Major events mark start of new year in L.A. Archdiocese

As the worldwide Year of Faith continues in the Catholic Church, the new calendar year begins in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, as always, with spiritual, formational and celebratory events offering Catholics numerous opportunities to grow in faith. Among the events:

Jan. 19: Requiem for the Unborn

■ The annual Requiem for the Unborn will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, several days ahead of the Jan. 24-25 National Prayer Vigil for Life in Washington, D.C. The events are held in conjunction with the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. The Los Angeles Mass will be preceded by a late afternoon Pro-Life Youth and Young Adult Rally on the Cathedral Plaza, with inspirational speakers and the Jacob and Matthew Band participating. The Mass features the original “Requiem for the Unborn” composed by John Bonaduce. Information: (213) 680-5200.

Jan. 21: MLK Prayer Breakfast and Mass

■ The African American Catholic Center (AACCE) will sponsor its 19th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Breakfast on Jan. 21, 8-11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Academy in Inglewood. Dr. C. Vanessa White, assistant professor at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, will be the keynote speaker, addressing the annual theme, “Reconciling Wisdom, Justice and Love.” Cost is $25.

At 5 p.m., the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Mass, will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, co-sponsored by the Knights of Peter Claver, the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, and the AACCE. Auxiliary Bishop Edward W. Clark, of the Our Lady of the Angels Region, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. This event is free and open to the public. Parking is $5 per car.

For information on both events, contact the AACCE, (323) 777-2106.

Feb. 10: World Marriage Day

■ Held each year on the second weekend in February, World Marriage Day honors the lifelong commitment of husband and wife. Couples celebrating significant anniversaries (25 years or more) will be recognized and invited to renew their sacramental vows at the 10 a.m. Mass (English) and 12:30 p.m. (Spanish) Masses. Registration forms may be obtained at www.olacathedral.org, and may then be mailed to World Marriage Day Coordinator, 555 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Information: Shirley Manning, (213) 680-5252 or smanning@olacathedral.org.

Feb. 21-24: Religious Education Congress

■ “Enter the Mystery/Entra al Misterio” is the theme of the 47th annual Religious Education Congress presented by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles’ Office of Religious Education. More than 300 workshops in English, Spanish and Vietnamese will be offered, led by some of the world’s foremost catechetical, formational and spiritual leaders. From its Jan. 13, 1967 beginnings as a Southern California CCD Congress, this event draws more than 40,000 people from around the world, with more than 15,000 attending Youth Day to open the Congress. For registration and information, call (213) 637-7352 or visit www.recongress.org.

Local Events

Serra wins CIF State Division II football title

Junipero Serra High School of Gardena won its second state title in four years Dec. 15 by defeating Oakdale High School 42-15 rout.

In winning the CIF State Division II Bowl at the Home Depot Center in Carson (a short drive from the Serra campus), the Cavaliers were led by Marques Rodgers and Adoree Jackson, who each scored three touchdowns. Rodgers’ scores came on consecutive runs from scrimmage in the second quarter (27, 57 and 1 yard), while Jackson tallied on a 50- and 27-yard receptions from Jalen Greene and a 78-yard run on a fake punt. Information: (213) 680-5200.

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FORMATION Days

Several formational and spiritual growth opportunities have been scheduled early in the new year by various offices of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Among them:

Jan. 15-16: Catechetical Leadership

■ “Renewing Faith in the Future: Building on the Legacy of Vatican II” is the theme for the annual Parish Catechetical Leadership Day, sponsored by the Office of Religious Education. Directed toward clergy, directors of religious education, school principals, ministers to youth, ministers to young adults, and ministers to adults, the presentation will take place 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Jan. 15, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, and repeated Jan. 16, at San Buenaventura Mission in Ventura. The presenters on both days will be Dr. Michael Horan, professor of Religious Education and Pastoral Theology at Loyola Marymount University, and Bill Huebsch, founder of PastoralPlanning.com, and former president of Twenty-Third Publications. Cost is $20, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: Silvia Esmeralda Hernandez, (213) 637-7358, or mailto:SEHernandez@la-archdiocese.org.

Jan. 19: Liturgy Formation

■ The Office for Worship is sponsoring a Liturgical Formation Day on Jan. 19, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at St. Bernard Church, Bellflower. Dr. Dale Sieverding, director of music and liturgy at St. Monica Church in Santa Monica, will deliver the keynote address, “What Do People Experience in Church? Implications for Our Work in Liturgical Ministry.” That will be followed by two workshop sessions for various liturgical ministries. Cost is $25 prepaid, $35 at the door, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. The Office also sponsors liturgical formation days in English and Spanish, starting in March. Information: (213) 637-7262 or www.laiturgy.org.

Jan. 26: Tridium Preparation

■ The Synod Initiative V Committee on Eucharist and Sacramental Living of the San Gabriel Region Pastoral Council is sponsoring a workshop in English and Spanish, “Preparing and Celebrating Tridium/Preparando y Celebrando El Triduo Pascual,” on Jan. 26, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Sacred Heart Church, Covina. Liturgical ministers, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) team members and parish leaders are invited. The presenters will be Dale Sieverding (in English) and Father Pedro Lopez, pastor of St. Pius X Church, Santa Fe Springs (in Spanish), both members of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission. Cost is $12, or $10 per person for a group of five or more registering together. Information: Gail Akins, (626) 459-5945 or mailto:geakins@aol.com, or Fe Musgrave, (562) 804-3829 or mailto: stole143@aol.com.

January-June: Marriage Enrichment

■ The Office of Family Life is sponsoring “Newlyweds 101: God-Centric,” a marriage enrichment program for couples married up to five years. This six-session program will offer information for newlyweds to use to strengthen their marriage. While the program contains information that builds from session to session, couples are invited to join at any time. It will be held 7-10 p.m. on the following Friday evenings: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 22, April 26, May 31 and June 28 at St. Basil Church, Los Angeles. Cost is $5 per couple per session, and includes a light dinner. Information: Candy Metoyer, Office of Family Life, (213) 637-7250 or cmetoyer@la-archdiocese.org.