The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked for a day of fasting and prayer to overcome racism. Story on page three and prayer on page eight.

It was the annual “Barge Day” on the island of Molokai, Hawaii recently, when needed supplies and “treasures” were delivered to the islanders. See Father Killilea’s column on page 10.

Three Holy Cross Fathers with ties to the Diocese of Fall River recently marked 50 years of priesthood with the Congregation of Holy Cross. Story on page two.

Students at St. Mary’s School in Mansfield returned to school this year wearing masks and social distancing. Schools across the diocese returned following state and school guidelines for safety.

Thank you to all

FALL RIVER — Conducted during an unprecedented time, the 79th Annual Catholic Appeal, “See All the People,” has come to a close. During this year’s Appeal the Diocese of Fall River navigated numerous challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. In a testament to the strong support by the diocesan faithful, more than $3.5 million in gifts and pledges were raised to sustain the Appeal’s longstanding mission of serving those in greatest need.

This year, 16,000 donors stepped forward with a gift or pledge to the annual Appeal. While fewer than the number of donors to last year’s Appeal, the average gift amount increased by 10 percent, an indication that many who were able to contribute did so at a higher level than they had in the past. Efforts made to encourage online giving this year were very

Students eager, teachers primed, schools ready for safe return

FALL RIVER — On Friday, March 13, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker ordered the closure of all Massachusetts schools due to the newness and uncertainty of the Coronavirus. On Monday, March 16, 2020, all Catholic schools within the Diocese of Fall River were online with a robust remote learning platform, due to the technology installed years ago intended for extensive snow days. While students continued to connect with their teachers and classmates, it soon became apparent that the end of the 2019-20 school year would close “virtually” and students would be unable to gather as a class or school.

Fast forward through the summer of the “back to school debate”

The 79th Annual Catholic Appeal raises more than $3.5 million

16,000 donors step forward, many online, in support of the Diocese of Fall River

Turn to page seven

Turn to page 16
EASTON — The Congregation of Holy Cross has a long, rich, and vibrant presence in the history of the Catholic Church across the world, eventually making its way into the Diocese of Fall River at Stonehill College and Holy Cross Family Ministries in Easton, and parishes across the diocese.

Two hundred years later, the C.S.C. presence is still going strong in the diocese, and this year three men, ordained as Holy Cross Fathers within the Diocese of Fall River, are celebrating 50 years of service to God and His people.

In June of 1970, Bishop James Gerrard, auxiliary bishop of the diocese, ordained Fall River native Father Leo Polselli at Holy Rosary Church in Fall River, and Fathers Bill Kelley and Robert Baker at the Holy Cross Seminary in Easton. Father Kelley is also a Massachusetts native, born in Lowell.

A formal celebration for a number of Holy Cross Father, Brothers and Sisters celebrating significant anniversaries was scheduled for May 22 at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., but the Coronavirus pandemic put a halt to those plans.

Local communities were asked to celebrate the anniversaries in their respective religious communities.

Fathers Polselli and Kelley have been ministering in the Fall River Diocese for the last 20 years and Father Baker is currently serving in Peru.

One of nine children, Father Polselli was born to Gaetano and Mary Polselli. He attended local public schools and went to Stonehill College. After graduation he entered the Peace Corps and was assigned to Valdivia, Chile.

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During his homily, Father Polselli said, “the five young religious were like books positioned between two bookends, two of us with pages already written and five with pages yet to be written.”

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After studies in Washington, D.C. and Notre Dame University, Father Polselli was accepted in the congregation in 1965.

After ordination, he taught in Connecticut and became pastor of a parish in Saco, Maine.

In 1986 he was elected to the General Administration of the Congregation, where he served until 1992.

He later worked at Family Rosary in Albany, N.Y. and became a pastor in Bennington, Vt.

For the last 20 years, Father Polselli has been with Family Rosary at HCFM in Easton. He is the chaplain of the newly-created Museum of Prayer at HCFM.

“In my religious congregation we speak of ourselves as ‘educators in the faith,’” Father Polselli told The Anchor. “During the past 50 years the faith of people I either lived
WASHINGTON — August 28 marked the 57th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, D.C., where Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech.

In this historic address, he proclaimed that when the builders of our nation wrote the words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, "they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism offered a reflection on Dr. King’s iconic words on the anniversary:

“That promissory note must be satisfied. On this anniversary, in the midst of our country’s ongoing racial unrest, we restate our commitment to peacefully seeking racial justice. We stand in solidarity with Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki of Milwaukee, which serves the City of Kenosha, who earlier this week said, ‘Violence can never be the means to attain peace and justice. The Church stands as a beacon of hope. The sins of violence, injustice, racism, and hatred must be purified from our communities with acts of mercy, with the protection and care for the dignity of every human person, with respect for the common good, and with an unwavering pursuit of equality and peace.’

“We reiterate the value of those whose human life and dignity in this country are marginalized through racism and our need to fight for them including the unborn. Considering the violence in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and in other cities across the nation, we urge all people of faith to observe the Feast of St. Peter Claver on September 9 as a day of fasting and prayer. We urge Catholics to consider attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and offer your participation in reparation for sins of racism to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We invite the faithful to also consider praying the Rosary, the USCCB’s Prayer Service for Racial Healing, and for the intercession of the saints who have fought for racial equality such as St. Katharine Drexel and St. Peter Claver. We must continue to engage the battle against the current evils of our society and in the words of Dr. King, refuse to believe ‘that the bank of justice is bankrupt.’ Dr. King’s dream, as he himself said, is deeply rooted in the American Dream. Let us not forget the price that he and so many courageous witnesses of all faiths and creeds paid to bring us to this moment.”

