

Awaken

the soul & let your spirit fly

A bimonthly publication of Good Shepherd Catholic Church ~ steadfast in awakening our true being in God.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS — ACTIVE, PRESENT, INTEGRATED INTO PARISH LIFE

THE NOW OF GOD

In a 2019 World Youth Day homily in Panama, Pope Francis famously stated that young people are “not the future...but the **NOW** of God.” He drew a parallel to a “waiting room” mindset where everyone – adults included – may view a “future” day when younger generations activate their discipleship, celebrate their belonging and engage in the parish mission.

However, Pope Francis stressed that young people are the “*present*” who help to enrich the world.

“Young people are no longer children. They are at a time of life when they begin to assume a number of responsibilities, sharing alongside adults in the growth of the family, society and the Church.” (*Christus Vivet* p. 20)

More recently, at the Franciscan Youth Meeting in Assisi, Italy, Pope Leo XIV inspired and challenged youth “to be saints” and to follow the example of St. Francis and St. Clare, “letting Christ completely reshape their lives.” Earlier in June of this year in Madrid, Pope Leo called on young people to be “the sparks of a new humanity.”

Good Shepherd’s five-year spiritual vision echoes these papal messages in its fourth goal which invites our community to ensure that youth and young adults are fully integrated into parish life.

They are Living Lights, NOW, growing in discipleship!

Jesus’ apostles were mostly young adults and teens between the ages of 15 and 25, according to historians and scholars. They were growing in faith from the get-go, primed to become spiritually mature and effective evangelists from the moment they said ‘yes’ to Jesus.

This goal invites every ministry and every parishioner to support, facilitate and mentor young people in our parish...to fan into flame the sparks of God.

(Continues on page 4)



Practice the faith...

Awaken THE SOUL

For Malu Sanchez, childhood memories bring to mind the origins of her Franciscan roots.

Growing up in Xochimilco, Mexico, a town about 18 miles south of Mexico City, she recalls a "strong pull toward the Virgin Mary." She often visited the Basilica of Guadalupe, consulting Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe for major life decisions (e.g., career, a life partner, and wisdom to recognize "the one").



But it was closer to home, at her local church's "Third Order" chapel in Xochimilco, where 7-year-old Malu and her sisters became acquainted with their neighborhood chapel, one of 17 historic *capillas de barrio*. Dating back to the arrival of Franciscan friars in 1535 and more firmly established by the late 17th century, these little chapels were known as "visitation" chapels for Spanish-born laypeople, or Tertiaries.

"I loved to go and visit every day, after school and before dinner," Malu says, fondly remembering the walks there with her siblings. "It was a beautiful place to sit... I cannot say we were praying, but we were listening," she assures, implying their youthful inclination to lend their ears to God and to visit and accompany Jesus.

When Malu and her husband (Francisco) moved from Mexico to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1990, they settled in Belmont. They raised two sons while remaining immersed in their work as engineers.

"After the horrors of 9/11, I realized that I could not keep going," Malu conveys, signaling a spiritual void left by the tragedy in New York City. She turned to God. Priests and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (SNDdN) associated with Notre Dame de Namur University offered instruction at Malu's parish.

"I started formal formation in theology, Bible study and Vatican documents," Malu shares, describing the religious



Franciscan spirituality guides Malu Sanchez, OFS

sisters as "my refuge." In her classes, Malu realized, "I was getting to know Jesus more and more, and my prayers increased. I fell in love with God and finally understood what it meant to be in relationship with Jesus."

Wise advice from a priest chatting with her study group convinced Malu that her studies were meant for more. "He told us, 'It's not for you to become a beautiful book on the shelf and collect dust... now you have to act,'" Malu recalls. By 2015, Malu set her heart on formation with the Secular Franciscans, making her public profession in 2019. While securing records of her baptism, confirmation, and marriage from Xochimilco, she learned from her father that her grandfather had also been a Secular Franciscan; a full-circle moment for Malu.

"As Franciscans we follow Jesus by following St. Francis," Malu offers, reflecting on the Franciscan spirituality and its influence on her faith practice.

From Gospel to life and from life to Gospel –

"Put into practice what you receive from the Gospel and when in doubt, check with the Gospels again and again," Malu imparts as a key to action over bookshelf status.

Pray at all times – "St. Francis prayed all the time," Malu assures of the saintly model, adding "It's amazing how we change as we start praying constantly...like breathing."

Live with joy – "St. Francis insisted that we live with joy, as daughters and sons of God, and heirs of His kingdom," Malu says, describing a naturally resulting smile springing from the peace of God. "We have the Holy Spirit, and Jesus came to open the doors of heaven for us."

Evangelize and use words if necessary – "This takes us back to action, care and love," Malu explains, indicating a "cooperation" to build the Kingdom of God.

Malu and Francisco moved to Elk Grove in 2019, choosing Good Shepherd Parish upon their first visit.



"We stepped in the narthex and we felt the Holy Spirit," Malu shares with exuberance, recounting how she and her husband both commented, "This feels like home."

Malu serves as a 5th grade catechist for Children's Faith Formation classes. She also helps with OCIA and the formation of future Secular Franciscans for the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Sacramento, based at St. Francis of Assisi Parish since 1895. **T**

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE 2026 COMMEMORATES 800 YEARS SINCE DEATH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Pope Leo XIV declared a Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi from Jan. 10, 2026 to Jan. 10, 2027. The entire Church is invited to share in the grace of this Jubilee by following St. Francis' example of holiness, humility, peace, simplicity and love for all creation.

Visit: stfrancisfraternitysacto.org for resources and information regarding its "Franciscan Novena of Justice and Peace Pilgrimage."

Visit: stfrancisparrish.com for their "Pilgrim Days" dates and a Jubilee flyer.

ENCOUNTER *Jesus*

Joseph Ignacio: *Magnifica Humanitas* "not just about AI"

As a young professional reliant on technology for his work to provide architectural drafting services, as well as in simple everyday living, Joseph Ignacio took an early interest in Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*. Released last May, the highly anticipated papal document became casually known as "the AI encyclical," leaving many to believe the Holy Father's letter would rebuke artificial intelligence. Joseph found something far more valuable, instructive and convincing tucked within the encyclical's nearly 200 pages.

"There are a lot of 'calls to action,'" Joseph says, pointing to an overarching goal that he describes in his own words: to "get people thinking about how we can be *more* human...to stop using technology as a substitute for humanity," Joseph appeals.

"I read it because I was curious about AI," Joseph shares, indicating his interest in Pope Leo's take on the sweeping world issue, but also feeling the weight of societal concern on the topic. "It's something that is actually going to affect us all," Joseph posits, adding, "I liked it. It's a very dense work...I do recommend it."

Regaining our humanity and finding Christ in each other — "I think one of the things Pope Leo is afraid of is that people are interacting so much with technology *through* technology," Joseph laments, "that they may just be talking to AI at this point." He refers to various social media platforms and news aggregators, questioning whether users can trust that a real person is on the other end. "It might just be a 'bot,'" he concludes, signaling Pope Leo's alarm and subsequent reasoning to be diligent, intentional and preferential in choosing in-person, face-to-face interaction.

"You can't fake that," Joseph insists, repeating and emphasizing, "you can't fake that part of humanity."

Joseph grew up at Good Shepherd, having been active in youth ministry as a teen. While he and his family have been parishioners for over 20 years, he admits he stepped away from parish involvement for several years as he pursued his education.

Now, as a volunteer with The Grove Youth Ministry and Fiat Young Adult Ministry, Joseph guides, mentors and serves teens and peers, growing in faith as a community. He speaks from experience of his first-hand revelation of the importance of being present with one another.

"I used to be content with online gaming," he explains of a time when high school and college friends dispersed to other states and straddled time zones to play games. When he returned to active involvement with the parish, Joseph felt a change, seeing the limitations of his previous online life.

"It's been nothing but a positive in my life. We talk and interact with one another," Joseph says of his commitments to youth and young adult ministry.

"It's probably the most important thing that I hope is understood" from this encyclical, he says, pointing to community and the gift of personal connection. "We find Christ in each other...in interacting with each other," Joseph says, describing these encounters as opportunities to *truly* encounter Christ.

"It's about loving one another again," Joseph summarizes, clearly valuing the nuances of humanity found in the warmth, understanding and compassion of friends.

Technology is a gift — Pope Leo refers to science and innovations in technology that, indeed, serve human development but also require "a new spiritual, ethical and political framework. More power does not necessarily imply something better." (93)

"Technology is a gift, but we must look at it with great discernment," Joseph suggests, describing the Pope's handling of tech pros and cons with explanatory caveats in line with the tenets of social justice.



