



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The Sage

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Welcome to Pope Francis

by Monsignor Gregory Cox

With the recent election of Pope Francis, the world has a leader who will shepherd the Church not only with his words but also with his actions. He is the first Pope ever elected from the Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium.

Pope Francis' humble life will set the tone for his ministry. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he lived in a simple apartment, cooked his meals and rode the bus to work. He was a strong defender of the faith and committed to serving the poor in his Archdiocese.

As a young man, Pope Francis was trained as a chemist. He later decided to enter the Jesuit seminary. After his ordination, he eventually became the Rector of the Jesuit seminary that he attended. In 1998, he was named Archbishop of Buenos Aires and was appointed Cardinal in 2001 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Pope John Paul II once said, "If you want peace, reach out to the poor! May rich and poor recognize that they are brothers and sisters. May they share what they have with one another as children of the one God who loves everyone, who wills the good to everyone, and who offers to everyone the gift of peace!" We trust that Pope Francis will enact these words in his humble service to the world. ❖

Guadalupe Center Hosts Annual Easter Egg Hunt

This year, Easter came a little early for the children at Guadalupe Community Center in Canoga Park at its Annual Egg Hunt. Operation Gratitude donated candy, a Girl Scout Troop from St. Mel Parish donated Easter baskets and two retired teachers, referred by St. Mel Parish, volunteered their time, talents and treasures. The baskets were beautifully wrapped and included candy, school supplies and educational material. In addition, each basket had multi-colored jelly beans symbolizing God's many gifts and the meaning and spirit of Easter.



Officer Greg Archambault and his cadets help with Easter Baskets.

With the help from LAPD Officer Greg Archambault and his cadets, children were organized into three groups according to age and were sent on a mission: to find eggs and candy that had the letter "P" printed on them. Any child who found one of these specially marked items could redeem it for a Barbie doll or a robot toy obtained by Catholic Charities' Development and Communications Department.

After the Egg Hunt, parents provided snacks for their energized youngsters. "It was exciting and wonderful to introduce my children to the American tradition of celebrating Easter," a mother commented.

Moeed Khan, Director of Catholic Charities' San Fernando Region, expressed his appreciation saying, "Every year this event gets bigger and better, and seeing all the smiling faces was very rewarding. I am very thankful to Skip Wrightson, Community Outreach Coordinator, and all of the participants and donors for making this event such a success." ❖

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Marriage – The Spring of Life

by Monsignor Gregory Cox

One of the most important responsibilities we have in society and at Catholic Charities is to support and strengthen family life. Statistics tell us that 50% of marriages end in divorce. The experience of divorce not only impacts the husband and wife but also children. Many single parents do a commendable job in raising their children, however there are many single parents who cannot cope with all the responsibilities of family life. Children from single parent homes are 24 times more likely to run away, 15 times more likely to have behavior disorders, six times more likely to drop out of school and 15 times more likely to end up in prison while a teenager. Society needs to turn our attention to strengthening marriages so as to raise healthy children.

Marriage is the bond of mutual and exclusive fidelity between a man and a woman ordered by its very nature to the good of the spouses and, if possible, the procreation and education of children. The word “marriage” isn’t simply a label that can be attached to different types of relationships. Instead, “marriage” reflects a deep reality – the reality of the unique, fruitful union that is only possible between a man and a woman. Just as oxygen and hydrogen are essential to water, sexual difference is essential to marriage. The attempt to “redefine” marriage to include two persons of the same sex denies the reality of what marriage is.

Sexual difference is the difference of man to woman and woman to man. It affects a person at every level of his or her existence: genetically, biologically, emotionally, psychologically, and socially. Sexual difference is an irreducible difference. It is unlike any other difference we experience, because it – and only it – allows for the total personal union between husband and wife that is at the heart of marriage. The difference between men and women is for the sake of their union with each other. It is what makes spousal union possible and the Spring of Life for society. ❖

Catholic Charities
Golf Tournament



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL
CATHOLIC CHARITIES'
GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013
OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB,
GLENDALE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
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OR VISIT
WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESLA.ORG

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HOUSE AND ASSIST OUR CLIENTS
WHO ARE POOR AND HOMELESS.

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The good work that your giving does for Catholic Charities can live on beyond your lifetime. You can endow your annual gifts through a bequest.

