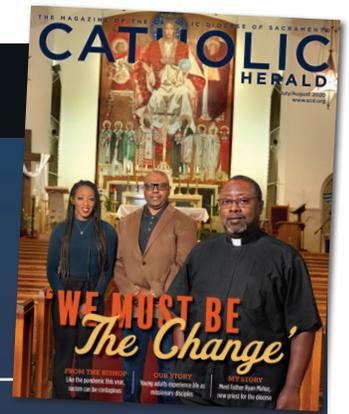


Celebrating individual faith stories in *Catholic Herald* Magazine



Catholic Herald magazine celebrated its 10th anniversary with the September-October 2020 issue. For the past decade, we have shared with you the moving faith stories of Catholics in our diocese. *Catholic Herald* is a critical part of our diocese's evangelization and spiritual formation efforts.

Individual faith stories are the cornerstone of *Catholic Herald* magazine. Since our inaugural edition, we have told hundreds of faith stories of Catholics across the 20 counties of the Diocese of Sacramento. Here's just a sample of stories from 2020:

- Four millennial-age Catholic school alumni – **Ameyalli Chavez, Eric Jackson, Robyn Williams and Patrick Arguelles** – answered the question, “Do Catholic schools really matter?” by sharing their own experiences of how the component of their faith is the guiding force in their lives.
- **Jayline Naranjo and Chris Bravo** of Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland, **Andres Coronel and Lily Moore of Our Divine Savior Parish in Chico, and Yahaira Moreno and Jorge Campos of St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish in North Highlands**, related how they are “fired up in their faith” when choosing saint names and sponsors who guide them on the path to full initiation in the church.
- **Adam and Maralee Bowers** and their family of Sacred Heart Parish in Gridley, **Laura and Lloyd Clark** and their family of Sacred Heart Parish in Red Bluff, and **Colleen, Paul and Jimi Mendoza** of St. Robert Parish in Sacramento, all shared the joys and benefits of meals together. The family relies on their shared dinner time to “catch up,” says Colleen. “It strengthens our bond.”
- Co-workers in the vineyard – **Father George Snyder**, pastor, and **Paula Staszkw**, parish director – of St. Clare Parish in Roseville, are living proof that shared, collaborative ecclesial ministry and leadership can be beneficial and effective. “Father George has distinct gifts that I don’t have and I have distinct gifts that he doesn’t have,” Paula says. “We use all our gifts together – clergy team and staff – to build up the body of Christ.”
- **Father Martin Ramat**, priest-supervisor, and **Greg Kidder**, parish steward, collaborate to chart a new course for St. Thomas More Parish in Paradise in the aftermath of the Camp Fire in the fall of 2018. The arrangement has benefited St. Thomas More with continuity of the community’s culture during the time of transition.
- **Jennifer Thao** of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento and **Samantha Kellar** of St. Isidore Parish in Yuba City said “it’s all in God’s plan,” living in the unprecedented moment of the coronavirus pandemic while waiting to receive the sacraments of initiation.
- **Deacon Casey Walker** of St. Basil Parish in Vallejo, chair of the diocese’s anti-racism campaign, shared how “the history of racism in our country is centuries old and unfortunately still thrives today. As a nation and as a people of God, we are making improvements but the going is slow. We must be the change if we want it to occur.”
- **Charlene Harris** of St. Joseph Parish in Sacramento, a member of the diocese’s anti-racism campaign, noted that racism remains a complex issue “and in today’s environment it has gotten worse. No effort is too small to counteract racism when we can and we should all do our part. We have a responsibility to create a more equitable and just society.”
- **Eliza Cobos** of Holy Spirit Parish in Fairfield radiates gratitude for her journey to God after decades of anguish, sharing her powerful passage to healing after abortion. “I thank God that he allowed me, my husband and my children to take the journey together,” she says.
- **Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home** in Sacramento provides hope for homeless pregnant women, including **Emily Sanders** of Holy Spirit Parish in Sacramento, who faced the most desperate days of her life 18 months ago when she was nearing her ninth month of pregnancy. Today, her son Brandon is happy and healthy, and Emily is pursuing college studies and cherishing the gift of her faith.
- **Father Avram Brown**, pastor, **Helen Gomez**, RCIA and stewardship coordinator, and parishioner **Tomas Hernandez** of St. Isidore Parish in Yuba City, shared how as a result of cultivating gratitude in parish life, parishioners are growing as disciples who are the ultimate stewards of God’s gifts.
- **Tom and Jane Meuser** of St. Patrick Parish in Placerville say the meaning of stewardship is bound up in being grateful for the gifts they have received from God and using them always to show their love for God and for others.

Readers have been captivated by the moving faith stories and high-quality photos in *Catholic Herald* magazine. Each issue also features columns exploring the Catholic faith and educating people on the teachings of the church.

Catholic Herald magazine is sent six times a year to some 42,000 households in our diocese, both to donors of the Annual Catholic Appeal and donors to the magazine (for publication schedule, please see the reverse side).

I look forward with enthusiasm to continuing to share stories of faith with our diocesan community and working closely with you to alert me to stories you believe our parishioners will want to read.

Yours in service,
Julie Sly, Editor, *Catholic Herald*

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