Opus Dei **Formation**

from Rome

"...the Paraclete gave the apostles new wisdom, new love, and a courageous evangelizing impulse," Msgr. Ocáriz reminds us that "...the Holy Spirit... identifies us ever more closely with Christ and, in Christ, makes us ever more fully children of God the Father." The Prelate goes on to cite the following quote from St. Paul: "All who are led by the Spirit of

God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you Ocáriz exhorts, "...let us not tire of contemplating and being grateful for this supernatural



have received the Spirit of sonship, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!" (Rom 8:14-15). As a result of St. Josemaría's profound experience in 1931 while contemplating that same quote, we have been given the gift that "the sense of divine filiation...[is]...the foundation of the spirit of the Work." reality..." of the connection between the Holy Spirit and our divine filiation. "We can try to live it with renewed hope, [always giving]...ever greater expression to our being daughters and sons of

The Prelate concludes his letter with requests for prayers. He first asks that we continue praying for the ongoing study of the statutes of the Work, noting, "I count on the prayer of each and every one." He also asks that we keep in our prayers the twenty-nine members of the Work ordained as Holy Spirit, grant us joy as we recall our divine filiation; guide those studying the statutes of the Work;

and help our new brother priests live their vocations to the full. events: women Click the linked activity <u>title</u> for more information

Long Beach Camarillo San Diego Las Vegas

Phoenix, AZ o m i n g

Saturday, September 21 10:00a - 12:00p

6th & 7th Grade Creative Cuisine* 8th Grade Stitch & Design* 9th & 10th Grade Stepping up* Mentoring, discussion forums, and skill development

Both programs teach practical skills while instilling confidence and a spirit of service.

Saturday, November 2

in Carrara, Italy On a warm, clear morning in Florence, Italy, just days after St. Josemaría's feast day, some members of the Fairest Love board of directors and a few others climbed

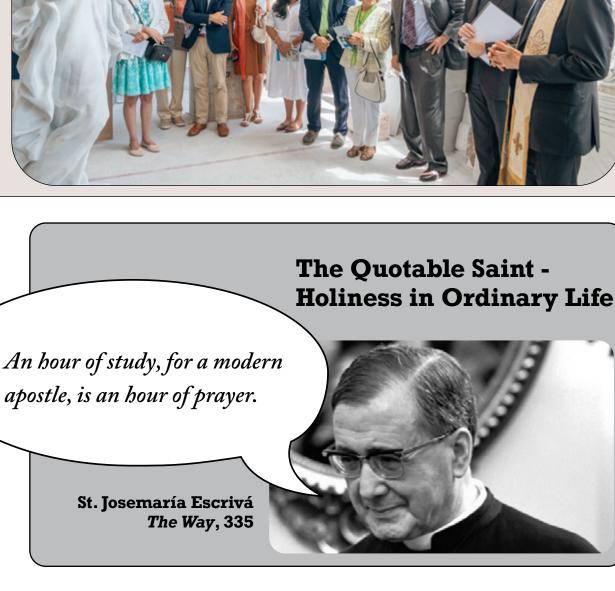
marble, leaving stark white cliffs, crisscrossed with mining tracks. The marble in Carrara has been quarried since the early second century BC, starting with the Romans. Several antiquities in Rome were built with Carrara marble, including the Pantheon and Trajan's

Sculptor Cody Swanson had worked here, in the Carrara workshop, at the base of the mountain that produced the marble, for over a year, chiseling, shaping, and refining the statue that stood before us now. The statue is resplendent, a glorious celebration of motherhood and love. The Prelate of Opus Dei, Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz, traveled from Rome to bless the statue. In his blessing, he said that we know Mary is the Mother of God. And since God is Love, it follows that Mary is the Mother of Love. He reminded us that St. Josemaría's vision was to help families through spreading and deepening the devotion to Mary, Mother of Fairest Love. Now the Fairest Love statue can act as a locus for intercession for families, whatever their needs may be. We concluded the event by singing the Salve Regina in front

