

# FLORIDA *Catholic*

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OF MIAMI

## Haiti proves that faith does good works



FROM THE ARCHBISHOP  
*John C. Favalora*

My dear friends,

A number of books have been published recently defending atheism as the cure to all that is wrong with the world. These authors tend to attribute all of humanity's maladies, past and present, to religion, believers, faith or any derivation of the above.

Contrast that to the stories coming out of Haiti since the earthquake hit Jan. 12. Who did reporters turn to for an immedi-

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## Haití prueba que la fe obra el bien

Mis queridos amigos:

Recientemente se ha publicado un número de libros que defienden el ateísmo como la cura para todo lo que anda mal en el mundo. Sus autores tienden a atribuir todas las aflicciones de la humanidad, pasadas y presentes, a la religión, a los creyentes, a la fe o a cualquier derivado de los mismos.

Contrastemos eso con las historias que nos llegan desde Haití tras el terremoto.

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MARLENE QUARONI | FC

Yeshica Yanes, who works in enrollment services at Barry University, places a candle in front of an icon of Jesus during a Taizé prayer service at the university's Cor Jesu Chapel. The services are held the second Tuesday of each month, September through June.

## 'A window into the eternal'

### Meditative Taizé prayer unites people of different backgrounds, different faiths

**MARLENE QUARONI**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI SHORES** — After spending an hour in prayer, song and meditation at Barry University's Cor Gesu Chapel, Laura Fothergill looked at the booklet she was holding: "Songs and Prayers from Taizé."

"We use the same booklet at my church, Riviera Presbyterian," said Fothergill, 28, who works in the Barry president's office.

"Praying in the Taizé style is ecumenical. That's what I like about it."

During the service, worshippers held candles, then placed them before three religious icons: Jesus Christ, Our Lady of Vladimir and Gabriel the Archangel.

"Icons are a window into the eternal," said Dominican Sister Mary Frances Fleischaker, a Barry theology professor who coordinates

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## ARCHBISHOP

FROM A1

ate assessment of the situation in Port-au-Prince? Who were among the first to be listed as missing or casualties? Who was pinned under the Hotel Montana when it crumbled?

I read the stories and in nearly every instance, I was struck by the fact that the protagonists were none other than people of faith: representatives of religious organizations; groups of people sent on mission trips by churches all across the United States; Church members who had dedicated their whole lives to working in Haiti and helping the Haitian people.

Then again, who was able to reach the people first with humanitarian assistance? Those already there, including Catholic Relief Services and Caritas, agencies which have been working in the country for decades; missionaries, priests and

religious who shared their lives — and in many cases died — with the Haitian people.

I read somewhere that as many as 10,000 NGOs — non-governmental organizations — were working in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. The vast majority of them, I would bet, have religious roots or are sponsored by churches.

These are facts that religion-bashers conveniently overlook. These are facts that are not routinely reported in newspapers or television. That is because good works and good deeds seldom make headlines.

Only violence and war and disasters make headlines. And so religion becomes associated with extremists and fanatics of every denomination who use it and abuse it for their own political purposes.

Yet I submit that the number of wars said to be “started” by religious disputes pales in comparison to the number of

faith-based groups that are doing good works around the world this very instant. I submit that for every person killed by a terrorist, hundreds of thousands more have been fed and clothed, healed and taught by a person of faith.

Most of the religious people on earth — be they Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu — are neither fanatics nor terrorists. They are people searching for the truth and trying to live their lives in accordance with that truth. They seek to help others, not hurt them. They work to make the world a better place, to end conflict and famine, to heal wounds both physical and spiritual.

That does not make headlines either. But then again, why should it? That is what is expected of people of faith. And it is only the unexpected that makes news. Those who bash religion as the cause of violence and wars are basing their argu-

## APPOINTMENTS

Archbishop John C. Favalora has made the following appointments:

Effective Jan. 14:

**Father Jaime Acevedo** — pastor, Mother of Our Redeemer Parish, Miami.

Effective Jan. 4:

**Father Jeremiah Singleton** — vicar forane (dean) of the Northeast Broward Deanery, for a period of three years.

Effective Dec. 27, 2009:

**Father Samuel Muodjaju, Congregation of the Holy Spirit** — pastor, St. Monica Parish, Miami Gardens.

Effective Dec. 21, 2009:

**Father Eric Zegeer** — spiritual moderator, Broward Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.

ments on the aberration, not the norm.