Invested prudently in our Fund for the Future endowment, your bequest will earn income every year that we will use it to continue the support that you are providing us now.

Then, every year – permanently! – a gift will be made in your name to Catholic Charities.

It's a satisfying, foresighted gift, and it's easy to set up. We'll be happy to give you more information. Please contact Alexandria (Sandi) Arnold, Chief Development and Communications Officer, at sarnold@ccharities.org or (213) 251-3495.

For more information about making significant gifts that don't affect your cash flow now, visit our easy-to-use website at www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org/plannedgiving.



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Program Helps Refugees Launch Home-Based Business

Catholic Charities' Central Intake Unit program (CIU) has embarked on a new venture to provide home-based child care training for refugees. The goal of the program is to establish a network of licensed Armenian, Farsi and Arabic-speaking child care businesses that are well equipped to offer refugee families a quality home care service for children.

The Home-Based Child Care Training program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration of Children and Families. The training class is designed to assist refugees in the greater Glendale area to meet all the requirements necessary for State Child Care licensing. The training program includes child care, microenterprise development, internship/mentoring, financial aid for business start-up expenses, assistance in preparing for the State Licensing Board home inspection, first aid, and CPR training.

CIU staff report that they are currently in need of licensed child care providers to become mentors for the training program. In addition, they stated that the program would benefit from a donation of new or gently used children's furniture, books and toys. For more information about the program, please contact Catholic Charities' Home-Based Child Care office at (818) 502-2002. ❖



Home-Based Child Care Training student is shown practicing CPR.



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Bruce Hackman Appointed San Pedro Regional Director

Bruce Hackman assumed the role of San Pedro Regional Director of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc., effective January 28, replacing Anna Totta, who retired from Catholic Charities after holding the position of San Pedro Regional Director for slightly less than nine years.

With 30 years of social work experience in administration, supervision and case management, and also a resident of San Pedro who attends St. John Fisher Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, Hackman is well qualified for this assignment.

Hackman grew up in New York and, after receiving his undergraduate degree in Sociology, his academic credentials include a Master's in Divinity from the Lutheran Seminary in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He ran group homes and homeless shelters.

He went on to receive a Master's degree in Counseling from the



University of Scranton in Pennsylvania and later earned a Master's in Social Work from Loyola University in Chicago. He is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) and is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW).

Hackman has experience: in providing individual, group and family counseling for special needs children and persons who are homeless; in developing and implementing psycho-social assessments and treatment plans for those populations; and in working with the community, local referral agencies and school systems.

As the new San Pedro Regional Director, Hackman is responsible for managing all aspects of the Region including program development, financial management, fundraising, strategic planning, quality improvement, program operations and assessment. ❖

Santa Barbara Seniors Receive Care for Pets

Comments from the most recent client satisfaction surveys confirmed what Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara County staff had been hearing: Seniors in the Santa Barbara service delivery area were facing the heartbreaking dilemma of having to choose between paying for their own vital medication or properly caring for their canine pets, which, on occasion, need emergency veterinary care.

Responding to this data, the Dr. Hildegard H. Balin Charitable Trust awarded Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara County two grants, each for \$10,000, to be used for emergency veterinary care for income-qualifying older adults (aged 60+) in Santa Barbara County who own pet dogs. The funding from the Dr. Hildegard H. Balin Charitable Trust has literally meant life or death for a number of pets.

Many dog-owning seniors throughout Santa Barbara County may also qualify to receive help from community partners such as C.A.R.E.4PAWS, which provides dog food for three affiliated community centers, and the Diana Baseheart Foundation whose mission is "Helping people and their companion animals stay together."

In an effort to foster collaboration between neighboring agencies, plans are in place to coordinate pet-related services and identify veterinarians who may be interested in setting up a network of care. Additionally, a member of the Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara County advisory board has volunteered to oversee pet-related programs throughout the county.

These collaborations with community partners are vital in providing quality services to seniors and their pets. For more information about programs in the Santa Barbara County area of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc., call (805) 965-7045. ❀



"Foxy" endorses Catholic Charities' Pet-Related Programs .



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Catholic Charities' Immigration and Refugee programs help immigrants from around the globe to become self sufficient and to smoothly integrate into mainstream society.