We left Carrara with full hearts, grateful for the all the work that has been done so far and looking forward to welcoming Our Mother of Fairest Love to her new home in the United States. The statue will first reside at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Chicago, until her permanent home is California is ready. Mary, Mother of Fairest Love, pray for us, your children, as we joyfully await your homecoming.







girls, earned resounding applause for their grace and creativity. Choosing a winner was no easy task amidst such elegance, yet Maria, Joan, and Grace Reidy's original designs, decorated with festive ribbons and charm, captured everyone's hearts.

nurtured by our shared love for Him? ~ Leslie Palomares

us closer to God, and what greater beauty exists than the friendships

treats, all nestled within Dora's picturesque garden.

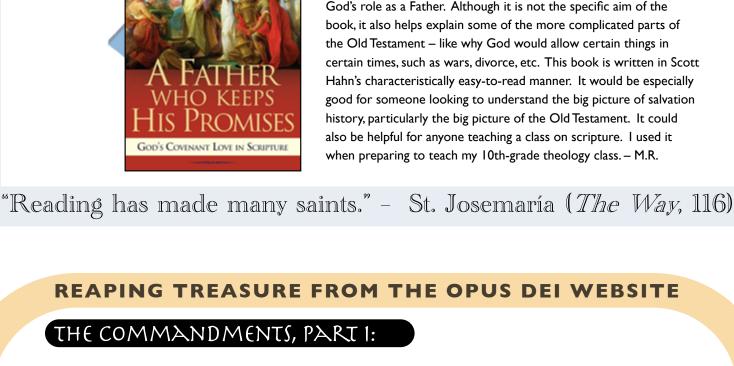
resonated throughout the gathering.

adorned picture frames with colorful backgrounds and floral motifs, each creation a testament to their imaginative spirits. Meanwhile, Melissa Brady captivated us with her insightful reflections on the Amazing

Sacred Scripture

SCOTT HAHN

A Father



REAPING TREASURE FROM THE OPUS DEI WEBSITE

college and beyond, it's tempting to let our anxieties drive our thought patterns – What if my child's loan is the size of our mortgage? Find peace in the knowledge that our children are unique and free agents who, when given the right tools, will flourish on the path that God Himself has carved for them, difficulties and all.

final end, and we must make him our ultimate priority.

Discussion point for teens: Think of the last time you were

wants me to live?

obsessed with something. It might have felt exciting to spend

so much time and energy thinking about this thing – but when

did this obsession become an addiction or something unhealthy? How do false idols in my life stop me from living the life God

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that God

is not an anonymous force (CCC, 203). We can invoke God's

Discussion point for teens: God knows that names are important.

names in tender regard. Do you remember when someone said

When we are baptized, He calls us by name and holds our

name in adoration and in petition. However, the second commandment bids us to take pains to keep His name holy and not misuse it, while also refraining from any utterance

against God's name, also called blasphemy.

It's officially fall – the leaves are browning, the days are

shorter, and, for some of us, the college application craze

has made its way into our homes. As our teens prepare for

but also by taking a day of rest. How can this commandment remind us of His compassion and love for us? <u>Topic 30 – The Fourth Commandment, the Family</u> While the first three commandments focus on how to love God, the fourth commandment calls us to love our neighbor. It transitions our focus to human relationships and how we those in leadership or pastoral positions.

Discussion points for teens: We understand that God made

us in His image and likeness, and that He calls us to sanctify our work, not only by putting great effort into our productivity,

The fifth commandment encompasses every human rights

abuse under the sun, and it calls us to respect our bodies by

avoiding every kind of excess in areas such as food, alcohol,

Discussion points for teens: You're likely to run into people

How can we respect our dignity and personhood?

on campus who disagree with your beliefs about the evils of abortion and euthanasia. How can you present from a secular

While the Ten Commandments have guided us towards happy and holy lives for millennia, diving deep into the "whys"

behind the decalogue can help us embrace our Christian

wants the best for us, gives us total freedom, and calls us

identities fully and wholeheartedly. God is a loving father who

~ Anna Livia Brady

Camino

Schools,

Opening

This Fall

Camino Schools will be opening its doors

7th grade, in the first week of September.

anyone, because we'll be gone on our field trips, learning through the nature and

museums all around Orange County! We

are thrilled to have such amazing teachers

who are excited about the mission and

vision of our school. And perhaps most

families whose children have enrolled and

the friendships that will form amongst

If you are interested in helping the

mission of Camino, or if you know

someone who might want to attend,

continuing to accept applications for the

please visit our website. We are

current school year, 2024-2025.

In the retreats, I grew in

centers for boys and girls, respectively. She also

found formation for herself in the Opus Dei

women's center. In her testimony on why she

"I wanted to be a cooperator because I understood

the need for formation in our community, and

because I wanted to spread it among the people

of our city so that it can help them as much as

the strength to continue with my work. I am a

primary school teacher in a school where there

is no shortage of the problems of our time - the

it helps me. I have found in spiritual retreats

chose to be a cooperator, she said:

the students.

importantly, we are excited about the

this year to 35 students, kindergarten -

If you stop by our school, you might

perspective the dignity of human life and our duty to respect it?

your name in an unloving or mocking tone? How did that make each by name to follow Christ's example. you feel? How does it make God feel when we misuse or mock For teens, it can help to see just how practical and realistic these guidelines are. Why not start your young adult life on **Topic 29 – The Third Commandment** the best foot possible, and inspire others to do the same in As we are called to revere God in his name, we must also the process? emulate his creative act by sanctifying the Sabbath day and abstaining from unnecessary work. This rest helps us to recalibrate our focus and places all of our productivity in a holy perspective. In addition, attending Mass gives us the Join us in the next issue of WIT for the conclusion of this nourishment we need to remain in Communion with God and his Saints, and presents the opportunity to give thanks for His countless blessings.

individuals who make up society grow support education for deserving up and are formed in families, so it students while enjoying a makes sense that if we want to have a unique musical experience. strong, vibrant society, we need strong families. A major step toward creating a strong family is to have a strong, healthy marriage, and this toolkit can be just what we need to strengthen and build up our marriages.

deliberation on discussing the Ten Commandments with teens.

grades learning the skill of observation Holy Innocents School, which in nature, which will help them to specializes in Catholic Classical cultivate a time of silence in interiority Liberal Arts, is hosting its first in their life. You could see 1/2 grades annual "Songs for Scholars" Gala memorizing the Baltimore Catechism, on October 20, 2024, featuring a locating countries around the world, and concert by pastor Fr. Peter Irving. reciting jingles about parts of speech. Maybe you'll see the kindergarten class listening to great stories from the Bible and American History, that teach as well as entertain. Or you might not see

Cooperators of Opus Dei -Formed in Christ Opus Dei exists to help people find holiness in their ordinary lives through the sanctification of their work. A major part of that mission is giving formation – education that forms us to be more Christ-like. Much of the formation

Dei provides formation in four areas that each have their own specific goals that work together toward the main objective of promoting holiness. Human formation aims to strengthen our virtues. Spiritual formation helps us encounter God as his beloved daughters in prayer, in Holy Eucharist, and in the sacrament of Confession. We receive doctrinal-religious formation to better comprehend our faith and be prepared to explain and defend it "to anyone who calls you to account for the hope in you, yet ... with gentleness and reverence, and keeping your conscience clear" (1 Pet 3:15-16). And finally, apostolic formation helps us give testimony to our faith through what St. Josemaría called, "the apostolate of

Welcome to the Girls' Club of La Cañada,

where girls in 2nd to 5th grade and their

mothers come together to grow in virtue,

friendship, and faith. Inspired by the

our ordinary lives.

