

■■■■■■■■ Bishop Michael Barber: A 'Career Classroom Teacher' Jesuit Prelate Discusses Education
 □□□□□□□□ by Joan Frawley Desmond, Senior Editor Tuesday, Jun 24, 2014 5:40 PM Comment

From the Pastor Almost a full year after his installation as the fifth bishop of Oakland, Calif., Bishop Michael Barber sparked headlines when he made changes to the 2014-15 teachers' contract for schools in his diocese that required faculty to "model and promote behavior in conformity with the teaching of the Roman Catholic faith in matters of faith and morals" in their personal and professional lives. Three teachers have refused to sign the contracts, and one likened it to a "loyalty oath." In media interviews, teachers and parents criticized Bishop Barber for altering the contracts and subjecting teachers to unacceptable scrutiny of their private conduct. The Oakland Diocese has since provided clarification outlining the reasons for the changes in the contract language, and Bishop Barber has met with faculty at two diocesan high schools to calm fears that the private lives of teachers will be under scrutiny. Bishop Barber is a self-described "career classroom teacher." On May 29th he spoke with Register senior editor Joan Frawley Desmond about the mission of Catholic education, his reasons for the teacher-contract changes and emerging challenges to Catholic education in a "self-referential" age.

This May, a controversy erupted in your diocese over changes in your teacher contracts. You explained that the new language, which clarifies the responsibility of teachers to model Catholic values — in and out of the classroom — underscores a basic truth: "Each of our Catholic elementary and secondary schools is an integral part of the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church." Would you explain what that means?

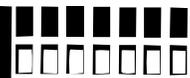
By the fact that "Catholic" is on the masthead of your school, it means you stand for certain ideals. The school is part of the Church, and the Church is part of Christ. We have to faithfully represent what Christ and the Church stand for. Every teacher is a role model for the students, whether he or she is teaching P.E. or math. The classroom is [the teachers'] pulpit, and they will help form their students as young adults. As an employer, my approach to teacher contracts was not to make a list of prohibitive behavior, but, rather, to set an expectation. That begins by posing the question: What is the mission and goal of education in a Catholic school? The next step is to describe the role of Catholic education and then invite our laypeople to accept that mission and vision. If they can't accept that invitation, then a Catholic school will not be a good fit for them, and a public school might be better. Unfortunately, some Catholic schools haven't paid attention to Catholic identity. When things drift, alternative visions replace Catholic identity. When I articulated my vision, one teacher wrote to say, "Who are you to change the mission of the school?" She said the mission of the school was to create an "inclusive and diverse" community, and, according to how those terms are understood today, that usually means all opinions are welcome at the table, except for Christ's.

The controversy has been spurred by a few teachers and some parents who are not in agreement with most teachings of the Church. On May 27, when I met with the faculty of Bishop O'Dowd High School, we went around the table, and most agreed that Christ should be the point of reference and that the new language in the contracts did not need to be changed. I left the meeting relieved and happy that the faculty and I are in agreement. Without common agreement on what it means to be a teacher in a Catholic school, each person becomes the sole arbiter for what is acceptable. That is an untenable situation that creates tensions and confusion across the school community. When Christ and Church teaching set the standard for Catholic education, we are challenged to look outside ourselves. As the bishop of the diocese, I am called to follow that same standard — I don't make up my own rules.

You were criticized in the press for including language in the teacher contracts that requires faculty to model Catholic teaching in and out of the classroom. You said there were no plans to "examine teachers' private lives." Rather, the contract language is concerned with "the public manifestation of a practice or a belief contrary to Catholic morals or beliefs," perhaps on social media, in a way that could undermine a "teacher's ability to fulfill [his or her] ministry as a role model in a Catholic school." Would you explain the dispute?

Some people in the press say that when I ask teachers to model Catholic standards in their personal lives, I am violating their freedom of conscience. I don't think so. What you do in your private life is between you and God. But what you do in your private life that becomes public — either because you put something on Facebook or let all the kids know about it in class — becomes a source of scandal, and it directly affects your responsibilities as a teacher. That is what I am concerned about.

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From the Pastor

The boundary between private and public communications has been blurred. Recently, the Los Angeles Clippers' owner, Donald Sterling, was forced to step down after he was recorded allegedly making racist remarks. Team members and the National Basketball Association took action to disassociate themselves from his statements. Are Catholic schools facing similar scenarios that need to be addressed in employee contracts? Sterling did something in his private life that became public and then became a scandal and an embarrassment to his team and the NBA. He was held accountable. If a sports league can have ethics rules and standards, should a school that purports to represent the Son of God also be allowed to have standards and employ teachers that pledge to uphold those standards? Some teachers said, "You are going to be spying on our private lives." Not true. Further, I also believe there's a difference between moral stumbles, where we acknowledge a wrong and ask for forgiveness, and instances where we insist our behavior is okay.

You have said, "We need to educate our students to the beauty of the faith: through icons, art, architecture and sacred music. These, in addition to Scripture and Tradition, are also vehicles of Revelation." Is this another measure that will deepen the faith experience of students in Catholic schools and youth programs?

I am encouraging classroom teachers, youth ministers and CCD teachers to use icons, sacred music, literature, drama and nature [in lessons]. When I retire in 15 years, I will be happy if I have instilled a sense of the sacred in our parishes and schools.

Read more: <http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/bishop-michael-barber-a-career-classroom-teacher/#ixzz36pdsz2kS>

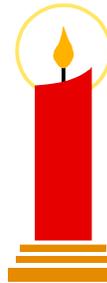
In Christ Jesus and St. Augustine,
Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Registration continues for the Religious Education program, grades K-8. Classes begin **October 5th**. Don't delay! Get your forms in today to guarantee your place! Forms are available online at www.olgcv.org under Faith Formation, as well as the Faith Formation Center and Parish office. Contact Robyn or James for more information, 582-9266 or ffc@olgcv.org.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

There will be a Safe Environment Training meeting on Tuesday, **July 22nd** at 6:30pm in Stack Center. Anyone who will be working with ministries in the Parish (i.e. Religious Education, Confirmation, VBS, school volunteer, any parish ministry) and **who has NOT attended a meeting OR done online training between July 1st 2013 and today must attend the training.** If you have done training since July 2013, you are covered until **June 30th, 2016**. If you will be working VBS this year, you must be current. Please check with the Faith Formation Center if you are not sure, Please call Robyn Lang in the Faith Formation Center with any questions, 582-9266.



COMING SOON TO OUR LADY OF GRACE DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

On the weekend of **August 2nd-3rd** a beautiful new candle stand and devotional candles will be blessed. The stand will be placed at the Somerset end of the church under the seventh station of the cross.

The stand will consist of glass globes with renewable plastic inserts. The glass globes stay in the candle stand and we just replace the "light" inside. The candles will burn for 5 days. The cost per candle will be \$3.00 and can be purchased in the Parish office or after mass in the narthex the first Sunday of the month.

Candles are symbols used to represent something other than themselves. The Paschal Candle represents the Risen Christ; candles on the altar during Mass remind us that Jesus Christ is the "Light of the World" and the sanctuary lamp indicates that the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is present in the tabernacle.

We light other candles called votive (devotional) lights to represent our prayers. While the person who lights the candle may not be able to be physically present in the church, the candle acts as a stand-in - its burning flame symbolizing the ongoing prayer intention of the one who lit it.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Fr. Greg is still in need of 5-7 people to help with the upcoming Diocesan Capital Campaign. You do not have to have any financial background, nor will you be expected to visit people and ask for money. Primarily you will be needed to help set-up and host events for potential contributors to the campaign. This ad hoc committee will complete its work by the start of Lent 2015.

Please contact Colleen Lindberg for more information and to volunteer, 537-0806. Thank you!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Did you miss your opportunity with last year's RCIA group? Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Now is the time to think about becoming Catholic.

The RCIA process is open to adults who are not baptized, Christians validly baptized in another Christian denomination, baptized Catholics who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist, and Confirmation and have had little or no faith formation. Through the RCIA Inquiry process you will discover the truth, beauty, and goodness awaiting you in the Catholic Church. Call the parish office for additional information.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Patricia Hierro continues a Bible Study on the 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians meeting every other Monday, at 7:00pm in the Parish Office. The next meeting date is Monday, **July 28th**. It is not too late to join this group you can join at anytime. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.

**FESTIVAL 2014
SEPTEMBER 27th--28th
WILD WILD WEST**

Mark your calendars now and plan to enjoy another great OLG Festival. This long standing tradition continues with the Grand Raffle, Pancake Breakfast, great game and food booths, enjoyable local entertainment as well as some new twists and surprised this year that you won't want to miss!!

Watch this space for information on donations to Book Nook, Jewelry Booth, and Kidz Zone.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of July 13th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 7,384.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,598.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,520.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$217,502.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$226,520.00
July Budgeted Expenses	\$ 52,000.00

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Frances Arzino | Vernon Rodrigues |
| Connie Deitrick | Joan Scarlett |
| Kathleen Denning | Florence Sharp |
| Estela Enriquez | Pat Silva |
| Mary Franks | Carolynne Steen |
| Raymond Lowe | Nancy Swinyer |
| Guy Marchetti | James Van Wert |

As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:

- DAVID SANCHEZ MICHAEL SANCHEZ**

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

SHIRLEY AMBRO

**Gospel for The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 27th Matthew 13:44-46**

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."



**ANNUAL FESCO
SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

As you know, every summer FESCO, the family shelter that our parish supports, sponsors a backpack drive. This drive supplies the families it serves with school supplies they will need for the upcoming academic year. We are hoping that you will consider participating in this event.

In the past we have asked for donations of various individual items for the backpacks, such as rulers, notebooks, pens, etc., and we have filled the backpacks (that were also donated) with these items. But the problem with this approach has been that we usually get too many of some items and not enough of others.