"Pope Leo appeals specifically to the people developing AI," Joseph says, citing chapter three as a clear call to developers "to speak to their ethics and spiritual responsibility towards humanity." Wary of the profit-driven aspect of AI and the impossibility of neutrality, Joseph reads the encyclical as a challenge for greater transparency and exacting industry standards to protect humanity from biases and skewed influence.

"I enjoy using AI," Joseph says, appreciating tools that can help individuals with rote tasks or time-saving functions. "I am, unfortunately, heavily shackled to technology...in front of a computer all day...hunched over, staring at a monitor, my eyes hurt," Joseph moans, gladly accepting of the measured benefits of AI. Still, he looks forward to being with people.

"There is more to humanity than what is claimed to be objectively important," Joseph gleans from *Magnifica Humanitas*, mixing its teachings with his own experiences. He upholds "our ability to socialize, to sympathize with others, to work for more than just ourselves."

"If we can see people in person, if we can actually speak with them, see their hopes and dreams, then we can all work towards something that will fit all of us," Joseph professes. †

The Truth of the Numbers

Pastoral council member Sara Brilz sheds light on why this goal – *to ensure that youth and young adults are an integral part of parish life* – took its place in the five-year parish plan.

"We really thought about what is happening in the church," Sara says, pinpointing numbers that reflect "a kind of exodus" in the Church. She makes clear that the numbers are broad, encompassing the larger universal Church, and therefore, important for every parish to respond and act.

She reports the somber reality. "Once kids hit middle school, many are checking out," Sara shares,

implying a detachment or disinterest in faith altogether. A second-grade teacher at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School with many years of experience in education, faith formation and administration, the news strikes an ominous chord for her. Fellow council members feel the same.

Sara mentions that Brandon Vogt's book, *Return*, offers a lot of the numbers discussed at the council. "A Pew Research Center study showed that eight in ten (79%) who drift away from faith leave before age twenty-three...They're disenchanted teenagers and young adults." Another two-year study by St. Mary's Press and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University (CARA), released in 2018, found that a significant number of youths leave

between the ages of 10 and 20, or a median age of 13.

Many reasons surface in studies like these, and Sara describes a parish commitment to understand and get ahead of the problem. With a focus on engaging youth and young adults, the parish can foster their participation, leadership, and community, sparking lifelong faith.

The parish council continues to work on timelines and responsibilities for each of the goals, valuing the document as a living document.

"We want their hearts on fire," Sara emphasizes, agreeing that engagement kindles the fire of authentic faith and love for Jesus. †

PARISH MINISTRIES TO Accompany

Each of the five parish plan goals gives ministries a chance to roll out responsive action steps that work on two levels: (1) to lead the parish closer to the envisioned "ideal state," and (2) to inspire a community-wide mindset of missionary discipleship.

Regarding this fourth goal of ensuring the integration of youth and young adults into parish life, Good Shepherd offers at least a dozen ministries that support the spiritual formation of youth and young adults or provides opportunities for young people to grow as they serve the parish directly. While these ministries may "lead the charge" for their respective objectives, personal awareness and Christian action come into play for every parishioner.

"A VIBRANT YOUTH COMMUNITY ATTRACTED ME TO GOOD SHEPHERD"

When Steve Do moved his family from San Jose to Elk Grove in 2022, they chose Good Shepherd for its "vibrant youth community." A father of three, with his youngest daughter attending St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Steve believes youth ministry should be a lot like parenting.

"As parents, we do anything for our children," he appeals, evoking the ease with which parents make sacrifices for their sons and daughters. He suggests the same feelings should extend to parish youth "if we want to be serious" about our faith, our Church, and the real promises of Jesus.

"We have to invest in the Church," he says, further disclosing "I've been in youth ministry a long time at the local, regional and national levels." One of the great "pain points" he experiences is

watching Catholic communities neglect that investment.

Steve's passion for the subject stems from his fatherhood, his status as a parishioner, and his role as Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Sacramento.

"First and foremost, we must have honest conversations" about how we minister to youth, fostering their sense of belonging.

He acknowledges the disaffiliation statistics and points to this contributing factor: youth often feel they don't belong. And they may feel they are not being spiritually fed...religiously impelled.