teachings of St. Josemaría Escrivá, the

Despite having no prior experience in

creating and running a girls' club, three

courageous moms united their unique

talents to establish the club. Their aim

is to provide a space where both girls and mothers can find rest, connection,

and Generosity. Crafts have included making friendship bracelets, custom

and nourishment for their minds, bodies, and souls. While the girls enjoy snacks,

founder of Opus Dei, the club embraces the belief that we can encounter God in

in a joyous Pool Potluck Party in June, which created lasting friendships and strengthened ties between the girls in different grades and also between the mothers. With the grace of God, the club has welcomed 30 girls and many mothers this year, making all the preparation and sacrifices worthwhile. The club's vision is to prepare these girls to

girls' growth in the club, they can be shining examples of character and compassion throughout their communities. In anticipation of the new school year, the leaders are excited to plan new virtue talks

crafts, and talks on virtues from high school mentors, the mothers benefit and activities to foster skills and virtues from coffee, community, and insightful necessary to inspire a spirit of service to others. They invite high school mentors and talks from seasoned moms. moms to share their talents and join in this Each month, members explore virtues fulfilling endeavor. Together, by nurturing such as Authentic Friendship, Sincerity,

hair bows, and, in honor of Mother's Day, floral arrangements. To foster a 5th grade and run from 3:00p – 5:00p on the deeper devotion to Our Lady, the club third Friday of the month, hosted at the home of one of the club leaders. To join or for more also hosted a Rosary Pilgrimage at Mater Dolorosa, a Passionist Retreat Center, information, please contact us at open to all families. The year culminated josie.olaguera@gmail.com . Josie Olaguera

God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, in fraternal love and service to others." priests on May 25, 2024.

Faith & Reason Class Palos Verdes 1:30p - 3:00p • Beverly Cultural Center Mornings for Moms Recollections "Why Beauty Matters" "The Power of the Story - Nurturing Speaker: Nicole Tittmann Your Child's Moral Imagination" Speaker: Jennifer Nieva

> 10:00a - 12:00p events: daughters

11th & 12th Grade College Prep* Guidance in applying for college and preparing for college life. ★ Saturdays, 1:00p - 3:30p • Aster Study Center Catholic in College Meditations, retreats, pilgrimages, and more at <u>Westfield Residence</u> near the main UCLA campus.

Update: Mary, Mother of Fairest Love Completed Statue Blessed by the Prelate

into a van headed for Carrara, the famed source of premium quality Italian marble. The hour-long ride through the Tuscan countryside was peaceful and pastoral. We drove through valleys dotted with haystacks and stucco farmhouses sporting green shutters and red tile roofs, surrounded by rolling hills heavily forested with stone pine and cypress. Our view was punctuated intermittently by the square stone towers so common in Tuscany. The highway even bisected a majestic Roman aqueduct! The hills slowly gave way to sharp, craggy mountains, with an occasional village perched at the foot of the mountains, its balconies festooned with baskets of geraniums. As we approached Carrara, we could see where the mountain faces had been hewn for

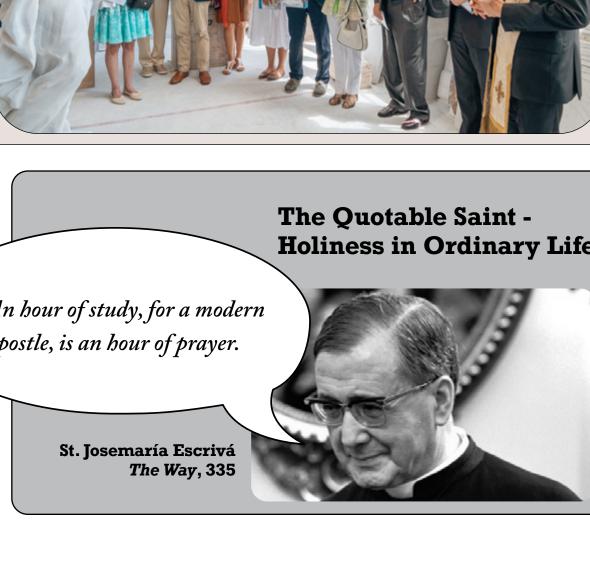
Column. Carrara is known for the superior white and blue-gray marble quarried there, prized from Roman times up to this day. Michelangelo even used Carrara marble for some

Our trek to Carrara was for a joyous occasion - the blessing of the Fairest Love statue.

of his sculptures.