So this year, we are trying something new! We are asking you to "adopt" a student. An organization has generously agreed to donate backpacks, so you would just be providing the supplies for the backpack. For the student you "adopt," we will provide you with a specific list of grade-appropriate supplies and a paper bag in which to put the supplies. After all the supply bags are turned in, we will transfer the supplies to the donated backpacks. We estimate that all of the needed supplies for one backpack (at "Back to School" discounts) will cost \$30 - \$40, so several people might want to go in together to fill one student's backpack (e.g., a prayer group, extended family, etc.)

If you are interested, you can pick up a paper bag with the attached list of supplies at the entrances of the church after Mass this weekend or **July 26th - 27th** or in the Parish office after **July 20th**.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 20th:

*Coffee and Donuts
After all Masses*

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am Mass

Monday, July 21st:

VBS Set-up Week

Tuesday, July 22nd:

Safe Environment Training:
6:30pm--Stack Center

Thursday, July 24th:

Serenity Group
8:15pm— Stack Center

Sunday, July 27th:

*Coffee and Donuts
After all Masses*

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am Mass

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for a way to get involved? In high school or college? Look no further--opportunities abound at Our Lady of Grace! Call 582-9266.

- ⇒ Youth Group is looking for Peer Ministers. If you are interested in any or all of the following, let us know!
 - Planning the gatherings and events
 - Leading large or small group process
 - Hospitality: set-up, clean-up, welcome
- ⇒ If you have already received Confirmation and would like to be a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, let us know! Training available. Put your gifts to use!
- ⇒ VBS is coming! High school student are needed as counselors for small groups of students at VBS **July 28th--August 1st**. Set-up volunteers are needed for **July 21st--27th**.

Please contact the Faith Formation Center (582-9266, ffc@olgc.org) if you can help!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note: During the summer, our 8:30am Monday Mass will be celebrated with the other weekday masses in the Chapel.

MONDAY, JULY 21st (CHAPEL)

*St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest,
doctor of the Church*
8:30am Angelito Mendoza (D)

TUESDAY, JULY 22nd

St. Mary Magdalene
7:00am Jose Daniel Tellez (D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd

St. Bridget of Sweden, religious
7:00am Modesta Lachica (D)

THURSDAY, JULY 24th

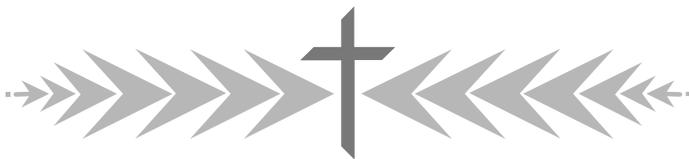
St. Sharbel Makhlaf, priest
7:00am Helen Maes (D)

FRIDAY, JULY 25th

ST. JAMES, APOSTLE
7:00am Michael Sullivan (D)

SATURDAY, JULY 26th

*St. Joachim and Anne,
parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
8:30am Vincenzo & Angela Latora (D)



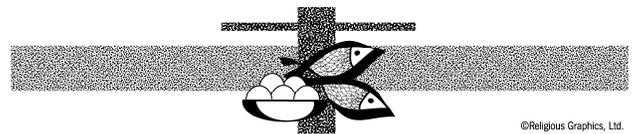
**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS
REGISTRATION**

All students in grades 9--12 are invited to be part of the Youth Ministry program at Our Lady of Grace. The registration form is available in the Faith Formation Center, Parish office and online at www.olgcv.org. All students interested in being confirmed must be part of and participate in Youth Ministry. Contact the Faith Formation Center for more information, 510-582-9266, ffc@olgcv.org

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

July 21st through July 27th

- Monday: Micah 6:1-4,6-8; Matthew 12:38-42
- Tuesday: Micah 7:14-15,18-20;
John 20:1-2, 11-18
- Wednesday: Jeremiah 1:1,4-10; Matthew 13:1-9
- Thursday: Jeremiah 2:1-3,7-8,12-13;
Matthew 13:10-17
- Friday: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28
- Saturday: Jeremiah 7:1-11; Matthew 13:24-30
- Sunday: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Romans 8:28-30;
Matthew 13:44-52



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**JOB OPPORTUNITY
Controller – Chancery Office**

The Diocese of Oakland is in search of a Controller. The Controller is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating the financial accounting and reporting activities of diocesan Central Services Administration and several diocesan entities. These activities include budgeting, cost and financial analysis, external and internal auditing, and governmental reporting.

Candidate should have familiarity with and commitment to Catholic teachings and principles. Excellent technical skills in finance and accounting, strong experience with information technology as a management tool, and demonstrated ability to work in a large, complex, and multi-entity organization and laterally across functions. Minimum 10 years finance and accounting managerial/supervisory experience. CPA preferred.

This position is full-time and includes health benefits. Open until filled. Please submit application, resume and letter of intent to:

Department of Human Resources
Attn: Gloria Espinoza
gespinoza@oakdiocese.org

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION