



BISHOP'S LETTER: ALWAYS REMEMBER LIFE IS A GIFT

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you this new year! As we journeyed with our Blessed Mother Mary and her spouse, St. Joseph, through the Advent and Christmas seasons, we heard Scripture readings about the desire for a child and the wondrous work of God who gifts us each child.

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Happy New Year!

FROM THE OFFICE OF PERMANENT DEACONS

We hope and pray that you had a blessed start to the new year. Our sincere wish is that this year will be filled with joy and peace, and that you will be able to serve the Lord in all that you do. This year is going to be very busy for our office as we have several important events lined up. We will start with our Deacons' Couple Retreats, followed by end-of-the-year meetings for those in formation. We will also be conducting interviews for those who believe they have a calling to the Diaconate, and, if selected for formation will make up Cohort 2030. Finally, we will have our Diaconate Ordination on June 8th, during which we hope to ordain 18 new Deacons. All of these events will take place between January and the first part of June. No matter what we have going on, we are here for you all.

- Jennifer, Joe, and Dave

REGISTER NOW!

2024 DEACON COUPLE RETREATS

Registration is open for 2024 Deacon Couple Retreats. All retreats are at San Pedro, Spiritual Development Center begin Friday evening and conclude midday Sunday.

CLICK TO REGISTER



FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024

“THE SPIRITUALITY OF GROWING OLDER GRACEFULLY”

Directed by Mr. Greg Pierce, based on the book, Engaging the Gifts of Growing Older, by Frank Cunningham

This is a companion retreat to one offered to priests in the Diocese of Orlando, and ideal for both deacons and their wives as our life and ministry evolves during the stages of life.

CLICK TO REGISTER



MARCH 15-17, 2024

“COOPERATING WITH GOD’S GRACE IN HEALING”

Directed by Deacon Keith Strohm, former Director of the Office for the New Evangelization in the Archdiocese of Chicago

A well-known international and conference keynote speaker, Deacon Keith has helped tens of thousands of men and women hear the Gospel message and encounter the mercy, love, and power of Jesus Christ. He has extensive experience in creating and sustaining processes and programs of evangelization and formation at the group, parish and diocesan level that focus on the making, maturation, and missioning of disciples of Jesus Christ.

HAGA CLIC PARA
REGISTRARSE



APRIL 26-28, 2024 (SPANISH LANGUAGE)

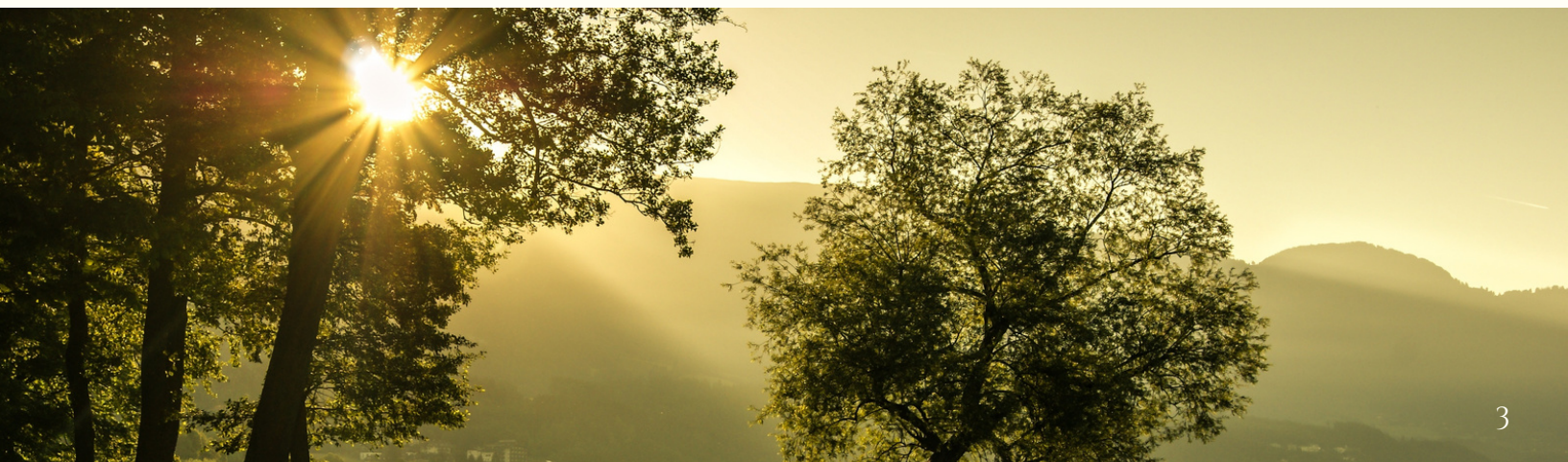
“Todo lo que hagan, háganlo de corazón, como para el Señor y no para los hombres” (Col. 3:23).

