

Cardinal Robert Sarah:  
'We must return to the  
Eucharist' Page 1 -2

Vatican: Museum: Beauty  
that Unites! 65 Page 2

Vatican: Seal of Confession  
always Page 3

#### Diocesan News

1. Watch Fatima Movie
2. Forming Today's  
Young Adults
3. Sister Claire Crock-  
ett: Alone with...
4. Galveston-Houston  
Archdiocese Formal-  
izes disaster...

#### Noticias en Connección

1. Una Misa "Virtual"  
no equivale...Pg 6.
2. Heridas que Dan  
Vida Pg 6
3. La Juventud Hispana  
se reúne... Pg 7
4. Taller Virtual del V  
Encuentro Pg 7

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tion about Our  
Catholic Church**

# CATHOLIC CONNECTION

ISSUE 11

JACKSONVILLE

## Cardinal Robert Sarah: 'We must return to the Eucharist'

CNA Staff, Sep 12, 2020 / 11:35 am (CNA).- In a letter to the leaders of the world's episcopal conferences, the head of the Vatican's office for worship and sacraments said that Catholic communities should return to Mass as soon as it can be done safely, and that the Christian life cannot be sustained without the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Christian community of the Church.

The letter, sent to bishops this week, said that, while the Church should cooperate with civic authorities and be attentive to safety protocols amid the coronavirus pandemic, "liturgical norms are not matters on which civil authorities can legislate, but only the competent ecclesiastical authorities." It also emphasized that bishops can make provisional changes to liturgical rubrics in order to accommodate public health concerns, and urged obedience to those temporary changes.

"In listening to and collaborating with civil authorities and experts," bishops and episcopal conferences "were prompt to make difficult and painful decisions, even to the point of suspending the participation of the faithful in the celebration of the Eucharist for a long period. This Congregation is deeply grateful to the Bishops for their com-

mitment and effort in trying to respond in the best possible way to an unforeseen and complex situation," Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote in *Let us return to the Eucharist with joy*, dated Aug. 15 and approved by Pope Francis Sept. 3. "As soon as circumstances permit, however, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian

*sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love and hope."* (Emphasis Added)

"We cannot be without the banquet of the Eucharist, the table of the Lord to which we are invited as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to receive the Risen Christ himself, present in body, blood, soul and divinity



life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, as 'the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; and at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows' (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 10)."

***Sarah noted that "as soon as is possible... we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with Him, to receive Him and to bring Him to our brothers and***

in that Bread of Heaven which sustains us in the joys and labours of this earthly pilgrimage."

We "cannot be without the Christian community," Sarah added, "cannot be without the house of the Lord," "cannot be without the Lord's Day." "We cannot live as Christians without participating in the Sacrifice of the Cross in the which the Lord Jesus gave himself unreservedly to save, by his death, humanity which had died because of sin...in the embrace of the Crucified One all human suffering finds light and comfort."

*The cardinal explained that while streamed or televised Masses “have performed a great service... at a time when there was no possibility of community celebration, no broadcast is comparable to personal communication or can replace it. On the contrary, these broadcasts alone risk distancing us from a personal and intimate encounter with the incarnate God who gave himself to us not in a virtual way,” but in the Eucharist.*

*“One the concrete measures that can be taken to reduce the spread of the virus to a minimum have been identified and adopted, it is necessary that all resume their place in the assembly of brothers and sisters...and*

*encourage again those brothers and sisters who have been discouraged, frightened, absent, or uninvolved for too long.” (Emphasis Added)*

Sarah’s letter made some concrete suggestions for the resumption of Mass amid the coronavirus pandemic, which is expected to continue to spread in the United States in the fall and winter months, with some models predicting a doubling of the death count by the end of 2020.

“In times of difficulty (e.g. wars, pandemics), Bishops and Episcopal Conferences can give provisional norms which must be obeyed. Obedience safeguards the treasure entrusted to the Church. These measures given by the Bishops and Episcopal Conferences expire when

the situation returns to normal.”  
*“A sure principle in order not to err is obedience. Obedience to the norms of the Church, obedience to the Bishops,” Sarah wrote. (Emphasis Added)*

The cardinal urged Catholics to “cherish the human person as a whole.” The Church, he wrote, “bears witness to hope, invites us to trust in God, recalls that earthly existence is important, but much more important is eternal life: sharing the same life with God for eternity is our goal, our vocation. This is the faith of the Church, witnessed over the centuries by hosts of martyrs and saints.”

## Vatican Museum: Beauty that Unites! 65

Beauty creates communion.

It unites onlookers from a distance, uniting past, present and future.

Pope Francis has recalled this on a number of occasions. The Church has always translated the universality of the Good News into the language of art.

From this premise, this dramatic moment in history characterized by uncertainty and isolation, gives rise to this initiative which is a partnership between the Vatican Museum and Vatican News: Masterpieces from the Vatican Collection accompanied by comments from the words of the Popes.

**Fra Giovanni da Fiesole known as Fra Angelico (1395-1455), Capture and Stoning of Saint Stephen, lunette of the upper portion of the Stories of Saint Stephen and Saint Lawrence, fresco, 1448-1449, Vati-**



**can Apostolic Palace, Niccoline Chapel (Pope Nicholas V 1447-1455. © Musei Vaticani**

A believer “suffers for righteousness’ sake” when,  
 in exchange for his fidelity to God, he experiences humiliations, maltreatment,  
 derision from his own, and misunderstanding  
 even from the persons dearest to him.

When he exposes himself to opposition, he risks unpopularity or other unpleasant consequences.

Yet he is always ready for any sacrifice, since  
 “we must obey God rather than men”.

# Vatican: Seal of Confession always

In a note published on Monday, the Vatican reaffirms the inviolability of the Seal of Confession, *saying any political or legislative attempts to force priests to reveal what is said in the confessional is a violation of religious freedom.*

**By Devin Watkins**

The Apostolic Penitentiary released the “Note on the importance of the internal forum and the inviolability of the Sacramental Seal” on Monday.

Approved for publication by Pope Francis on 21 June, the upholds the absolute inviolability of the Seal of Confession, meaning that priests can never be forced to reveal what they learn in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“The inviolable secrecy of Confession derives directly from revealed divine law and is rooted in the very nature of the sacrament, to the point of admitting no exception in the ecclesial or, even less so, in the civil sphere. In the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in fact, the very essence of Christianity itself and of the Church is encapsulated: the Son of God became man to save us, and He decided to involve the Church, as a “necessary instrument” in this work of salvation, and, in her, those whom He has chosen, called, and constituted as His ministers,” the Note reads.

## Violation of religious freedom

Any political or legislative pressure to override this sacramental seal, it continues, would be “an unacceptable offense” against the Church’s freedom, which comes



from God and not human institutions, and would be “a violation of religious freedom”. “Violation of the Seal would equal a violation of the poor person that is within the sinner.”

Priests, the Note reads, should therefore defend the Seal of Confession even to the point of shedding blood, both as an act of loyalty to the penitent and as a witness – *martyrium* – to the unique and universal salvation of Christ and the Church.

## Media frenzy

Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, who signed the Note with Msgr. Krzysztof Nykiel, the Regent, released a statement to explain the Note’s content.

He said the Note comes in response to the media-centric nature of modern society, which he said is more interested in getting the story out than verifying the

facts. “Everything today is in view; everything must be known,” he said. Pope Francis, he noted, recently said, “The internal forum is an internal forum, and it cannot go ‘outside’.... It is a sin against the dignity of the

person who trusts the priest, and who expresses his or own situation to ask for forgiveness”.

## ‘Negative prejudice’

The Note also contests a “worrying ‘negative prejudice’ against the Catholic Church in society.

In an interview with Vatican Radio, Cardinal Piacenza said there is “an unjustifiable pretense that the Church should, in some manner, conform her juridical system to the civil laws of States where she operates... We must work with [the State], in everything that is not the sacramental forum.”

The goal in releasing the note, said Cardinal Piacenza, is “to instill greater trust, especially in these times, in penitents who come to confess themselves... and ultimately to advance the cause of the sacrifice of Christ who came to take away the sins of the world.”

In a related story, Queensland Australia passed a law requiring priests to break the seal of confession. If a priest violated the “Seal of Confession”, he could be sentenced to prison for up to 3 years. To read the whole article go to: <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2020/09/08/queensland-passes-law-requiring-priests-to-break-seal/>



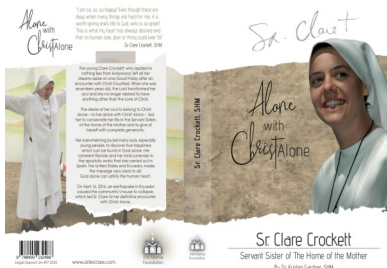
# DIOCESAN NEWS CONNECTION

## **Sister Clare Crockett: Alone with Christ Alone**

This past September 8, the feast of Our Blessed Mother's Nativity, was the tenth anniversary of Sr. Clare Crockett's perpetual vows, "her wedding," as she said with so much joy. On the occasion of this event, EUK Mamie Foundation has published the **first biography about her life, entitled: *Sister Clare Crockett: Alone with Christ Alone***, written by Sister Kristen Gardner, SHM, who was also responsible for the production of the documentary *All or Nothing: Sister Clare Crockett*. The book was released today, September 14, Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Sister Clare Crockett: *Alone with Christ Alone* is on sale on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk). The digital version on Amazon Kindle will also soon be available.