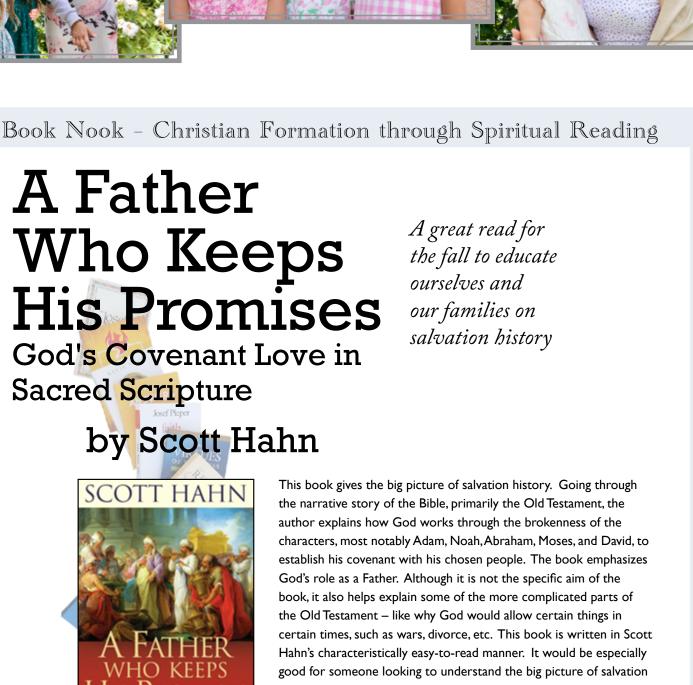
of the statue, marking the first official time that a group had gathered to pray before it. The blessing felt like a joyous family celebration, in part because Cody, his wife, Alina, and their five children were there with us. Cody presented Msgr. Ocáriz with the preliminary drawing of the Fairest Love statue, and the Prelate gave everyone rosaries made from stone. He also handed out bags of candy for the children, which they received with giggles and smiles.





Soulful Sips While Crafting Memories The sun shone bright at the Olaiz residence, setting the perfect scene for this year's enchanting Mother-Daughter Tea Party. From the first glance, it was evident that every detail had been crafted with love and dedication - from the vibrant decorations to the delectable finger foods and sweet \mathcal{A} midst the creative bustle at the craft table, young ladies gleefully

Adventure of Motherhood, inspiring thoughts and conversations that $oldsymbol{T}$ he highlight, undoubtedly, was the hat contest. A parade of big, small, and brilliantly colorful hats graced the event, each one a unique expression of style and personality. The participants, including many charming young $m{B}$ ursting with joy and laughter, this day was filled with new and familiar faces celebrating the timeless bonds between grandmothers, mothers, daughters, and friends. It was a true delight to witness the timeless essence of feminine beauty and its graceful passage through generations. As we reveled in the day's festivities, we were reminded that true beauty draws