"We do all have a longing for the divine, but how youth understand and articulate that varies," Steve suggests. And, at the root of

everything? It's whether families actively practice their faith. "It makes a difference in raising children as disciples who 'witness to the world,'" he says, convincingly.

"Youth ministry is not just a group that meets on Sunday evenings," Steve insists. It "involves the whole parish" and it *revitalizes* the parish if the community recognizes that strong youth ministry is essential. Steve affirms Good Shepherd and applauds the parish's proactive steps to invest in the "multiplying effects" of youth engagement.

"It is a ministry of presence," Steve stresses, offering three concrete steps for every Catholic to support, whether in active youth ministry or with prayer.

Get to know youth – make a point to talk to young people. Learn names. Listen. Encourage. Share.



STEVE DO, PARISHIONER AND COORDINATOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY, DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

Educate – never hesitate to take the opportunity to talk about youth ministry and the responsibility shared by all to form disciples.

Provide space – Formally, the parish creates space for youth ministry, but parishioners make space in their hearts. Find ways to invite, include, and walk with youth. "They need to be around the table," Steve maintains. †

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 2026-2027 theme race

"We have a school theme every year," Sara Brilz explains, describing the message that will appear prominently on T-shirts, bulletin boards, and communications from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School (SEAS), one of the parish's largest ministries.

"It's '*Shine, Let Love be your Light*,'" she reveals, elated by how it aligns with Living Lights, and also that the heart within the logo design is the original artwork by former student Ivan Castellanos, who passed away at 8 years old.

"We are focusing on ways our students and young adults can reflect on this

SPIRITUAL

TRIES ROLLING OUT MEASURES YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

For example, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School (SEAS) has developed plans that every parishioner can appreciate.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School continues to work closely with the parish.

"Partnering with the parish is always the top priority," according to Sara Brilz. She notes that principal Marci Greene meets regularly with Pastor Father Michael Vaughan.

"We want people to see our students' involvement," Sara says, suggesting that their activities model participation for all, creating a pathway for others to engage in the mission to fully integrate youth into the faith community.

on Catholic School: liates light

theme, how they can shine this year, and what they can do to move towards sainthood," Sara shares. The school hopes that continuous discussion of how to "let hearts shine" can help everyone in the community be Living Lights.

The school community comprises more than 400 students, teachers, and staff members, all embracing the message. Many teachers and instructional aides are young adults who are appreciative of a focus that illuminates discipleship.

Sara outlines four key initiatives underway for the new academic year to highlight liturgy, devotion, and vocations:

1 Role on the parish liturgy board – Heather McAvoy-Jensen, SEAS's middle school religion teacher, joins the board and brings a voice to represent young people.

2 Family Masses – The school continues its regular Friday Masses and now plans to bring their joy and light to new Family Masses on selected Sundays, aligned with the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast. These Masses will encourage SEAS students to serve at the Mass as lectors, altar servers, gift bearers, ushers, and in hospitality. Visibly integrating SEAS students and families at these Masses helps unite the parish and school by spotlighting an important Catholic commitment to the spiritual growth of these young students.

Save these dates and join in celebrating these Sunday Family Masses:

November 1
December 13
March 7
May 2

3 Family Rosary Nights – The school collaborates with the Knights of Columbus in holding a monthly rosary night. Both SEAS and the Knights have held monthly rosary nights before but now, together, they continue this prayerful tradition on one evening, instead of two separate nights. This alliance invites students to lead decades of prayer as parish and school families pray collectively, visibly united in faith. The dates are set for Tuesdays in the church from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Save these dates and pray the rosary together with our youth:

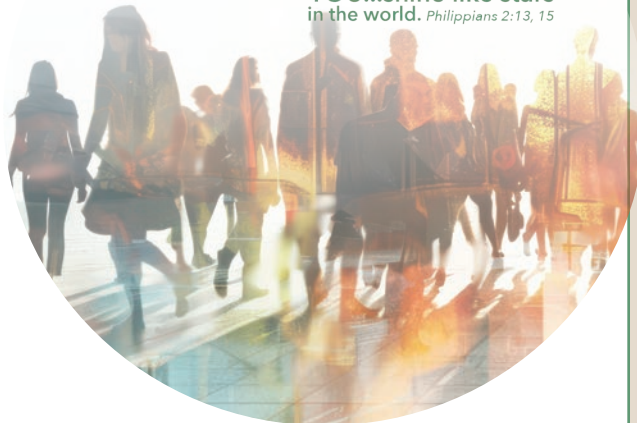
November 10 March 9
January 12 April 13
February 9 May 11

4 Vocations cross in every classroom – A prominent commitment to pray for vocations exists at every grade level. Each class has its own vocation cross for students to take home and share with their families on a rotating basis. The desire to instill the importance of priestly vocations, religious life, and all vocations supports youth in their faith journey by helping them to understand and pray for one another and for the intentions shared throughout the year in dedicated prayer journals.

Shine
Let Love Be
Your Light
ST. ELIZABETH
2024-2027

Living VISION Lights

It is God who is at work within
YOU...shine like stars
in the world. *Philippians 2:13, 15*



ENSURING THAT YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF PARISH LIFE

#4

The Ideal State

- Youth and young adults are integrated into parish life for both religious and social engagement and growth
- Peer group activities support commitment to the faith and enhance opportunities for leadership development
- Youth and young adults are represented throughout parish ministries

Five-year Goals

- Invite young adults to participate in the life of the parish
- Provide a safe environment for youth to socialize with other faith focused peers
- Encourage youth to serve as liturgical ministers
- Foster opportunities (invitations) for youth to participate in parish ministries
- Mentor individuals to assume leadership roles
- Promote diocesan and deanery activities to foster a sense of community with other youth in the diocese

Throughout the 2026 calendar year, Awaken is taking a closer look at each of the five primary goals of Good Shepherd's Five-year Parish Plan. Please refer to previous issues for Goals 1, 2 & 3.

Charisms equip every baptized Christian for DISCIPLESHIP

Theresa Vina tells us how!

A summer of Sundays has kept the Many Parts Ministries in front of parishioners' eyes, inviting them to take a charism assessment. Information can be found in the weekly bulletin, on the parish website, and on a narthex banner. Have the messages caught your attention?

First introduced on Pentecost Sunday, the decision to build upon charism education is part of an ongoing effort to put tools in the hands of parishioners that can help them to activate their discipleship – that is, to attain "bright beacon status" as a Living Light.

The Holy Spirit endows everyone with abundant gifts. Discovering these gifts can unlock greater understanding of the plan God has for YOU.

Theresa Vina recalls the moment spiritual gifts and the idea of a divine purpose lit up her radar. As a group leader for the *Walking with Purpose* women's Bible Study, a reference caught her attention last year during the *Keeping in Balance* Study.

"It talked about how you have gifts," Theresa reflects, thinking first of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. But as the study continued, author Lisa Brenninkmeyer pinpointed *spiritual* gifts unique to every person. (*Lesson 3, Day 4 – Making Time for your God-Given Passion*, pg. 36)

"It intrigued me," Theresa reveals, disclosing the beginning of her deep dive into spiritual gifts – charisms – as presented by The Catherine of Siena Institute. "I really got into it and I thought it was really cool," she

and understand their unique gifts.

Theresa's charisms align well with guiding others, such as **Encouragement, Intercession** and **Faith**. She has assembled a small team of fellow parishioners to continue planning and helping parishioners access this valuable resource. Like Theresa, her team members also identified their charisms with the Many Parts assessment tool and found gifts that make them particularly well-suited for advancing the ministry at Good Shepherd. Engaged in extensive training via Many Parts Ministries, Theresa and team aim to bring the Holy Spirit and charisms to the forefront of the parish's faith practice and purpose.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER? "It's actually a part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)," Theresa assures, implying that using our gifts is essential. She refers to CCC 797-801 and how these gifts of the Holy Spirit are "...special graces (called 'charisms'), by which He makes the faithful 'fit and ready to undertake various tasks and offices for the renewal and building up of the Church.'" (CCC 798)

"Charisms are to be accepted with gratitude by the person who receives them...they are a wonderfully rich grace for the apostolic vitality and for the holiness of the entire Body of Christ." (CCC 800)

"It is in this sense that discernment of charisms is always necessary...all the diverse and complementary charisms work together for the common good." (CCC 801)

"I have quite an imagination," Theresa offers, alluding to the Catholic worldview that sees the presence of the Divine and the sacramentality of God's gifts at work every day.

"I love to think of it as...a little superpower," she adds, wondering who would not want to discern how the Spirit endows humanity with customized micro-doses of Christ's resurrection power?

"And they are powers, but they're not yours," Theresa clarifies, reminding us of the end purpose...for renewal

affirms of her move to take their gifts assessment.

Theresa embarked on a journey of discernment, taking her top seven results and exploring each charism to know if it made sense and felt right.

When the parish moved to offer the Many Parts ministry tool, Theresa found consistency across the platforms, affirming the charisms she identified for herself. She expressed excitement to help the parish fully implement the Many Parts offerings and to help parishioners discover





and building up of the Church, for the common good.

"You are a pass-through," she says directly, rephrasing, "You're the screen door." A 'throughway' by God's design.

"God wants us to be a part of that Kingdom-building, and that participation, itself, is a gift from God. He doesn't need us," Theresa says, marveling at God's desire to *involve* everyone.

"We should be using our gifts," Theresa asserts, because "it shows God's at work in our church. People are responding...listening...hearing the call and doing something about it."

In fact, charisms are defined as special graces, meaning "favor," "gratuitous gift," "benefit" (CCC 2003). Regarded as supernatural talents, rather than natural talents, the Church recognizes 24 common charisms to "enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others..." *for others*.

Comparatively, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit — *Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord* — are sanctifying gifts of Baptism, fully activated in Confirmation, endowing disciples with gifts to nurture *personal* holiness.

Theresa explains that awareness of one's charisms allows consideration for where and how God wants to use you; possibly in parish ministry, at home, at work, or "out in the world" serving the community. She envisions the great good that might transpire at Good Shepherd Parish, if everyone pursued, discerned and applied their charisms. Everyone has at least one charism and many have multiple charisms.

LIVING LIGHTS SHINE BRIGHTLY WHEN CHARISMS UNDERSTOOD, APPLIED Theresa admits that years ago she viewed charismatic gifts differently, exposed solely to the rare gift of tongues, which is quite rare and extraordinary.

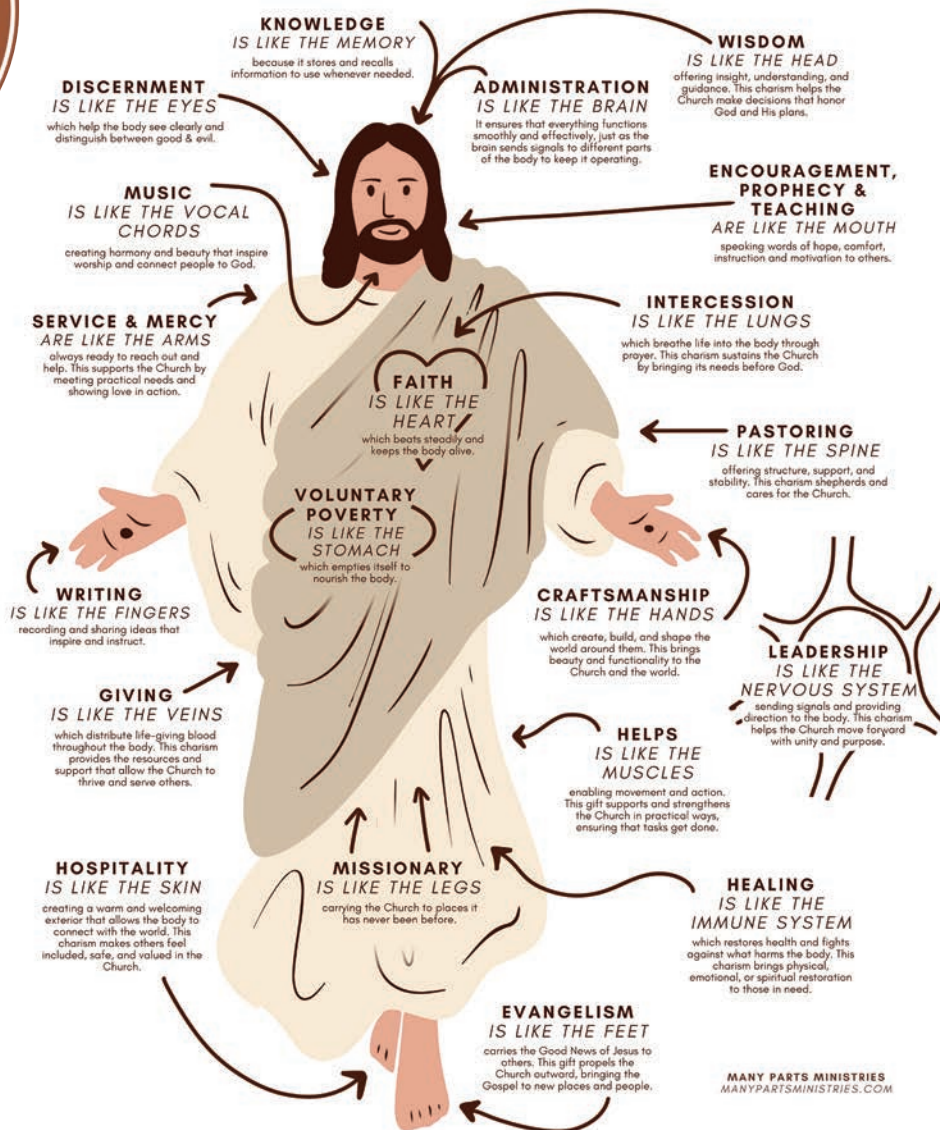
"I gave it another chance," Theresa says, reiterating that the workbook reference in *Walking with Purpose*

prompted her. She knew she needed to pay closer attention to charisms and now finds herself motivated to encourage others to do the same.

Theresa's team works to plan, fine-tune and scale the Many Parts offering for the parish. Equipped with resources, training modules and community, Theresa sees many possibilities in the future.

While the parish continues to invite individuals to take the inventory and discover their charisms, the team will move to introduce periodic workshops, small groups, discernment assistance, and annual efforts to encourage parishioners to learn about their charisms "so they can truly be what God intends them to be," Theresa says.

HOW CHARISMS FIT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST



"We can help each other become closer to God," Theresa assures, of witnessing to a Catholic life, spreading "the news because that's what we're called to do... to be disciples of light."

Theresa and her husband, Gustavo, have 3 adult daughters and 8 grandchildren. They joined Good Shepherd in its earliest days when still worshipping at Foulks Ranch Elementary's multi-purpose room before relocating several times throughout California. They have retired after decades of public service: Theresa with the State in management and Gustavo serving as City Manager for cities in both Northern and Southern California. †



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Pastor: Rev. Michael Vaughan

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& DISCIPLESHIP!

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It is God who is at work within
YOU...shine like stars
in the world. *Philippians 2:13, 15*

In Community, we flourish

Walking with Purpose womens Bible study –

A new year kicks off with **Connect Coffee on September 19** in the Father Philip Wells Hall. Small groups begin the week of September 21. If you have not already taken advantage of August sign-ups, please visit the parish office for more information.

Annual Blessing of the Animals commemorating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi –

Good Shepherd dergy will bless pets to celebrate all of God's creatures and creation – furry, feathered and finned! Pets must be leashed or caged and monitored throughout the gathering.

– **Saturday, Oct. 3**, 11:15 p.m. on the plaza



Magnifica Humanitas/ Magnificent Humanity –

Copies of Pope Leo's encyclical will be available at the Welcome Desk beginning with weekend Masses on **September 12/13**. Pick up your free copy published by *Word on Fire* with a forward by Bishop Robert Barron.



Faith, Humanity & Artificial Intelligence - All are welcome to attend this workshop on **November 19** from 6:00–7:00 PM at Good Shepherd Church. Father Bibin Zacharia, CMI, parochial vicar for St. Joseph Parish, will look at how artificial intelligence is changing the way we live, work, learn, and connect with one another. As technology continues to grow, how do we make sure we never lose sight of what makes us uniquely human? Join us for an easy-to-understand and timely conversation with Fr. Bibin. No prior knowledge of *Magnificat Humanitas* is needed. Come learn, ask questions, and discover how our Catholic faith can help us use new technology wisely while keeping God-given human dignity at the center.

Trunk or Treat –

Save the Date for this time-honored, family-friendly, safety-centric evening. Set for two weeks before Halloween, on **Saturday, October 17** at 6 p.m. youth are invited to don their costumes and roam among the rows of decorated auto trunks in the school parking lot. Far from ordinary, these participating families transform vehicles into sensational scenes – frightening and funny, saintly yet scary!

Don't miss it!
Candy-tossing car trunks, wholesome fun, food and beverage for purchase. There is no better lead-in to All Hallows Eve than Good Shepherd's Trunk or Treat!

