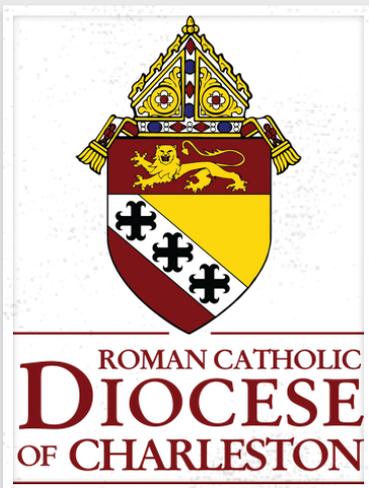
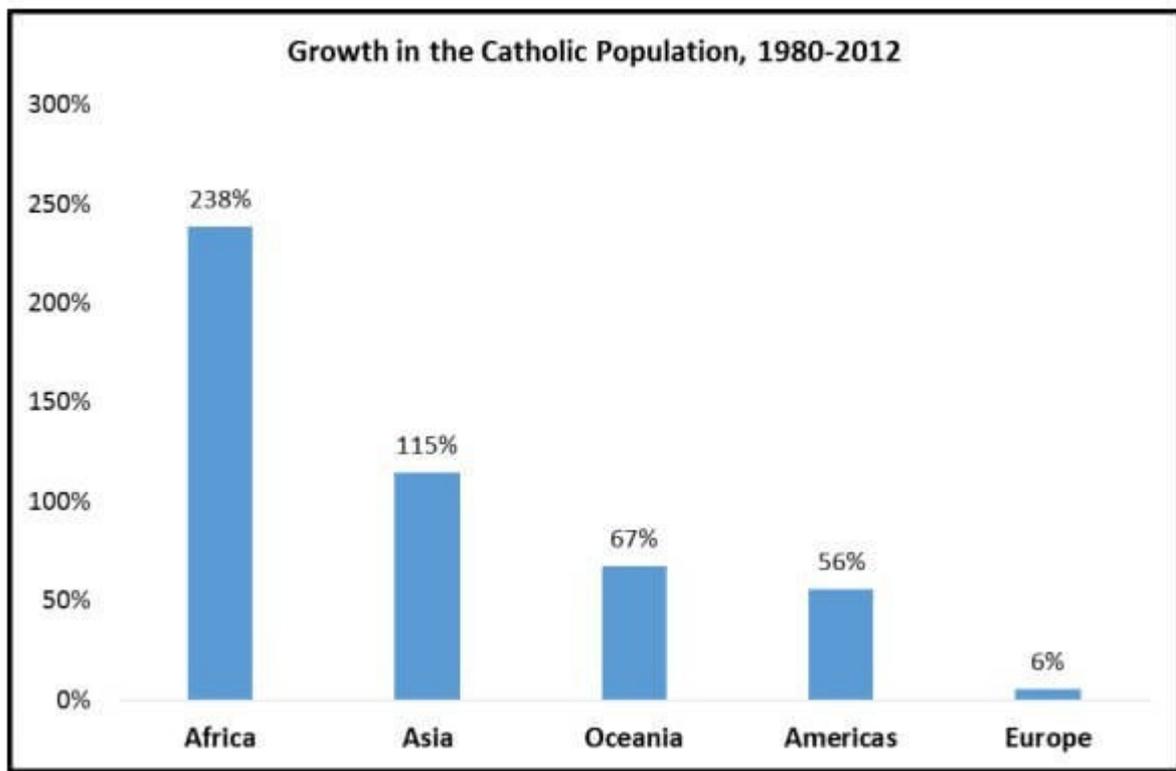
CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH IN THE APOSTOLATE (CARA)

Amid seemingly endless reports of the decline of the Church, it's encouraging to see a study showing that the number of Catholics around the world increased by 57 per cent between 1980 and 2012.

CARA projects that the number of Catholics will continue to grow, but not at quite the same levels as seen in the last 35 years. They estimate that the Catholic population will increase by another 372 million by 2050, or 29 per cent.

Dr. Mark Gray, Director of CARA Catholic polls, stated that the demographics are shifting with more and more Catholics increasing in Asia and Africa. The church will need to respond to this demographic shift. Perhaps one way the church is responding is the the number of Cardinals (15) elevated from the global South.

It appears that the challenge for the future of the global church will be keeping Catholics engaged with parish and sacramental life.



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