**U.S. bishops call for day of prayer and fasting to combat racism**

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**Diocese of Fall River**

**OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Bishop of Fall River, has made the following appointments:

Reverend Thomas A. Frechette, part-time chaplain for diocesan cemeteries while remaining Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pocasset.

**Effective: July 30, 2020**

Reverend Christopher M. Peschel, from Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Westport to Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Westport.

Reverend Paul Bernier, Pastor in solidum (with Reverend Christopher M. Peschel) of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Westport, while remaining Pastor of Saint George Parish in Westport.

Reverend Christopher M. Peschel (Moderator), Pastor in solidum (with Reverend Paul Bernier) of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Westport, while remaining Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Westport.

**Effective: September 1, 2020**

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Bishop of Fall River, has accepted the request to retire of:

Reverend Leonard P. Hindsley, Pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Westport.

**Effective: September 1, 2020**

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**Senior Director is appointed for Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministries**

FALL RIVER — At the conclusion of its work last year, the Youth and Young Adult Commission that met as part of the Fall River Diocesan Rebuilding in Faith and Hope planning initiative presented a series of recommendations to Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V. Principal among these was a recommendation to bring together “evangelizing efforts in faith formation, youth ministry, young adult ministry, campus ministry, and family life ministry under one unifying umbrella.”

An integral part of that recommendation called for the creation of a senior-level position to oversee the implementation, development and effectiveness of this unified and comprehensive approach, and an extensive search process was launched earlier this year to find the right candidate for the post. Last month, Bishop da Cunha named a Fall River native who has worked the past several years in Catholic youth ministry and education in New Jersey and New York to serve in this critical role.

David G. Carvalho began as the new Senior Director, Youth, Young Adult, and Family Life Ministries for the Fall River Diocese on August 24.

In his position, he will lead the ongoing de-
Whether one stands on the Old Testament injunction against killing or the New Testament’s caution against anger, we are in deep trouble before God for the violence of words and weapons in our streets. Christ warns: “You have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment” (Mt 5:20-21).

Now granted, judgment is not condemnation per se, but it will be frightful indeed to stand before God and defend ourselves, for peace is scarce in our midst at present.

Remarkably, not everyone is calling for peace, for there is a form of blood-letting that some find cathartic — even just a spigot of nationwide scandals over the years, creating cascades on generations of impresarios of sin have been loosed, the fruits of which have allowed great evils to proliferate in our midst — far more damaging than what today’s protesters decry. The “Catechism” continues: “Anyone who uses the power at his disposal in such a way that it leads others to do wrong becomes guilty of scandal and responsible for the evil that he has directly or indirectly encouraged. ‘Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come!’” (CCC, 2287, quoting Christ in Luke 17:1).

Wry jokes abound concerning the dystopian challenges of 2020, which include a suffocating lock down, widespread riots, and a deeply divided electorate facing a terrifying economic free fall. Many might be longing for “life as usual,” but that’s a dangerous quest when considering all of the above. St. Augustine stated an indisputable fact, that peace is “the tranquility of order.” Such order was long missing by the time this year began, and will never be achieved if we continue without learning what God is trying to tell us in this crucible of chaos. “Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity” (CCC, 2304).

Fraternity is impossible without recognizing how the Father wills to bind us to one another. Moreover, that already fragile bond weakens when we ignore the channels of grace that make authentic communion possible, and is shattered when we reject God’s order within our communities.

Please God, let us learn to rebuild on the truth of Your law before the mill-stone crushes us completely!

The pastoral malpractice of Liturgical abuse

On August 6, presumably after celebrating Mass on the Feast of the Lord’s transfiguration, Father Matthew Hood’s life was changed far more than the Lord’s appearance on Mount Tabor. This priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit read a news story that the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith had declared that the formula, “We baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” rather than “I baptize you...” is invalid.

A few months earlier, his father had sent him a video of his and his twin brother’s 1990 Baptism, in which he noted that the deacon who had baptized him at St. Athanasius Parish in Troy, Mich., had used the “we.”

In the blink of an eye, Hood recognized that not only was he not a priest but not even a Christian. His own Baptism, first and subsequent Communions, every Confession he made, his Confirmation, his diaconal and priestly ordinations, were all invalid.

To make matters worse — and what troubled his pastoral heart more — was that all the Masses he had celebrated, the Confessions he had heard, the anointings he had done (including of his own grandmother on her deathbed), the Confirmations of adults he had received into the Church, and most of the weddings he had celebrated since his June 3, 2017 putative priestly ordination, were invalid, too.

This existence-shattering realization happened not because his parents had done anything wrong; they dutifully and faithfully brought their sons to the Church to be baptized soon after their birth. It happened not because he himself had done anything wrong — in fact, he had sought to follow the Lord with great abandon, saying a whole-hearted yes to what he discerned was a priestly vocation. It happened because a cleric changed a word in the formula of Baptism.

Whether the choice to use the formula “we baptize you” was a personal invention on behalf of the deacon involved, or the consequence of abysmal Sacramental formation in the diaconal training program and total lack of basic supervision in parish ministry, it was a cataclysmically consequential abuse.

And it wasn’t an isolated case. The Archdiocese of Detroit found out in 1999 that the deacon had been using the formula “we baptize you” since 1986, and instructed him to stop. At the time, the canonists and theologians the archdiocese consulted said that, because of a lack of formal declaration from the Church — and perhaps out of reluctance unnecessarily to upend the lives of 14 years of baptized children and their families if a stricter interpretation of validity were wrong — the obviously illicit Baptisms were nevertheless probably valid.

We also know that the deacon by no means was the only cleric to use an invalid formula. In the early 1990s, Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston had to have the Paulist Center near the Massachusetts State House contact years worth of invalidly baptized babies, because the priests at the chapel, thinking that the words “Father” and “Son” were misogynist, took it upon themselves to baptize “in the name of Creator, and the Sanctifier of the Redeemer.”

The Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2008 had to pronounce that such pseudo-sacramental formulae, as well as “in the name of the Creator, of the Liberator, and of the Sustainer,” were invalid.

The Congregation published its Aug. 6, 2020 Doctrinal Note because it became aware that clerics in some part of the world were using the formula, “In the name of the father and of the mother, of the godfather and of the godmother, of the grandparents, of the family members, of the friends, in the name of the community baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Such Liturgical abuses constitute pastoral malpractice of the worst possible kind, as what has happened in the life of Father Hood, his twin brother, all of the others baptized more than 14 years by the deacon, and all those who had gone to go to Father Hood for Mass, Confession, Marriage and anointing now make plain.

But the consequences of such Liturgical abuses could even be more serious. Imagine, for example, that Pope Francis had been invalidly baptized, making his diaconal, priestly and episcopal ordinations, not to mention his papal election and so many of his papal acts, invalid. Imagine, even worse, that Cardinal Scipione Rebiba (d. 1577), from whom Popes Francis, Benedict XVI, John Paul II and 91 percent of Catholic bishops today trace their apostolic lineage, had been invalidly baptized. It would render invalid almost every bishop today, and all of their priestly ordinations, and most of their own and their priests’ Sacramental acts — all because someone decided on his own to change a word in Sacramental formula. And there’s simply no way of knowing when a baby is baptized what that person will become or what the ripple effects will be of Liturgical infidelity.

What should be done to try to ensure that no one has to go through what Father Hood, his brother, and his parishioners have had to experience?

First, at the level of the ministers, there must be absolute fidelity to the Sacramental formule. Not to do so is the most abhorrent form of pastoral cruelty with massive Spiritual consequences.

Liturgical abuses regarding Sacramental form are unfortunately not uncommon. Several times a year, I’m approached by various faithful with legitimate doubts about the validity of the Mass they attended or absolution they received. About a month ago, a young religious asked me about a priest who celebrated Mass for her community, who, instead of saying, “This is the Chalice of my Blood,” substituted, “This is the Cup of my Love.” A laywoman told me that when she went to Confession, the priest simply said, “Go. Your sins are forgiven.” She had to beg him to say the essential of the formula of absolution, “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In one of the parishes I was assigned, I discovered in the parish registers 35 obviously invalid Marriages from the preceding decade.

Second, there must be much greater supervision, and zero tolerance, on the part of bishops for Liturgical misconduct. In some places in the Church, Liturgical abuses, small and big, are tolerated and widespread. There needs to be the equivalent of former police commissioner William Bratton’s “broken windows” approach to criminality, that if you want to eliminate violent crimes, begin by fixing broken windows, eliminating graffiti and vandalism, and other minor crimes.

To eliminate sacrilegious offenses on the part of clergy rendering Sacraments invalid, bishops should respond quickly, and never overlook, situations whenever they hear that clerics aren’t doing things by the book.

In Father Hood’s case, the Archdiocese of Detroit, led by Archbishop Allen Vigneron, responded quickly and appropriately, giving him — validly — the Sacraments of Initiation on August 9, Diaconal Ordination on August 15 and Priestly Ordination on August 17. They also created a website and have been working non-stop to identify those baptized by the deacon or who had received any invalid Sacraments by Father Hood to remedy those situations as quickly as possible.

But this whole Sacramental catastrophe could have been avoided had the one baptizing only done the exceedingly simple thing of faithfully using the valid words. The Church, out of sincere repentance, must resolve to do everything it can to prevent further such abuses — and innocent victims — in the future.

Anchor columnist Father Roger Landry can be contacted at fatherlandry@catholicpreaching.com.
In the ancient Proclamation of the Birth of Christ, which sometimes we hear at Midnight Mass at Christmas, after listing what that happened in respect to the creation of the world and various events in the Old Testament and in ancient world history, it says, “the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by His most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since His conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man.”

The peace to which the proclamation refers is the “Pax Romana,” which Caesar Augustus (previously known at Octavian) imposed upon the empire after his defeat of Marc Antony and Cleopatra. The proclamation makes explicit the connection to Augustus, mentioning in the line previous to the ones quoted above, “in the 42nd year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus.” This is the emperor whose decree required enrolled in the census.

Hearing this at Midnight Mass, often accompanied with a choral concert, makes the events of Our Lord’s birth seem like something out of an ancient version of Currier and Ives. However, the peace that Caesar Augustus imposed upon the conquered peoples of the greater Mediterranean region was hardly the peace that Christ represents.

What Genevieve Kineke wrote on page four of this Anchor, about how American society before the current strife was no paradise, since in a variety of ways we had already rejected the God-given dignity that each human being has, would also be true during the “Pax Romana.” Although the Roman Empire had an elaborate legal system, it did not fully respect the equal value of each human life under its rule.

The terms “Pax Americana” often brings to mind President John F. Kennedy, although its usage can be traced back to the 1800s, during the post-Civil War era. In a June 1963 graduation speech, JFK said, “I have, therefore, chosen this time and place to discuss a topic on which ignorance too often abounds and the truth too rarely perceived. And that is the most important topic on earth: peace. What kind of peace do I mean and what kind of a peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, and the kind that enables men and nations to grow, and to hope, and build a better life for their children— not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women, not merely peace in our time but peace in all time.”

The main thrust of President Kennedy’s speech was about working for peace between nations, especially between the West and the Communist Bloc, but he also took some time to look inwardly at our country. “Finally, my fellow Americans, let us examine our attitude towards peace and freedom here at home. The quality and spirit of our own society must justify and support our efforts abroad. We must show it in the dedication of our own lives — as many of you who are graduating today will have an opportunity to do, by serving without pay in the Peace Corps abroad or in the proposed National Service Corps here at home. But wherever we are, we must all, in our daily lives, live up to the age-old faith that peace and freedom walk together. In too many of our cities today, the peace is not secure because freedom is incomplete. It is the responsibility of the executive branch at all levels of government — local, state, and national — to provide and protect that freedom for all of our citizens by all means within our authority. It is the responsibility of the legislative branch at all levels, wherever the authority is not now adequate, to make it adequate. And it is the responsibility of all citizens in all sections of this country to respect the rights of others and respect the law of the land.”

Since the time of that address, in some ways local, state and the federal government have responded to what the late president requested, but in many other ways they have not (as Genevieve Kineke noted).

We know that our country is not at peace (and we must not forget about our many our servicemen and women are still engaged in wars in several countries around the globe). This coming Wednesday we have been invited to engage in a day of prayer and fasting, begging Our Lord to help us end racism and to respect human dignity (see page three). Bishop Shelton J. Fabre urges us to take up the “weapon” of the Rosary, not against any human being, but against the devil, who rejoices in our sins, which lead to strife and bloodshed. The Rosary caused the Berlin Wall to fall, it can lead us to let fall the walls in our hearts of stone (cf. Ez 36:26).

For Christ’s peace to reign, for our land to truly be what God wants it to be, we must each repent of our sinfulness, beg the Lord’s mercy, and recognize His presence in each brother and sister and love Him in them. This is the Pax Christiana which He desires.
Diocesan students, teachers, schools ready for safe return

continued from page one

where education was the hot topic — much debated, well opinionated, and complete with scientific quotes from both sides of the debate. While public school districts throughout the Commonwealth and New England announced plans for full remote or hybrid openings in late to mid-September, the majority of the Diocese of Fall River Catholic elementary schools continued to work feverishly in preparing their schools for full in-person learning at the end of August. More than $250,000 worth of PPE was ordered and distributed to all Catholic schools in the diocese for use during the first 12 weeks of school and every school submitted three plans to the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) for review and discussion. Finally, leaders at the CSO conducted an on-site visit to each school during the final two weeks of August.

Tuesday, August 25 saw the first school opening since the state shutdown all schools six months earlier. St. Mary School in Mansfield opened its doors to more than 200 students and welcomed them back with open arms — and masks, hand sanitizer, socially-distanced classrooms, and appropriately marked hallways. Students from Pre-Kindergarten to grade eight returned to a classroom setting eager to learn and experience some sense of “normalcy.”

According to Matthew Bourque, principal of St. Mary School, “We had a great first day back to school this year — our students were well-prepared, cooperative, and did an amazing job getting adjusted to being back at St. Mary’s. Thank you to the teachers and staff for their incredible work to get this year up and running and to the parents for their unbelievable support!”

St. John the Evangelist School in Attleboro included wearing masks and touch-less hand-sanitizing stations about the campus.

The first day of school for students at St. John the Evangelist School in Attleboro included wearing masks and touch-less hand-sanitizing stations about the campus.

The majority of Catholic elementary schools will have opened on August 31 or September 1. Three of the four Catholic high schools have planned for a hybrid model while St. John Paul II in Hyannis opened on September 1 for a full in person return to school. Details on all of the school openings can be found on the respective school websites.

Students at St. Mary School in Mansfield were undaunted by having to wear masks and social distance for the new school year.

Similar to St. Mary School, classrooms were positioned with socially-distanced desks, touch-less hand sanitizers located throughout the school, and every student arrived with masks and uniform, ready to learn. The excitement was palpable and students and teachers alike expressed relief to have a successful first day of school.

“With all of the intense preparations during the summer, we are so happy to finally realize that our plans were executed smoothly and without incident,” indicated Kellie Kickham, principal of St. John the Evangelist School.

“The students are up to the task of modifying their behavior to ensure the safety of all. But mostly, we all just want to be back doing what we love — teaching, learning, and praying with this great community.”

Each school’s plan includes the following components that, taken together, will substantially reduce the risk of transmission. In other words, establishing a culture of health and safety in our schools that focuses on regularly enforcing these important practices is more important than any one measure.

- All school teachers, staff and students in grades two through 12 are required to wear masks. It is highly recommended that Pre-K, kindergarten and grade one students wear masks as well.
- Classrooms have been cleared of unnecessary furnishings to allow as much space possible for desks to be socially-distanced as close to six-feet apart as possible. All desks face the same direction.
- Hand-washing breaks will be incorporated into the daily routines, especially before and after lunch. Most students will have lunch at their desk.
- Hand-sanitizer stations are available in each classroom and throughout common areas.
- Schedules have been developed to minimize as much movement of students as possible. For the elementary schools, teachers will go to classrooms rather than students switching classes.
- Hallways and common areas are marked for social distancing.
- PPE is available at all schools to ensure the safety of nurses, teachers, staff and students.
- All schools have a nurse on site as well as a designated isolation room.
- Cleaning schedules have been increased to multiple times throughout the day, in addition to evening cleanings.

The majority of Catholic elementary schools will have opened on August 31 or September 1. Three of the four Catholic high schools have planned for a hybrid model while St. John Paul II in Hyannis opened on September 1 for a full in person return to school. Details on all of the school openings can be found on the respective school websites.

September 4, 2020 ▲ the anchor ▲ 7
FALL RIVER — In a major effort to improve The Anchor’s subscription methods and renewal notifications, we have undergone a significant upgrade to our subscriber database. We will now allow all subscribers, new and existing, to pay online via credit card or PayPal as well as via traditional mail-in check. Renewal notices will be mailed shortly for those whose expiration dates have passed, we will continue subscriptions for a short time during this initial process.

To renew your subscription please visit www.fallriverdiocese.org/renew or to request a new subscription please visit www.fallriverdiocese.org/subscribe. The new address to mail in payments is The Anchor, P.O. Box 318, Congers, N.Y. 10920. To submit an address or name change please continue to email subscriptions@anchornews.org, or call 508-675-7151.