Haiti is living proof — and has been for decades — that people of faith do practice what they preach: “Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me.” ■

## ARZOBISPO

FROM A1

to del 12 de enero. ¿A quiénes acudieron los reporteros para una evaluación inmediata de la situación en Puerto Príncipe? ¿Quiénes se encontraban entre los primeros en ser declarados desaparecidos o fallecidos? ¿Quiénes se encontraban atrapados bajo el hotel Montana cuando se derrumbó?

Al leer las historias, y casi en todas las situaciones, me impresiona el hecho de que los protagonistas no son otros que personas de fe: representantes de organizaciones religiosas, grupos enviados en viajes misioneros por iglesias a través de los Estados Unidos, miembros de la iglesia que han dedicado sus vidas a trabajar en Haití y ayudar al pueblo haitiano.

¿Quiénes lograron ser los pri-

meros en llegar hasta el pueblo con ayuda humanitaria? Los que ya se encontraban allí, incluyendo Catholic Relief Services y Cáritas, agencias que han estado trabajando en el país durante décadas; misioneros, sacerdotes, religiosas y religiosos que compartían sus vidas con el pueblo haitiano, y muchos de los cuales perecieron con ellos en el terremoto.

En algún lugar leí que en Haití trabajaban hasta 10,000 organizaciones no gubernamentales cuando sucedió el terremoto. Estoy seguro de que la mayoría es de origen religioso, o patrocinada por iglesias.

Estos son hechos que quienes atacan la religión convenientemente pasan por alto. Es común que estos hechos no se den a conocer en los periódicos o la televisión, porque son buenas obras y las buenas obras en

raras ocasiones se convierten en titulares.

Sólo la violencia, la guerra y los desastres ocupan los titulares. Por eso, la religión se ve asociada con extremistas y fanáticos de cada denominación, quienes la utilizan y abusan de la misma para sus propios fines políticos.

Sin embargo, el número de guerras que fueron “iniciadas” por conflictos religiosos palidece en comparación con el número de grupos de fe que realiza buenas obras alrededor del mundo en este mismo momento. Por cada persona asesinada por un terrorista, cientos de miles han sido alimentadas y vestidas, sanadas y educadas por una persona de fe.

La mayoría de la gente religiosa en la Tierra — sea cristiana, judía, musulmana, budista o hindú — no es fanática ni te-

rrorista. Son personas que buscan la Verdad e intentan vivir de acuerdo con dicha Verdad. Quieren ayudar a los demás, no hacerles daño. Trabajan por un mundo mejor, para poner fin al conflicto y a la hambruna, para sanar las heridas físicas y espirituales.

Eso tampoco se convierte en titulares. Pero, ¿por qué debe serlo? Si eso es lo que se espera de la gente de fe. Sólo lo inesperado se convierte en noticia. Quienes atacan la religión como la causa de la violencia y las guerras, no basan sus argumentos en la norma, sino en la aberración.

Haití es prueba viviente — y lo ha sido por décadas — de que la gente de fe practica lo que predica: “Cada vez que lo hicieron con el más pequeño de mis hermanos, lo hicieron conmigo”. ■

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Orientation about community services offered by the Broward County Family Success Administration**, Monday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Hosted by Schott Communities, 6591 S. Flamingo Road, Cooper City. Information on Social Security assistance; individual, family and group counseling; life skills classes, among others. 954-434-3306, ext. 102.

**Mardi Gras**, Feb. 11-14, St. Stephen, 6044 S.W. 19 St., Miramar. Annual event features rides, international foods, games, and other festivities. 954-987-1100.

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary festival**, Feb. 12-14, 901 N.E. 33rd St., Pompano Beach. Giant midway, food, kiddie and adult rides, games and entertainment, raffle. Fun for everyone! 954-942-2161.

**Valentine's party for children and adults with special needs**, Saturday, Feb. 13, noon-3 p.m., Our Lady of the Lakes Parish center, 15801 N.W. 67 Ave., Miami Lakes. DJ with music for all ages, luncheon and beverages. Free. Sponsored by the parish's Women's Club. 305-821-3566.

**Fashion show and luncheon**, Saturday, Feb. 13, 11:30 a.m., Fort Lauderdale Country Club, Plantation. Hosted by St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women. Tickets: \$40; prepaid reservations only. 954-764-4113.

**St. Martha's Men's Club Valentine dinner and dance**, Saturday, Feb. 13, 7-10:30 p.m., St. Martha Parish hall, 9301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. Bring your sweetheart for an evening of old-fashioned romance. \$25 per person; roses, wine and chocolate included. 305-978-0091.

**San Pablo festival**, Sunday, Feb. 14, 550 122nd St., Ocean, Marathon. Begins after 11 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving for Father Gerald R. Morris' 40 years of priesthood. 305-289-7844.

**Mother of Our Redeemer festival**, February 18-21, 8445 N.W. 186 St., Miami. Music, international food kiosks, raffles, rides, fun for all. 305-829-6141 or www.motherofourredeemer.org.

**Christ the King festival**, Feb. 18-21, 16000 S.W. 112 Ave., Perrine. Rides, auctions, door

prizes, fashion show, music, local and ethnic foods. 305-238-2485, 305-333-4715.

**"Spring Fling" fashion show and luncheon**, Saturday, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m., Lighthouse Point Yacht Club, 2701 N.E. 42 St., Lighthouse Point. Sponsored by St. Gabriel Council of Catholic Women. Donation: \$35. Reservations required. 954-946-2551.

**"Everything Old Is New Again" luncheon, auction and gala**, Saturday, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m., Rusty Pelican Restaurant, 3201 Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne. Sponsored by Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. Fundraiser for scholarships for young ladies from archdiocese to continue their education in a Catholic high school. New items or services for the auction needed. 954-437-6805 or galagirlb@aol.com.

## CONCERTS

**"Coffeehouse,"** Friday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., St. Bonaventure Parish center, 1301 S.W. 136 Ave., Davie. Sing along with a cup of joe with St. Bonaventure's folk group to songs of the '60s and '70s. Suggested donation: \$10, adults; \$5, children. 954-478-7523.

**Cathedral concert series**, St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. Free. 305-759-4531 or www.cathedralofstmary.com: Sunday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m., Greater Miami Youth Symphony, with musicians ages 5-18, led by Huifang Chen, director.

**St. Martha-Yamaha Concert Series**, 9301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. Tickets include after-concert reception with artists. \$10 general admission; \$20 Blue Circle. www.saintmartha.tix.com or 305-751-0005: Sunday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m., New York's Metropolitan Klezmer performs Yiddish musical themes.

**St. Pius X concert series**, 2511 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Fort Lauderdale. Tickets: \$10; free for children under 8. 954-565-9935: Sunday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m., Kristen DiNonno performs music from her new CD, "If I Only Knew," with songs ranging from intensely spiritual to classical.

## FAITH EDUCATION

**"The Sources of Christian**

**ethics,"** discussion on Christian morality and the basis for moral action, Thursdays, Feb. 18-March 25, St. Gregory, 200 N. University Drive, Plantation. javerell@cherubim.org or 954-473-6261, ext 167.

**Instituto Pastoral del Sureste (SEPI)**, *Certificado en Ministerio Pastoral Hispano, y cursos para ampliar conocimientos sobre pastoral hispana.* 305-279-2333, www.sepimiami.org.

## MASSES /PRAYER SESSIONS

**Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé**, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., Barry University, Cor Jesu Chapel, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Chant, Scripture, silent reflection, intercessory prayer. 305-899-3650 or 305-458-9919.

**Morning of reflection**, Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m., St. Andrew, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. Led by Bishop William Friend, bishop emeritus of Shreveport, La. Begins with 9 a.m. Mass, buffet breakfast. Donations accepted. R.S.V.P.: 954-752-1054 or 954-721-0326.

**Wedding Anniversary Mass**, for couples celebrating 25, 50 and each year over 50, Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m., St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. Organized by the archdiocesan Family Life department. Call your parish before Feb. 8 to register. 305-762-1140/1148/1157.

**Experiencia de Emaús para Damas**, participantes descubrirán a Jesús en sus vidas. 26-28 de febrero, iglesia católica de Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. Inscripción: 305-387-9287.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**Virtus workshops:** To help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and spot abusers. Free. 305-762-1250 or jrayburn@theadom.org: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m., Archbishop McCarthy High School, Southwest Ranches.

## SCHOOL EVENTS

**St. James School** seeks alumni from class of 1978 for reunion in March. marzayas@

## Deadline for Calendar listings

*The Florida Catholic* welcomes calendar items of parish/organization events that are open to the whole archdiocese. There is no charge but items must be in the Miami office at least six weeks before the event. To list an event both on the Web site and in the newspaper, go to www.miamiarch.org, click on the banner "announce your event for free" and follow the instructions. Notices may be sent by e-mail: arsoto@theadom.org; fax: 305-762-1132; mail: The Florida Catholic, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138.

bellsouth.net.

**St. Agatha Catholic School**, 1125 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami, is accepting applications for enrollment for the 2010-11 academic year, grades PreK2-eight. More than 25 years of academic excellence; among the top five archdiocesan schools in standardized test scores. Call for personal tour: 305-222-8751.