This Wednesday we will be broadcasting online an official presentation



of the book *Sister Clare Crockett: Alone with Christ Alone*. The presentation will be hosted by Sr. Grace Silao, SHM, and Sr. Kelly Pezo, SHM, well known for their testimonies in the documentary *All or Nothing: Sister Clare Crockett*.

Sr. Kristen Gardner SHM, the book's author, will also be present to respond to the questions that the spectators can make on the YouTube Chat. The broadcast can be followed live here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VByHhVpia5E>



## **Watch the Fatima Movie in Theaters & at Home**

Andrea Bocelli is a world-renowned Catholic Italian opera singer, songwriter, and producer, and his music is featured in the new movie, "Fatima", which was released in theaters and on-demand last weekend.

It shares the true story of three courageous Portuguese children who were visited by apparitions of the Virgin Mary at the height of World War I.

Bocelli, who has been blind since the age of 14, recorded two original songs for the film.

## **Forming Today's Young Adults to be Tomorrow's Church Leaders**

While many young adults strive to climb the corporate ladder after college, some seek to continue their spiritual formation and serve the community, which is exactly why three new Echo apprentices have come to the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Echo is a two-year program through Notre Dame University that places students at parishes in partner dioceses where they serve the community while also earning a Masters in Theology.

This year, the diocese gained three new Echo Apprentices: Kayla Garza, George Doyle and Adriana Rivera. Last Friday, Father Briggs Hurley of St. Joseph Parish treated the apprentices to a private Mass at the Rustic Altar on the mission grounds of Our Lady of Leche National Shrine, followed by a tour of the historic district of the city of St. Augustine.



# Galveston-Houston Archdiocese formalizes Disaster Spiritual Care ministry

HOUSTON (CNS) — When people see their homes destroyed by flood or other disaster that forces them into a shelter, they need someone to listen to them, said priests and deacons who serve on a newly formalized ministry recently approved by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston. The archdiocesan Disaster Spiritual Care ministry so far has 18 priests and 34 deacons who have agreed to be assigned as needed to emergency shelters working in coordination with Red Cross and social services during hurricanes and other disasters, said Father Lucien “Luke” Millette.

First put into action informally in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, Father Millette said he asked permission then to temporarily take leave of his office as vicar of the tribunal, which deals with annulments among other legal matters, so he could help in the shelters.

That request was approved ...to help the thousands who had been displaced.

“Established by the cardinal, this pastoral care group will respond to any type of large-scale disaster that cannot be handled by a single parish. In addition to the usual training received by all pastoral ministers, our group will also receive additional training from the American Red Cross and the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation,” Father Millette said.

“When assisting others in the community outside our own faith, this ministry is not to be used for proselytizing, but as a way to provide psychological first aid by actively listening to them in their time of need,” he said.



In establishing rapport and relationships with people in shelters, Father Millette said their role is not to make assumptions on what is needed, but instead focus on what is in the hearts of those to whom they are ministering.

“One man, who had been in a shelter for a month and a half, said his main concern was having access to ice and cold water. That made him feel human and normal. So each day on my way to the shelter, I would stop and get him a big cup of ice. Something that small can give people the strength to carry on,” the priest told the Texas Catholic Herald, the archdiocesan newspaper...

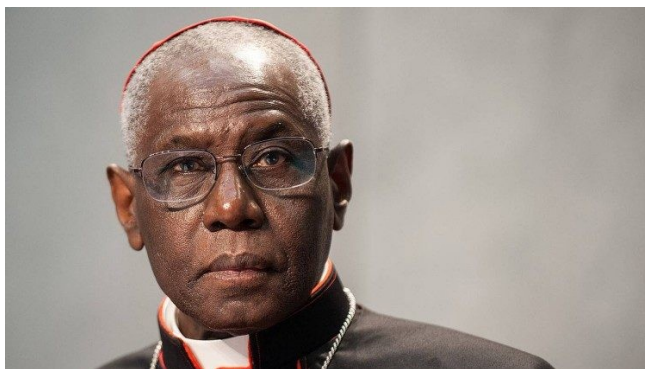
Deacon Phillip Jackson, director of the archdiocese’s diaconate formation program, said deacons also were called upon to be part of the Disaster Spiritual Care ministry.