Due to increasing postal and handling costs, The Anchor is increasing the subscription amount from $25 per year to $29, with a two-year subscription adjusting from $46 to $52 effective on your next renewal date, and immediately for new subscriptions. Despite the increase, this still translates to slightly more than $1 per issue.

If you have any questions about the new subscription service or any other Anchor-related issues, please call 508-675-7151 or email davejolivet@anchornews.org.

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USCCB Prayer to Overcome Racism

open wide our hearts
P R AY E R

MARY, FRIEND AND MOTHER TO ALL, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us.

Amen.

www.usccb.org/racism

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In this week’s blog, I want to highlight some of the ideas parishes across our diocese implemented to stay connected with the faithful and help keep the faith and hope alive.

One of the first methods to be implemented was the online streaming of Masses — Sunday and, in some cases, daily. These Masses can be found on Facebook live, YouTube, and live-streamed from the parish website. It is encouraging to see parishes continuing to offer daily Mass, in addition to weekend Masses. For an updated list of churches offering online masses, visit the Fall River diocese website.

In addition to the regular Liturgies, when possible, parishes have been able to offer live-streams of First Communions, Confirmations, and even funerals. The challenges of providing Mass online can be monumental from figuring out Internet connections to the proper technology. Priests, staff, and parishioners have pooled their gifts and talents, persevered, and showed their dedication to bringing the Mass to those still uncomfortable or unable to attend for various reasons.

I applaud all of their efforts knowing first-hand the challenges, having learned myself how to share Mass from Facebook Live. The benefits, however, and the blessings are worth the effort when possible. After learning the basics for my initial Facebook Live broadcast, I was able to use Zoom to keep in touch and maintain diocesan business, as well as to pray the Rosary together during the shutdown of our offices.

The creativity has been impressive and encouraging; I am sure there are even more ways parishes have utilized technology during this time, which we’re not yet aware of. Our social media team has been keeping an eye out and trying to share on the Fall River Diocese Facebook and Instagram accounts the many things happening in parishes online. If you would like your events, homilies, or posts shared, please send them a message or tag the diocese on social media.

There has also been an increase online of Catholic retreats and conferences, book clubs, Bible studies, live recitation of the Rosary and Stations of the Cross — both locally and nationally. Some parishes have offered more social-type online gatherings with Zoom youth group meetings, Catholic trivia nights, virtual Vacation Bible School for children. Some of our church choirs have used social media or Zoom technology to host a virtual fundraising event earlier this summer, aptly named, the “Un-Gala.” Making that time-treasured event that has taken place on Cape Cod every year for more than 20 years a new experience for our supporters of scholarships for children in our Catholic schools. It was well organized and executed; I can attest personally to all the hard work and dedication that went into making that event happen.

Again, I want to acknowledge my gratitude to our diocesan schools’ administrators and staff, the Fall River Catholic School Alliance, the Catholic Foundation of Southern Massachusetts, FACE, and all our Priests, parish staff, and countless volunteers, for all of their continued hard work and dedication to the people and families of our diocese.

Staying connected and keeping the faith alive

Editor’s note: In order to keep readers informed of what the bishop is writing about in his blog, The Anchor will periodically run one or more weekly blogs from Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., that have appeared since our last publication date. To keep up with the Bishop’s Blog as they appear, visit fallriverdiocese.org and click on “Read the Bishop’s Blog.”

September 4, 2020

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Treasure in the hold

It appeared on the horizon at about 7:30 a.m. Then at 8 a.m. approximately, it had arrived in the inner harbor, and by 9 a.m. had settled in next to the pier at Damien’s Landing. Looking at it from my front porch brought to mind these lines from a Girl Scout camp fire song, “Barges, I would like to go with you, I would like to sail the ocean blue. Barges, have you treasures in your hold? Do you fight with pirates brave and bold?”

No, I was not in the Girl Scouts and for that matter I was not in the Boy Scouts. I was much too busy in my youth making hay and playing Gaelic football, sometimes under the summer moon. On this morning, many moons later, I was looking at a treasure ship of a kind, loaded with lots of treasures eagerly awaited by the residents of this isolated peninsula.

This was the annual barge day for Kalawao. The treasure trove had landed and there were no pirates to fight in sight.

Soon the frantic action began. I say frantic because the action looked like that of a beehive. The unloading began when the tankers rolled off the barge and onto the street across from our grocery store. The helmeted and masked crew men, on front-end loaders and fork lifts, went to work unloading the many treasures from the hold. Meantime, our settlement men workers, helmeted and masked, from both departments, relayed the various items of cargo away from the vicinity of the dock. The helmeted and masked women of the settlement went around with their clipboards issuing directives to the men. Isn’t that the way things usually work out??

As you can see, this year the work was done with extra caution because of the current COVID-19 situation and the fact that the barge crew came from outside of this settlement. We did not have our normal gathering of barge spectators here on the church lawn nor did we have the usual cooked lunch. However, I myself did have a bird’s eye view of the whole operation. So I felt like the Lord of the manor house.

By 1 p.m. the last of the treasures, huge bags of cut stones designated for repair of the rocky road to Kalawao, had been unloaded. Then it was time to load the barge with shipping containers filled with scrap — another man’s treasure. By 3 p.m. the loading had been completed and the barge moved out into the open water. It was as the Girl Scouts would sing, “How my heart wants to sail away with you, as you sail across the ocean blue. But I must stay beside my window clear, as the barges sail away from here.” Aloha.

Anchor columnist Father Killilea is pastor of St. Francis Church in Kalaupapa, Hawaii.
Director named for Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministries

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dvelopment of, and provide support for, youth, young adult and family life programs and services in parishes, agencies and institutions within the Fall River Diocese. He will report directly to Bishop da Cunha and will work in partnership with diocesan Director of Strategic and Pastoral Planning Laura Carrillo as well as with other diocesan leaders.

“I welcome David as he begins his important work with us,” said Bishop da Cunha.

“In its report to me, the Youth and Young Adult Commission pointed out correctly that, ‘The future growth of the Church depends upon our ability to effectively evangelize youth and their families.’ The senior director position will serve as the linchpin in the implementation of the commission’s other recommendations to strengthen and expand our efforts in ministry to our young people and families. David has a strong background and possesses a true desire to nurture discipleship; I am confident he is prepared to lead us forward.”

For his part, Carvalho says he is pleased with the opportunity to serve here in the diocese where he was born and raised.

“Growing up in the Diocese of Fall River, I was formed by several of the diocesan programs, such as CLI and the YES! Retreat,” he said. “Having the opportunity to come back to the diocese that sparked in me a love for Christ and His Church and aid it in doing the same for others was something I couldn’t ignore.”

For him, the work ahead is not simply as a job, but a vocation.

“Ensuring the longevity and viability of the diocese and its parishes, especially as it relates to forming intentional disciples, is very personal to me.

“My hope is to be able to assess the diocese’s current state and, in collaboration with various pastors, lay staff, and parishioners, work to address the current needs and opportunities, especially as they relate to families and young people.”

Carvalho brings to the new job experience in ministry with youth and young adults in parish and school settings. He was most recently director of Youth Ministry at St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Summit, N.J. As such, he planned and directed a comprehensive youth program for grades five through 12, including design of the Confirmation preparation and in-person and digital catechesis programs; leadership of the RCIA and RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens); and implementation of use of social media to support youth ministry endeavors.

He began his work with young people with service in Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries, based in Garrison, N.Y., after which he became a youth minister at a parish, St. Edward the Confessor, in Clifton Park, N.Y.

In between his work in parishes, Carvalho was a theology teacher at Catholic Central High in Troy, N.Y., serving as the department chairman for two years. While there, he was also for a time part of the online faculty of the Burlington, Vermont diocese’s St. Therese Digital Academy, for which he designed and taught online theology courses for high school-age students.

While in the New York-New Jersey area, Carvalho led a number of workshops for youth ministry training and was a frequent presenter at middle school and high school retreats.

Carvalho holds a master’s degree in Religious Education from Fordham University and a bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies from Siena College from which he graduated magna cum laude.

He grew up in Fall River, a member of the city’s Espirito Santo Parish, and is a graduate of the parish’s elementary school and of Bishop Connolly High School. He and his wife are the parents of a three-year-old son and a three-month-old daughter.
I was speaking to a friend last week who asked me a question: “What the heck is going on?” He continued, “We seem to be a people that are going a bit crazy. Everywhere I look I see things that shouldn’t be. What are we supposed to do?”

I wonder the same thing sometimes. I look around, as he did, and see things that just aren’t right. The world seems to be changing for the worse at a breakneck speed. We are living in the midst of a global pandemic. We see the country wracked by social injustice. There are protests in the streets. What we couldn’t imagine anyone doing is played out right in front of our eyes. What the heck is going on?

While there are many people who try to live the life we are called to as Christians, today, many, many do not. Lately, aren’t we astounded by what many do not. Christians, today, many, are doing is played out right in front of our eyes. What we couldn’t imagine by social injustice. There is a global pandemic. We are living in the midst of a people that are going a bit crazy. Everywhere I look I see things that just aren’t right. The world seems to be missing for them. They can see with many of those who seem to have it all, something still seems to be missing for them. They can be happy. A better job, a better house, a better car, power. They think: if only I had more, I would be happy. A better job, a nicer house.” Yet, as we can see with many of those who seem to have it all, something still seems to be missing for them. They are still trying to fill that hole in my heart with things: fancy cars, big house, money, success. Fortunately, I never walked the road of addiction, but certainly could have should I not have turned my life toward Christ. I had that type of personality depicted in Father Martin’s book, which I’ll paraphrase here, “If only I had more, better, faster — then I would be happy!” It didn’t take long for me to learn that “I was chasing something I could never catch. I raced ahead, straining to reach one goal after another, yet it always seemed to slip out of reach. That prize of wholeness was elusive. Emptiness remained.”

Father Martin concludes the chapter with a better synopsis than I could ever write. “The hole in our hearts is the space from which we call to God. It is the space where God wants most to meet us. Our longing to fill that space comes from God. And it is the space that only God can begin to fill.”

Take some time this week to think about that God-shaped hole in your heart. How are you trying to fill it?

**Anchor columnist**

Frank Lucca is a deacon in the Diocese of Fall River assigned to St. Mary’s Parish in Dartmouth and a campus minister at UMass Dartmouth. He is married to his wife of 43 years, Kristine, and the father of two daughters and their husbands, and five grandsons!

So blessed!
Local Holy Cross Fathers celebrate 50 years of priesthood
continued from page two
with or visited for extended periods in different countries opened my mind and senses to the height, length and depth of our Catholic Church. I still recall my first visit to India and celebrating Eucharist, amazed that we shared the same belief in the Eucharist, yet they were brown, and I was white.”

Father Kelley’s path led him from Lowell to Merrimack College in North Andover. After a time spent teaching high school students, Father Kelley entered the Holy Cross Fathers Seminary in Easton.

Following his 1970 ordination, Father Kelley was on the mission band in Dartmouth, giving retreats and missions in parish settings, retreat houses and religious communities.

He then went to a parish in Bethel, Vt., in the central part of the state where in the mid-70s, poverty was part of everyday life for the residents. The church at which he ministered was one of five to which he and another priest were assigned.

After an assignment in Texas, Father Kelley was sent to Holy Cross Parish in South Easton. From there he went back to Bennington, Vt., and then to St. Mary’s Parish in Taunton.

It was back to Bennington for a time, then to Easton where he continues to help out in local parishes during his retirement.

“During the last 50 years, many events stand out: the death of my parents and other friends and relatives who were present 50 years ago; the changing views of the priesthood; and the very touching times of deaths and funerals, whether death was unexpected or came as a welcome friend in their lives,” Father Kelley told The Anchor.

“Finally, the inspiration of family and friends living a faith-filled life also stands out. All these happenings and the people associated with them come to mind, reminding me that life has been good, very good, and that I have been blessed, not only by the good Lord, but also by the good people whom I have tried to serve as a Holy Cross priest. Indeed, I have been blessed.”

Following his ordination in 1970, Father Baker has spent most of his years of ministry in Peru, one of the 16 countries worldwide that the Congregation of Holy Cross serves.

“As for me, the lifetime in Peru has been a source of deep blessings both as disciple and as pastor for amazing communities of profound and consistent faith lived throughout difficult realities, enlightened in our efforts to walk toward better times created together,” Father Baker told The Anchor. “Aging along the way and maintaining health through some difficult moments, the present season includes a slowing down and an appreciated sense of earned wisdom as personal experience and clarity in core values to be shared moving on as disciple-pastor for the remaining moments of grace to be lived gratefully.”

The Congregation of Holy Cross’ informal beginning was in 1820 when a priest, ordained in secret during the French Revolution, a time of persecution and upheaval for the Church in France, enlisted a group of young men to instruct the youth in the countryside of northwestern France, in the ways of following Jesus and His teachings.

He handed over those duties to a young, vibrant priest, Father Basile Moreau in 1835. From then on Father Moreau (now Blessed Basile Moreau) expanded the once simple group, eventually creating the Congregation of Holy Cross, a group of faithful men and women to share the congregation mission to “Make God known, loved and served, and thus save souls.”

The Holy Cross presence in the United States has existed since 1841 when the first missionaries were sent here, eventually planting deep roots around the U.S. and Canada in places like Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., the Basilica of the Oratory of St. Joseph in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and Holy Cross Family Ministries within the Fall River Diocese, in Easton.

In addition to having Blessed Moreau beatified by the Church in 2007, St. Andre Bessette, the “Miracle Man of Montreal,” was canonized in 2010, and a priest with ties to the Fall River Diocese, Father Patrick Peyton, the “Rosary Priest,” founder of Family Rosary and Holy Cross Family Ministries, was named a Servant of God, one of the steps toward sainthood. Father Peyton is known for the famous quotes, “The family that prays together, stays together,” and “A world at prayer is a world at peace.”

Through the years, countless men and women have served the congregation and the Children of God as priests, Brothers and Sisters, and the community remains vibrant as ever.
ALFRED, MAINE — Brother Andre Louis Millette (in religion Roger Edmund), 94, died peacefully at home on the Notre Dame campus, Alfred, Maine on August 22.

The son of Edmund and Alice (Menard) Millette, Andre was born in Biddeford, Maine on Oct. 2, 1925, the third of ten children. At 13 he became a student of the Brothers on Christian Instruction in Alfred, Maine and on completing high school, he entered the novitiate in La Prairie, Quebec, Canada in August of 1941. His religious formation climaxed with the pronouncing of perpetual vows in 1947.

His professional career began in 1944 with one year teaching in the Province of Quebec. His long association with the Franco-American youth of New England began 1945 with an assignment to Msgr. Prevost Junior High School in Fall River. He would teach at St. Ignatius in Sanford, Maine (1950-53), St. Louis High School, Biddeford, Maine (1953-61). As a math and science teacher he taught in Detroit Cathedral High School in Michigan for five years (1961-65) before returning in 1965 to Fall River, where he served as teacher and principal at Msgr. Prevost High School until the fire of 1968 destroyed the facility. This occasioned the transfer under his competent leadership of the faculty and student body to the recently-opened diocesan Bishop Connolly High School in Fall River directed by the Jesuits in the city. Brother Roger was named assistant principal, a position he held until stepping down in 1994 to assume a number of responsibilities in the school until his retirement to Alfred on July 13, 2012.

He was a graduate of La Mennais College, Maine, ’52, of Boston College ’58 and the University of Detroit ’64. He benefited from several religious sabbaticals on the English Jersey Island, in Rome, Italy (1984) and in Sangre de Christo, N.M.

Brother Roger was the recipient of many honors: the Fall River Diocesan Marian Medal, Fall River’s Franco-American Man of the Year recognition, an award from the Jesuits Education Association, and two Connolly High School yearbook dedications (’76 and ’84).

He is survived by a younger brother John and his wife Barbara of Houston, Texas. He was predeceased by his parents, and seven adult siblings: two brothers, Jacques and Roger and five sisters, Marguerite Ruel, Francis Rita Poirier, Myrto Barra, Suzanne Frechette and Alice Michaud.

A private funeral for his family and the Alfred Brothers took August 26 immediately followed by internment in the Brothers’ Cemetery.

This most beloved and admired gentle religious will be sincerely missed by the families of his many nieces and nephews and by members of his international religious family, the Brothers of Christian Instruction.

In lieu of flowers, donations to favorite charities in his honor would be most appropriate.
Beach baby

Of cousins, aunts, and uncles and make a Sunday pilgrimage to the Neck. It seems there were so many of us we had our own lifeguard and stand. Metal coolers and wicker picnic baskets dotted the beach. This goes back so far, not even the seagulls without being held, although sometimes now I could use a hand getting up after being knocked down by a wave.

I loved the whole atmosphere, and the fine powdery sand gave new meaning to the word sandwich. I loved the crunch of a bologna and cheese feast.

While many disliked the sand and seaweed that somehow made its way into bathing suits, to me that just screamed summer.