**St. Theresa School spring dance and silent auction**, Saturday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Church of the Little Flower, Comber Hall, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. \$70 per person. 305-720-3533 or patsy@pilcreativegroup.com.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

**Engaged Encounter: "Life Skills Day,"** Friday, Feb. 26, 6:30-10 p.m.; and Saturday, Feb. 27, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Louis, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Pinecrest. Engaged couples can explore life skills as they apply to married life. Registration: 305-762-1140 or famlife@theadom.org.

## SUPPORT MINISTRIES/ PEER GROUPS

**Marriage Encounter weekend**, Feb. 19-21, Fort Lauderdale. Catholic enrichment experience teaches couples the skills to renew their commitment and rekindle their romance. Information, reservations: 561-963-1170, www.wmme.org.

## Two churches collecting food for Haiti

Although money is still preferred — and 100 percent of it will be used to provide relief to the Haitian people — two Catholic churches have been designated as drop-off locations for those interested in donating material goods.

Only the following items will be accepted: medical supplies, water bottles, cooking oil, dry beans and rice (in 20-, 50- or 100-pound bags), canned foods, new clothes and hygiene items such as soap.

Items can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday at:

- Notre Dame D' Haiti Mission, 110 N.E. 62 St., Miami
- St. Clement Parish, 2975 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale

Financial donations should be mailed to: Catholic Charities, Attn: Earthquake Victims, 1505 N.E. 26 St., Wilton Manors, FL 33305. Please make checks payable to: Catholic Charities/Earthquake Victims. Donations can also be made online at [www.catholiccharitiesadm.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesadm.org).

People willing to provide other resources or those interested in adoption or foster care of children affected by this disaster should e-mail their contact information to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami at [info@ccadm.org](mailto:info@ccadm.org). At this time, only contact information is being collected. More detailed information will be made available once it is obtained.

## HELP FOR HAITI



COURTESY PHOTO

Ashley Acocella packs clothes for Haiti Jan. 21 at the Marian Center School and Services. Everyone from prekindergarten students to those in the school and adult training center got involved in the Haiti relief project, spending hours sorting through donations and making sure that each box was neat, labeled and carefully packaged.

## TAIZÉ

FROM A1

the Taizé services that take place at Barry on the second Tuesday of each month, from September to June.

The Taizé prayer service uses repetitive phrases, music, candlelight and silence to help participants commune with God.

"A few words sung over and over reinforce the meditative quality of prayer," said Sister Fleischaker, who has participated in Taizé prayer services for 20 years. "Singing is one of the most important forms of prayer."

Dominick Cama, music teacher at Our Lady of the Lakes School in Miami Lakes, played the flute, and alto and soprano saxophone during the service.

"It's very contemplative, spiritual and meditative," he said.

### JOIN IN

- Taizé prayer services take place the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Barry University's Cor Jesu Chapel, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Upcoming dates are: Feb. 9, March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8. For information, call Sister Fleischaker at 305-458-9919.

"It's energizing. Once the music and Scripture are over you have 10 minutes of silent reflection."

The Taizé prayer tradition stems from a community started in France in 1940 by Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche, a Swiss native and pastor in the Reformed tradition who became known as Brother Roger.

He bought a small house in the town of Taizé, France, just north of Cluny, the birthplace of Western monasticism, and began seeking a different expres-

sion of Christian life, "a community where kindness of heart and simplicity would be at the center of everything," according to a quote on the Taizé Web site. Over the years, other men from many different faiths joined his ecumenical community, and it branched out to other parts of the world.

"Brother Roger believed that a life of community could be a symbol of reconciliation among the Christian faiths," said Brother Alois Leser, a German Catholic who succeeded Brother Roger after his death in 2005.

Brother Roger was close friends with Mother Teresa and with Pope John Paul II, whom he first met when the two attended the Second Vatican Council, where Brother Roger served as a non-Catholic expert.

During a 1986 visit to Taizé, Pope John Paul II addressed the

"parable of community" that the brothers exemplified.

"You will help all that you meet to be faithful to their church affiliation," said the pope. "You enter more and more deeply into the mystery of communion that the Church is in God's plan."

At Pope John Paul II's funeral, Brother Roger was the first to receive Communion from the main celebrant, the future Pope Benedict XVI. At Brother Roger's own funeral, the main celebrant was Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"Taizé prayer seems to appeal to young people," said Sister Fleischaker, who helped bring the prayer service to Barry. "Every year, young adult meetings draw thousands of youths to Taizé, France." ■