Retreat Director Monsignor Wilfredo Peña. Nacido en Cuba y residente en Puerto Rico desde muy joven. Fue ordenado sacerdote en la Arquidiócesis de San Juan el 30 de marzo del 1974. Obtuvo su Bachillerato en Humanidades-Filosofía en la Pontificia Universidad de Ponce y un Bachillerato en Teología de la Universidad Gregoriana de Roma. Posee una Licenciatura en Derecho Canónico de la Universidad Lateranense de Roma y ostenta un Doctorado en Derecho Canónico de la Universidad de Santo Tomás de Aquino de Roma.

Fue asignado a los Estados Unidos a principios de los años ochenta. Llevó a cabo una intensa labor evangelizadora y pastoral en las Arquidiócesis de Miami, Florida y Los Ángeles, California. Fundó Cor-Jesu (Comunidad de Fe, Esperanza Caridad) junto a un grupo de laicos en Miami.

Desde el 1989, es Párroco y Pastor de la Parroquia Santa Bernardita de San Juan donde ha tenido una exitosa trayectoria desarrollando eventos pastorales y retiros. Por más de 28 años ha celebrado convivencias de renovación y evangelización para su comunidad de fe que se transmiten por internet al mundo entero. Cuenta con sobre 34 ministerios activos y se ha dedicado a cumplir con la formación cristiana de su feligresía que sobrepasa los mil creyentes.

Sacerdote soñador, emprendedor y dinámico, ha dado paso a nuevos enfoques de Evangelización de la Iglesia Católica con su lema “Abriendo Puertas para Cristo” y con ese carisma especial ha llevado el mensaje de la Buena Nueva a miles de almas a través de sus misiones en diferentes países.



FORGIVENESS READING GROUP WITH BEST-SELLING AUTHOR DR. ALLEN HUNT

Live Zoom meetings | 7 p.m. (EST)

February 7, 2024

March 13, 2024

April 10, 2024



SPEAKER

Allen Hunt, Ph.D.

Senior advisor, Dynamic Catholic

Adjunct Faculty, Saint Leo University

Join Dr. Hunt as we read through and discuss his most recent book on forgiveness, "The 12 Ways Forgiveness Changes Everything." We will meet live three times to discuss and apply the ideas from his book on how to more effectively live out forgiveness and accept God's forgiveness in our lives. Get a copy of his book, read along with us, and be ready to reflect on how to enjoy a life without the burden of resentment.

REGISTER NOW: WWW.SAINTLEOTHEOLOGY.COM



EUCCHARIST BELIEFS:

A NATIONAL SURVEY OF ADULT CATHOLICS

by Mark M. Gray, Ph.D.

Executive Summary

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) and NORC conducted the national survey using the AmeriSpeak® Panel with the guidance of the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame University. This research was done to better understand what the current Catholic population (self-identified) believes about the Catholic Church's teaching on the Eucharist. The survey was offered in English and Spanish, and it was administered in two modes depending on the preference of the respondent provided during the panel recruitment: 1) self-administered by the respondent online via the Web; or 2) administered over the telephone by a live interviewer. The survey included 1,031 respondents resulting in a margin of sampling error of ± 4.45 percentage points. The survey was in the field from July 11, 2022 - August 2, 2022.