THE COMMANDMENTS, PART 1: GODS MASTER PLAN FOR A HOLY LIFE

can sanctify them. The family is the pinnacle of society. It is The most important thing to give our kids as they prepare to leave the nest is a solid understanding of our Catholic faith, where each human being is accepted and nurtured not for so they can hold their ground in any challenges on why they what they can do, but for who they are. In a family, parents believe what they believe. have a grave responsibility to protect and provide for their children, and children, in turn, must honor parental authority. Fully understanding the Ten Commandments, a pinnacle Thus, they are called to honor father and mother, as well as of Judeo-Christianity, is a great place to start. The doctrinal articles on the Opus Dei website offer in-depth summaries of these commandments for teens and adults alike. Here Discussion points for teens: As you get older, you're likely starting is the first in our two-part series on how to talk with your to see your parents' struggles more clearly, as well as their college-bound teens about the Ten Commandments so that sacrifices. What can you do to honor the fourth commandment they can discuss naturally God's great guidance with others. and provide them with joy, thus contributing to a happy and healthv household? **Topic 28: The First and Second Commandments** The first two commandments focus keenly on our Topic 31 – The Fifth Commandment relationship with God. As we acknowledge that God is the source of all life, the creator of the universe, and the grand On its surface, the fifth commandment seems simple author of our every day, we honor Him alone and place no killing another innocent human being is always wrong and other false gods before him. This commandment not to put forbidden. But the fifth commandment goes well beyond other gods before the one true God helps direct our lives forbidding murder. By "thou shalt not kill," we are called not and eliminate any sources of false worship that take away to wish or do any bodily harm to another, nor even cause from true worship and, ultimately, our happiness. God is the harm by insult.

tobacco, and medicine.

Conclusion

Songs for Marriage as a Vocation a toolkit for

couples

We often hear that the family is the

basic building block of society. The

The St. Josemaría Institute is offering

a free spiritual toolkit for couples on

the vocation of marriage. It presents

prayers, podcasts, and articles designed

to help couples be intentional about

include a Novena for a Happy and

Faithful Marriage; podcasts on

nurturing their marriages. Selections

Marriage, a Pathway to Holiness; and

Sorry. This toolkit is a helpful resource

for all marriages, whether new or old,

in between. Check it out, and pass it

along to your family and friends. All

marriages can use a helping hand!

struggling or rock-solid, and everything

St. Josemaría and the

Dei, Rome 1992, p. 127).

The over-arching goal of the formation

provided by Opus Dei is promoting the

universal call to holiness, the principle that

God calls all of us to strive for heaven. Opus

articles on Strengthening Love and

Saying Please, Thank You, and I'm

a carefully selected compilation of

Scholars Gala to Support **Holy Innocents** School in Long Beach

This fall, WIT is excited to share

news about a great opportunity to

Guest performers will be our own Fr. Luke Mata and Fr. Matt Wheeler, also known as the Band of Fathers. Come out and support scholarships for Holy Innocents School, where 80% of the student body receives financial

aid. At the same time, enjoy the

musical artistry of priests who

are putting all their talents at

the service of God. It will be a

melodious and uplifting start to

the new school year!

see 5/6/7 grades doing weekly science experiments. Perhaps you will see 3/4th

Nijiim Noursi, a Palestinian Arab living in Jerusalem. Hanada is Lutheran and her husband is Greek Orthodox. While searching for Christian formation for her sons and daughters, she found the Opus Dei

means of formation provide me with the wisdom necessary to reach positive solutions with my colleagues, and the creativity to reach my students." ~ Jazmir Fajardo

their talents, virtues, and spirit of service, motivated by love for others. Through the

Hanada and her husband. friendship and confidence." All of the formation given by Opus Dei helps our God-given talents flourish (cf. Mt 25:30). Some of the means of formation are individual, because each person is unique, free, and responsible. Others are collective, that Opus Dei provides is available to cooperators, who are given to groups of persons, such as doctrinal and Catechism encouraged to take advantage of those educational opportunities. classes, circles, and retreats. St. Josemaría wanted to give formation to cooperators to improve the life in Christ in all of us: "To know Jesus Christ. Attending a retreat is a type of formation that many cooperators To make him known. To take him to all places" (St. Josemaría, find valuable. One testimony to this truth is that of Hanada Manuscript note, El beato Josemaría Escrivá, Fundador del Opus

Girls' Club Corner - La Cañada

become future leaders who inspire others with

Empowering Girls and Wothers

both girls and mothers, they will further enrich our community and beyond. Club meetings are open to all girls in 2nd to

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