“It is a part of our charitable service to help those in need. We do not want to infringe upon the duties of the Red Cross, but we are there to be a presence where we are dispatched in the shelters,” Deacon Jackson said...

“Many of the questions that those in shelters have, we may not be able to directly answer. They always want to know when they can go home or how can they have access to their medication. We can find out answers to those questions for them, but our main role is to listen and provide pastoral care,” said Deacon Jackson.

# CONEXION CATOLICA

## Una Misa "virtual" no equivale a la participación personal en la iglesia



Es urgente volver a la normalidad de la vida cristiana con la presencia física en la misa, donde las circunstancias lo permitan: ninguna transmisión es equiparable a la participación personal o puede reemplazarla. Es cuanto afirma el Cardenal Robert Sarah, Prefecto de la Congregación para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos, en una Carta sobre la celebración de la liturgia durante y después de la pandemia de Covid-19, titulada "¡Volvamos con alegría a la Eucaristía!". El texto, dirigido a los presidentes de las Conferencias Episcopales de la Iglesia Católica, fue aprobado por el Papa Francisco el pasado 3 de septiembre.

### ***Dimensión comunitaria de la vida cristiana***

La pandemia debida al nuevo coronavirus – escribe el Cardenal Sarah – ha producido "trastornos" no sólo en las dinámicas sociales y familiares, "sino también en la vida de la comunidad cristiana, incluida la dimensión litúrgica".

El Purpurado recuerda que "la dimensión comunitaria tiene un significado teológico: Dios es relación de Personas en la Santísima Trinidad" y "se pone en relación con el hombre y la mujer y los llama, a su vez, a la relación con Él". Así, "mientras que los paganos construían templos dedicados únicamente a la divinidad, a los que el pueblo no tenía acceso, los cristianos, en cuanto gozaron de libertad de culto, construyeron inmediatamente lugares donde los fieles podían reconocerse como una comunidad de Dios". Por esta razón "la casa del Señor presupone la presencia de la familia de los hijos de Dios".

### ***La urgencia de volver a la normalidad de la vida cristiana***

"Tan pronto como las circunstancias lo permitan, sin embargo – afirma el Cardenal Sarah – es necesario y urgente volver a la normalidad de la vida cristiana, que tiene como casa el edificio de la iglesia y la celebración de la liturgia, especialmente la Eucaristía, como 'la cumbre hacia la que tiende la acción de la Iglesia y al mismo tiempo la fuente de la que emana toda su fuerza'" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 10).

### ***Un principio seguro: la obediencia a los obispos***

En este punto el Cardenal da una indicación precisa: "Un principio seguro para no cometer errores es la obediencia. Obediencia a las normas de la Iglesia, obediencia a los obispos. En tiempos de dificultad (por ejemplo, pensemos en las guerras, en las pandemias) los Obispos y las Conferencias Episcopales pueden dar reglamentos provisionales a los que hay que obedecer".

## Heridas que dan Vida: El ministerio católico que ayuda a hijos de padres divorciados

Redaccion ACI Prensa

Este 2020 en los Estados Unidos, nació formalmente como organización sin fines de lucro el ministerio católico "Life Giving Wound", (Heridas que dan Vida), una iniciativa que ofrece retiros de sanación, charlas y recursos para jóvenes y adultos cuyos padres se divorciaron o se separaron cuando eran niños.

El divorcio es un tema difícil de discutir con los niños, aunque se estima que un millón de ellos lo experimentan cada año. Hoy en día, se estima que una cuarta parte de los jóvenes adultos son hijos de divorciados, y muchos de ellos sienten que cuando eran jóvenes no pudieron abordar el dolor de la experiencia.

Las separaciones a menudo causan profundas heridas emocionales, espirituales y psicológicas que pueden durar hasta la edad adulta y que rara vez se abordan formalmente.

Es por ello que Daniel Meola, Ph.D., y su esposa Bethany, quienes sufrieron las heridas de la separación de sus padres, fundaron "Life Giving Wounds" con la finalidad "dar voz a su dolor y encontrar una sanación espiritual profunda".