Major Findings

- Seventeen percent of adult Catholics attends Mass at least once a week. An additional 5% currently watch Mass on television or online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior, to the pandemic, 24% of Catholics attended Mass weekly in 2019. Eighteen percent of adult Catholics attends less than weekly but at least once a month. Twenty-six percent attends Mass a few times a year, likely on Ash Wednesday, Easter and/or Christmas. Thirty-five percent rarely or never attend Mass.
- Ninety-three percent of adult Catholics have received their First Communion and 86% were Confirmed.
- Respondents are most likely to say Baptism is a meaningful sacrament to them (71% "very" meaningful and 17% "somewhat" meaningful). The next most meaningful are marriage (69% "very" meaningful and 16% "somewhat" meaningful) and then Eucharist/Holy Communion (66% "very" meaningful and 19% "somewhat" meaningful).



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- Forty-nine percent of adult Catholics always receive Communion when attending Mass and 18% do so frequently or usually. Eighteen percent seldom receive Eucharist at Mass. Fifteen percent never receive Communion at Mass.
- Respondents were asked to explain in their own words what they believe happens to the gifts of bread and wine after Consecration during Mass. Responses were recoded into four categories. Thirty-five percent of respondents responded in a manner that they believed in the Real Presence. Eight percent of respondents remarked that they believe the gifts to be unchanged by Consecration and that these are symbols. Eighteen percent of respondents answered about what happens in a procedural manner after Consecration. Finally, the remaining responses, 39%, could not be categorized into any of the previous groupings of responses.
- Forty-nine percent correctly believe that the Church teaches, “Jesus Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine.” Fifty-one percent incorrectly believes the Church teaches, “Bread and wine are symbols of Jesus’ actions at the Last Supper, meaning that Jesus is only symbolically present in the consecrated bread and wine.” Results of this question indicate that there is substantial confusion about what the Church teaches about the Eucharist with slightly more adult Catholics not knowing this correctly than those correctly identifying the teachings.

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- Among the highest levels of awareness of Church teachings about the Eucharist are among those who attend Mass weekly or more often. Nearly nine in ten correctly identify the Church teaching the Real Presence.
- After asking the open-ended question about the respondents' beliefs in the Eucharist and a closed-ended question about their understanding of Church teachings about the Eucharist, respondents were asked more questions to help clarify their beliefs. When presented with a direct question about the Real Presence, 44% of adult Catholics say they believe "Jesus Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine." Forty-eight percent said they personally believe that the "bread and wine are symbols of Jesus' actions at the Last Supper, meaning that Jesus is only symbolically present in the consecrated bread and wine." Nine percent selected "neither of the above" options.
- Combining the results from the closed-ended questions about Church teachings and their personal beliefs, 38% of respondents correctly know what the Church teaches and believe in the Real Presence. Forty-eight percent of respondents don't know what the Church teaches and believe that the bread and wine are symbols or have some other belief. Thus, most who do not believe in the Real Presence are not rejecting the teaching as they do not know this is what the Church teaches. Nine percent of respondents know what the Church teaches but do not believe it. Five percent believe in the Real Presence but are unaware that this is what the Church teaches.
- Following the open-ended and closed-ended question respondents were asked directly, "Just to clarify, do you personally believe that after the Consecration during a Catholic Mass, that Jesus Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine upon the altar?" Fifty-seven percent of respondents said that they believe Jesus is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine.
- Three of the four previous questions provided different inquiries about respondents' personal beliefs regarding the Eucharist and these questions did not always receive consistent answers. The responses were examined and used to code a new variable representing the best understanding of what respondents were expressing as a whole. The first question was openended and considered to offer an unprompted view of respondents' beliefs as the closed-end questions provide the opportunity to make a choice between multiple presented answers. Analysis revealed that some respondents stated a belief in the Real Presence in the open-ended question but then selected that their believe the bread and wine are symbols in the closed-end question, among other combinations or responses. After examining each respondent's answers collectively, 64% of respondents provided responses that indicate they believe in the Real Presence.

[1]This group includes those who skipped the question which represents 18% of all respondents.

- Among all respondents stating a belief in the Real presence, 95% of weekly Mass attenders believe in the Real Presence. Eighty percent of those who attend less than weekly but at least once a month believe as well.
- Those who entered the Church as adults or who have served in parish ministry are especially likely to believe in the Real Presence.
- Those who have attended Catholic schools at any level are more likely than those who have not to believe in the Real presence.
- Respondents were asked where they learned the information leading to their beliefs about the Eucharist. A majority, 53%, said they learned from their parents followed by sacramental preparation or religious education in a parish (44%), at Mass (41%), or at Catholic school (37%).
- Seventy-eight percent of those who said they learned from the Bible believe in the Real Presence as do 76% of those who learned about the Eucharist at Mass. Learning from parents is less effective, as only 67% of those who said this is a source for their beliefs about the Eucharist stated a belief in the Real Presence. Learning about the Eucharist from parish-based programs schools results in 73% believing in the Real Presence and learning from Catholic schools 75%. Seventy-two percent who learned from the Catechism believe in the Real Presence as do 60% who learned about the Eucharist on the Internet



FREE INTERACTIVE THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE / WORKSHOP

MEDIEVAL TEACHERS OF FREEDOM: THEOLOGY, FAITH, AND REASON

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2024 AT 7PM EST
FEATURING: DR. MARCO ANDREACCHIO

Professor Andreacchio will reflect on his recent book *Medieval Teachers of Freedom: Boethius, Peter Lombard and Aquinas on Creation from Nothing* and taking questions from participants.

Book Description: Medieval debates over "divine creation" are systematically obscured in our age by the conflict between "Intelligent Design" Creationists and Evolutionists. The present investigation cuts through the web of contemporary conflicts to examine problems seated at the heart of medieval talk about creation. From three representative authors we learn that the doctrine of divine creation is supposed to invite understanding of the relation between artistic freedom and natural necessity, of the very essence of causality, and thereby of the nexus between experience (our world of empirical determinations) and reality (the absolute indetermination of eternal being). Most importantly, medieval scholarship shows us that the problems it addresses are originally inherent in the understanding itself, whereby the question of being emerges as inseparable from the question of interpretation.

Marco Andreacchio was awarded a doctorate from the University of Illinois for his interpretation of Sino-Japanese philosophical classics in dialogue with Western counterparts and a doctorate from Cambridge University for his work on Dante's Platonic interpretation of religious authority. Andreacchio has taught at various higher education institutions and published systematically on problems of a political-philosophical nature. He is currently completing a monograph on Shakespeare and Boccaccio as antidotes to the Machiavellian spell the world has fallen under.

To RSVP or for more info- email: randall.woodard@saintleo.edu
Zoom link for the event: <https://saintleo.zoom.us/j/4100256986>

DATABASE

Do you have a new email address, phone number, or have you moved?
Please email Jennifer with your new information to keep our database current.
Email jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org

IN REMEMBRANCE

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and may perpetual light
shine upon them. May their souls
and the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy of
God rest in peace. Amen.



MEMORIAL MASS SCHEDULE

Scheduled for Friday, January 26th, 2024 at The Mary, Mother of God Chapel at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

- 8:15 a.m. Liturgy of the Hours for the Dead
- 8:30 a.m. Memorial Mass for priests, deacons & laity recently buried

PRIESTS

Reverend Luiz Bastos
Reverend James F. Edwards
Reverend Hugh J. Flynn
Reverend Michael Flynn
Reverend William Holmes
Reverend Peter Quinn
Reverend Michael M. Reynolds
Reverend Eamon Tobin
Reverend Mark Wegg

DEACONS

Deacon Miguel Alvarez
Deacon Raymond Byers
Deacon Robert Kinsey
Deacon Homer Swart
Deacon Joseph Wortman

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Bobby Gaudioso, 83

Deacon Claude Curtin, 83

Deacon Miguel Beltran, 83

Deacon Charlie Webb, 83

Deacon Connie Ferriola, 80



DIOCESAN CALENDAR

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LITURGICAL CORNER

Need a refresher on chanting? [Click to learn more](#)



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS
JANUARY 2024 | VOL.19
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO