

Buzz Report

Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry

November 2019



From the Desk of Sr. Kathy...

November 20, 2019

Dear Friends:

For such a very long time, the month of November has been special for me. When I was in grade school at Corpus Christi in Pittsburgh's East End, my parents would send me to mass to represent the family. My parents were busy preparing the big meal for my dad's side of the family. I guess it was in God's mind from all eternity that I would be a Franciscan sister. The Franciscans taught me for 12 years. By the time mass ended and I arrived home, the smell of the holiday aromas filled our home. What a special time of year to give thanks and praise to God for all that God has given us. As we have been discussing in our Spiritual Gifts retreats and to be good stewards, we must accept and put into action our special gifts that each of us has uniquely been given.

By the time you read this issue of Buzz, the RENEW team and I should be concluding our Information Sessions of Healing the Church A Pastoral Approach to the Sexual Abuse Crisis throughout five of the seven deaneries in the diocese. The initial response has been positive, and please know that if you or your pastor was not able to attend, a **video will be put online** of the session. Any parish can sign up for the Parish Team Training in January and the Facilitator Training in February. The six-week program begins before Lent which makes it a great Lenten program for the parish. It ends before Easter. I am attaching the schedule with this Buzz News again for your convenience.

The fall meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has ended and Archbishop Gomez, former Vice President, was elected as President of the USCCB. More forthcoming in Buzz.

Last and in global news, Pope Francis is calling for peace in Bolivia where violence continues and the poor are suffering. This topic became more meaningful to me after talking to two missionary sisters

who just returned from Bolivia after almost 100 years between the two of them. One could see the hurt in their eyes when they shared with me what is happening in Bolivia.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF
Associate Director
Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry



Local News

Renew International Offers Healing Our Church to the Diocese of Charleston

RENEW, International arrived in Charleston, SC on Sunday, November 17, 2019 on a breezy fall day and immediately received a great Lowcountry welcome. The organization is a time-tested Catholic organization with 40 years of experience of ministering with parishes in small-group settings. I would like to thank our host parishes for welcoming us to their spiritual home: Jesus Our Risen Savior in Spartanburg, Our Lady of the Hills in Columbia, St. James in Conway, the Pastoral Center at the Chancery in Charleston and St. Gregory the Great in Bluffton, SC.

The RENEW team was most impressed by the generosity of our people and their openness to the program that will be offered. The month of November served as a time to learn more about the program, January will be a time to train parish teams and February will be training for facilitators in parishes. The six sessions will begin before Lent, 2020 and end by Easter, 2020. The sessions include: Facing the Truth, Healing Our Wounds, Rebuilding the Church, Why Do I Remain a Catholic, We Believe and A Way Forward.

Some parishes have begun the process by offering Archbishop Barron's book, *A Letter to a Suffering Church*. I have read the Archbishop's book and was glad he wrote it. I would say that it is a good way to start the discussion. RENEW's program delves deeper and people are trained by a professional and well-educated group of people. The organization was willing to offer the program on a voluntary basis and at a much-reduced rate. I have good bartering skills, thanks to my Irish mother. I do pray that many will offer this program to help "people in the pews" who are "yes" still discussing the issue at

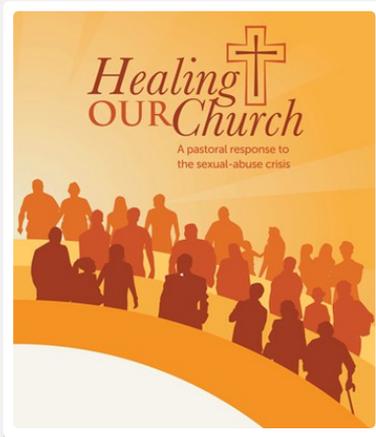
Publix, restaurants and around family dinner tables. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 843.834.2570.



Sr. Terry Rickard of Renew International Presents Information on Healing Our Church



Participants from the Greenville Deanery at the Healing Our Church Information Session



National News

Archbishop Gomez Elected USCCB President

The American Bishops met for their fall meeting the week of November 11, 2019. They elected Archbishop Gomez as President of the United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB). His term is for three years. He is a native of Mexico, is 67 and the first Latino to be elected president of this body. He worked closely with Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, the outgoing president. His term as president begins when the assembly ends.

The Los Angeles prelate has been a leading advocate of immigrant rights, often voicing support for newcomers as they face growing restrictions being implemented by the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies. May we all pray for him, as he strives to lead our national episcopal leaders into the future.



Archbishop José H. Gomez takes part in a Día de los Muertos celebration Nov. 2 at Calvary Cemetery in East L.A. (Photo by J.D. Long-Garcia)

St. Paul Scholarship Fund

The St. Paul Scholarship fund is a need-based scholarship designed to support men and women actively engaged in the Church's mission of evangelization and catechesis, and those who are looking to grow more in their faith through Theology studies.

Please click on the link below to learn more about their distance education and scholarship programs.

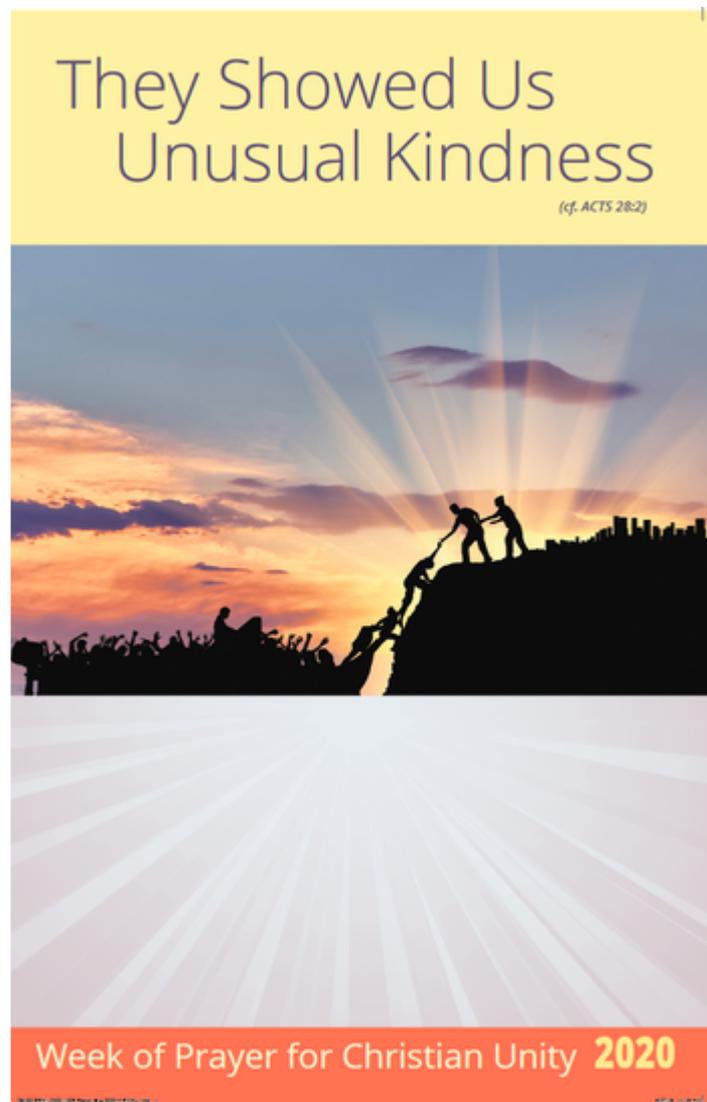
<https://www.augustineinstitute.org/2019/10/09/announcing-new-st-paul-scholarship-for-students-dedicated-to-churchs-mission/?utm>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

THEY SHOWED US UNUSUAL KINDNESS (cf. ACTS 28:2)

To order a Week of Prayer Sample Kit or for printable resources please visit:

www.geii.org/order



Global News

It's a Small World

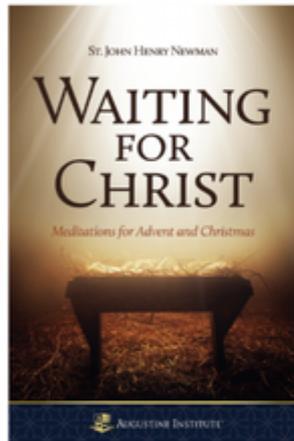
Sometimes we may think: how does global news affect me here in my little space of South Carolina? I know I sometimes think this way. At the beginning of November, the Sisters of Charity St. Augustine from Ohio and whom also started Providence Hospital in Columbia, SC sponsored a wonderful weekend for sisters of our beautiful state. It was sponsored by their foundation, and the weekend is called "Collaboration for Ministry." We were honored to have Sister Melannie Svoboda, SND with us sharing about Faith and Hope.

At this conference, I met two missionaries from Bolivia. The two of them totaled almost 100 years of missionary service to the people of Bolivia. One sister, 86 years of age, spent a good part of 60 years in Bolivia on a boat as she traveled on the rivers and in the forests bringing the Good News of Jesus' love and peace to the poor. Often times, the sisters did not know how long they could stay with a tribe, as food was an issue. But the people prayed and counted on God, and God always provided with fish that the men caught. My conversation with them was awe inspiring. They asked me to pray for the people, as they struggle with the violence occurring in the country. I could see the deep hurt in their faces. I left them thinking how courageous they were and how the world really is much smaller than we think.



Book of the Month

Prepare your mind and soul for Christ's coming this Christmas.



St. John Henry Newman's sermons are accessible and inspiring. Drawing from Newman's knowledge of the lives of the saints, Catholic doctrine, and, above all, Sacred Scripture, this compilation is broken down into daily short chapters and is a great meditation book.

Waiting for Christ

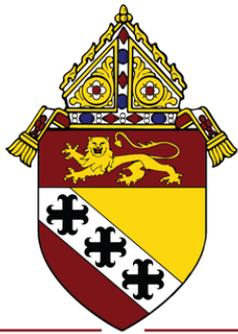
By St. John Henry Newman

\$14.95

[Shop Now](#)

Factoid

The Southern Poverty Law Center documented 1,020 active hate groups in the United States in 2018. May we continue to pray for an increase in an openness to other different from us and to accept each other for being God's special creation.



ROMAN CATHOLIC
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