El nombre del ministerio se toma de 1 Pedro 2:24, "este hermoso pasaje que dice, 'por sus heridas, eres sanado'. Es Cristo enseñándonos la espiritualidad del sufrimiento redentor y ayudando a las personas a vivir eso", dijo Daniel. Esa curación se produce de varias formas, indicaron Daniel y Bethany. El primer objetivo de los retiros es "dar voz al dolor", hacerles saber a los participantes que sus heridas como resultado del divorcio son válidas y darles un lugar para lamentar lo perdido.



# La Juventud Hispana se reúne para el día de reflexión

Savanna Kearney (Diócesis de San Agustín)

Introspección, comunicación, crecimiento personal. Todos estos y más fueron temas importantes en el retiro de jóvenes del Día de Reflexión del fin de semana pasado en Camp St. Johns. Diecinueve adolescentes hispanos dedicaron su sábado a “experimentar a Cristo”. El retiro de un día se basó en el retiro hispano “Experiencia Cristo” que ofrece el Ministerio de Jóvenes y Adultos Jóvenes de la diócesis tres veces al año.

La jornada se dividió en tres partes: un encuentro con uno mismo, un encuentro con Jesús y un compromiso con Jesús y con los demás. Los jóvenes adultos de las parroquias de la diócesis dirigieron el retiro, junto con Norma García, coordinadora diocesana del ministerio multicultural para jóvenes y adultos jóvenes, el padre Manuel Puga de la parroquia Christ the King en Jacksonville y la hermana misionera Isabel Fejervary de la Compañía del Salvador.

Entre confesiones, juegos y grupos pequeños, los líderes voluntarios dieron varias charlas que exploraron temas como la importancia de la autorreflexión, cómo comunicarse abiertamente con los demás, cómo conectarse con Jesús a través de la veneración a María y cómo discernir el llamado de Dios a su reino.

La hermana Isabel compartió una reflexión basada en testimonios llamada, “¿Todo esto, para mí?” enseñar a los jóvenes cómo Dios nos da total libertad para amarlo sin pedir nada a cambio. Todo lo que pide es que seamos fieles a él.



La charla del padre Puga se centró en la iglesia durante la pandemia actual, reflexionando sobre cómo la iglesia no es un lugar, sino una comunidad.

“Como iglesia, estamos llamados a servirnos unos a otros y celebrar como pueblo de Dios que trae a la sociedad un mensaje de amor”, dijo.

La reflexión final estuvo a cargo de Norma García, que se centró en ser discípula misionera hoy. Enfatizó que ser católico en la sociedad actual es un trabajo de 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana. Luego, los adolescentes reflexionaron sobre el pasaje del Camino de Emaús, seguido de una fructífera discusión comparando la historia con nuestra sociedad actual.

“Estamos llamados a cumplir nuestro llamado bautismal de profetas, reyes y sacerdotes. Necesitamos dar pasos concretos, como hicieron los apóstoles para construir el reino de Dios”, dijo García. “Estamos llamados a salir y vivir y sembrar el amor de Dios entre todos los hombres y mujeres. Estamos llamados a comprometernos con Jesús en la creación de una sociedad mejor, una sociedad de amor y hermandad entre todos los hombres. Cada participante está llamado a comprometerse con Jesús y Su Reino”

## “Taller Virtual del V Encuentro

9 de octubre, 2020, 7-10 p.m. ET  
en formato Virtual

10 de octubre, 2020, 1-8 p.m. ET  
en formato Virtual

El panorama pastoral de la Iglesia y la sociedad han experimentado cambios sísmicos este año, en medio del continuo desarrollo de las crisis de la pandemia, el llamado a la justicia racial, la economía y el impacto continuo del cambio climático global. Nuestro pueblo esta buscando formas de responder a estos grandes desafíos con recursos limitados en un espíritu de sinodalidad. El equipo nacional provee este evento virtual para la diócesis que participaron en el proceso del V Encuentro y pueden participar en formato virtual o híbrido.

## Propósito

El propósito de este evento nacional es completar el 6to hito del proceso del V Encuentro:

- Visualizar el futuro de la pastoral hispana/latina

- Ayudar a las diócesis y organizaciones a identificar, crear o afinar sus respuestas pastorales a nivel local

- Celebrar los frutos del V Encuentro y nuestra fe católica.

- Ser enviados una vez más como discípulos misioneros alegres.

## Costo

Gratis para los participantes de la Diócesis de San Agustín.

Para obtener mas información, comunicarse con Alba Orozco al (904) 854 0669 o Norma García al (904) 262 3200, ext.108