All of the aunts and uncles and mom and dad are gone now, but the memories remain as warm as an August day at the Neck. And I have movies to jog those memories.

I continued my Horseneck journeys into my teens and adult life. It’s like comfort food — you need a good helping once in a while.

Emilie and I still head there when we can. My two other pups weren’t beach babies. I can’t body surf and frolic in the sea as I once did, but these aging bones relish the salt water rushing around them. It’s cathartic, physically and mentally.

Summer isn’t over. There are more days at the Neck to come. Long may she wave.

davejolivet@anchornews.com

Around the Diocese

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Seekonk
This year the Holiday Fair will take place on Friday, November 13 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Saturday, November 14 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the lower Church Hall. The parish is accepting donations of gift cards, new toys, etc., to support this annual event. Contact the rectory Monday – Thursday with any questions.

Our Lady of The Cape, Brewster
The Fourth Annual Our Lady of the Cape Giving Back Golf Open is sold out! The event, being held at Ocean Edge Golf Resort in Brewster is happening on September 28. Thank you to all of the players who have registered. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list, please call the parish office at 508-385-3252 ext. 10.

St. Michael’s, Fall River
St. Michael’s Parish Holy Ghost Feast Committee will host a take out lunch on Saturday, September 19 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tickets are $20 each for shrimp Mozambique or pork steak plates. All plates include a bowl of soup. Please contact Shanna 774-437-1351 or Venilia at 508-677-3223 for tickets. The hall will be set up for socially distant pick up. All should wear masks for pick up.

Our Lady of Lourdes School, Taunton
The annual Our Lady of Lourdes School Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday September 21 at Segregansett Country Club. Anyone interested in registering for the tournament should contact Sister Margretta at 508-822-0357.

Raffle Baskets will be on display at the school on September 19 after 4 p.m. Mass and September 20 after the 8:30 Mass at Annunciation of the Lord. Tickets are 12 for $10.

Diocese-wide
Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone “Virtual”! To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual Marriage experience called Restore, Rekindle, Renew. This Enrichment Experience will meet via Zoom for seven sessions on Monday evenings September 14 to October 26 from 7-9:30 p.m. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their Marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited. For more information or to apply, call Stephen and Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at http://www.wmme.org/
success. In 2019, less than five percent of gifts and pledges to the Appeal were made online. This year, the number of donors logging on to pledge more than doubled to 12 percent, as a growing number turned to a safe, secure, and easy way to lend support while quarantining or limiting time away from home.

On a parish level, there were 17 parishes that surpassed their 2019 fundraising total: a doubly impressive achievement during an extraordinarily challenging time. “I was pleasantly surprised and greatly humbled at the immense generosity of the parishioners of Santo Christo to this year’s Catholic Appeal during this most unusual of times,” said Father Jeffrey Cabral, J.C.L., pastor of Santo Christo Parish in Fall River. “Not only did I remind them that we not only supporting the needy, hungry and homeless of our diocese, but many of us have already benefited from the many diocesan agencies and ministries supported by the Appeal, such as visits from hospital chaplains, the television Mass and the formation of our seminarians. Of course, many parishioners generously contributed knowing of the new incentive program, promising them that it would be applied to our continuing Church Restoration Fund.”

“I think the response to this year’s appeal, in the midst of a difficult time for so many people, simply shows how the faithful understand what true Christian charity means: giving not just from our excess, but even when it can be a sacrifice,” said Father Riley J. Williams, pastor of St. Francis Xavier parish in Acushnet. “The needs of the neediest are greater now than they have been for a long time, and the generosity shown to this year’s Appeal will help in so many ways.”

The launch of the 2020 Appeal was delayed by one month, taking place during June and July to provide added time for the diocese to work toward the reopening of its churches. The operational aspects of the Appeal were centralized and managed by The Catholic Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, which conducted the mailings, video series, and an email campaign to promote the Appeal while many were sheltering at home.

“Reaching people who could not attend Mass in person was critical for this year’s Appeal,” said Miriam Finn Sherman, Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts. “The team at the Catholic Foundation worked to bring the message of the Appeal directly to parishioners in a concerted effort to inspire support at a time when people were participating in their faith lives from the safety of home.”

The challenges presented by the Coronavirus had a direct impact on fund raising this year, and in response the Catholic Foundation is planning continued efforts to raise additional funds in support of the Appeal and its mission in the fall.

“The demand for the programs and services the Appeal upholds is greater than it has ever been in its nearly 80-year history,” said Rebecca Hancock, Director of Annual Giving and Stewardship at the Catholic Foundation. “We are so grateful for the kindness and outpouring of support from our parishioners and friends during this time. We want everyone to know we welcome their support at any time of year to ensure we can fulfill our promise to feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, visit the sick, and protect our most vulnerable.”

“I am grateful each year for our pastors, parishioners, and friends who support the good works of our diocese through the Catholic Appeal,” said Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V. “But this year, I am especially touched by the generosity our faithful have shown. The impact of these gifts will make a difference for thousands on the front lines of this pandemic. I am grateful to the staff of our Foundation for their hard work, dedication and creativity to make this year’s Appeal a great success, despite the unique challenges we faced. I pray as a diocese we continue to live the words of the Gospel of John: ‘Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.’”

The need for support of the many agencies, ministries, and programs of the Diocese of Fall River, and the demand for them, remains strong. The Catholic Foundation encourages the faithful to show their support of our brothers and sisters in need throughout the year. Donations can be made online at givefrdiocese.org/2020 or mailed to the Catholic Appeal office at 450 Highland Avenue, Fall River, Mass., 02720. They may also continue to be dropped off at any parish in the diocese.

To see the most recent Catholic Appeal statement of revenue and expenditures for fiscal year 2020, which ran from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, please visit: www.catholicfoundationsema.org/2019-revenue-and-expenditures.