



## Bishop DiMarzio's Calendar

### Saturday, April 16

- 2 p.m., Blessing of the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Way, 71st St., at Our Lady of Hope, Middle Village.

### Sunday, April 17

- Noon, Mass and Closing of 75th Anniversary Year, Holy Family Church, Flushing

### Tuesday, April 19

- 3 p.m., Individual meetings and day with seminarians, Redemptoris Mater Seminary, Kearny, N.J.

### Wednesday, April 20

- 10:30 a.m., Assignment Board Meeting, 310 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn (310 PPW)

- 12 p.m., Mass with Hospital Chaplains, 310 PPW

- 4:30 p.m., New York Blood Center – Parish Recognition Ceremony, Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston

### Thursday, April 21

- 7 p.m., Mass of Hope and Healing, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, Forest Hills

### Saturday, April 23,

- Noon, Memorial Mass, Catholic Teachers Association, Good Shepherd Church, Marine Park

## Blessed Savina Petrilli

1851 - 1923

Feast: April 18



Born in Siena, Italy, this foundress had a life-long devotion to St. Catherine of Siena. As a young member of a Marian sodality, she taught catechism to street children and gradually felt called to serve abandoned children and the poor. At 22, she began the work of establishing the Congregation of the Sisters of the Poor of St. Catherine of Siena, which received papal approval in 1877. Somewhat impulsive and impatient, Savina made a special vow never to deliberately refuse God anything. She counseled her sisters, "Whoever looks at us must see Jesus in us." She died of cancer and was beatified in 1988. Her congregation serves today in Italy, South America, Asia and the United States.

Saints for Today

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## Up Front & Personal

### Protecting Children Is An Ongoing Priority

▲ by Maryellen Quinn

"Spotlight," this year's Academy Award best movie, gives a voice to the victims of sexual abuse and the members of the Church who raise the question, "What is the Diocese of Brooklyn doing today to protect our children and vulnerable adults?"

To understand what the Diocese of Brooklyn is doing, one needs to understand the actions of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that established The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a comprehensive set of procedures to address allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The charter includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse. Every diocese in the country is audited for charter compliance. The Diocese of Brooklyn was found to be fully compliant with the charter every year since the process began in 2003 when the diocese created the Safe Environment Office to ensure compliance. The Safe Environment Office is responsible for sexual abuse awareness training of children and adults, creation of the Diocesan Code of Conduct, and conducting background checks for all employees and volunteers over the age of 18.

In a diocese as large as Brooklyn, complying with the charter is no easy task! Our diocese enlists the help of our pastors, principals, directors of faith formation and parish-level safe environment coordinators to ensure all programs in all parishes are monitored and are operating within the guidelines of the charter. Any adult who has contact with children in our programs, schools and academies must submit to an ongoing background search. The practice of ongoing background searches is necessary to provide the best protection from predators gaining access to our children. Signing the Diocesan Code of Conduct is also required by all those who have contact with children, giving them behavioral guidelines when ministering to children and vulnerable adults.

Every child in our parishes' faith formation programs, schools and academies are trained using the Child Lures Prevention Program. This program teaches children strategies to keep themselves safe from people who may try to harm them in any way. Young people, ages 14-17, who attend a parish faith formation program or volunteer in a parish are required to participate in the online safety awareness training, Shield the Vulnerable. Every adult who has contact with the children in our programs, schools and academies must attend a Virtus "Protecting God's Children" session which teaches them to recognize the signs of predatory behavior in other adults and the signs of abuse in children.

Children are our most precious resource. No child or adult should ever experience abuse by anyone. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and to expect our Church to reflect the goodness of God. During the past 13 years, we have learned that, through education and working together as a community, we can create safe boundaries for our children. We know that talking about sexual abuse is not easy. However, to prevent abuse, everyone must be aware of the signs of abuse and appropriately report them immediately. We must control who has access to our children. By raising awareness of sexual abuse in our communities, the Catholic Church is working to protect all of our children and vulnerable adults.

In our ever-changing world which includes the Internet and social media, we must be mindful and attentive to the present risk factors that face our children. We must be prepared to make changes to our policies and procedures when the needs arise. The Diocese of Brooklyn takes seriously the responsibility of protecting our children and vulnerable adults. We, the Church, must continue to acknowledge our responsibility and remain ever vigilant to the task.

Maryellen Quinn is the coordinator of the diocese's Office of Safe Environment.

▲ Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio



# Put Out Into the Deep The Healing from Abuse Continues

*My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,*

Last year, the diocese offered its first Mass of Hope and Healing requested by survivors of sexual abuse. There was a very positive reaction on behalf of survivors, lay faithful, and clergy. Many stated how they experienced it as a grace-filled evening. This year, the second Mass of Hope and Healing will take place on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m., at Our Lady Queens of Martyrs Church in Forest Hills.

Also last year, a group of survivors came together for the first time, working with our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Jasmine Salazar, who is a licensed social worker, to explore and give voice on what survivors felt is needed for healing. This also provided an opportunity for these survivors to meet each other, and share in their experience. The group has since become the Diocesan Survivors Advisory Committee, and has become a guiding voice in our outreach to those impacted by sexual abuse committed by clergy and others.

Their recommendations not only included a yearly Healing Mass, which I have committed to, but also support groups for survivors and their loved ones. This year, we began a series of meetings with survivors who are now parents. The purpose of this group was to address the relationship between survivor-parent and child, as well as to facilitate discussions regarding triggers that occur in their own parenting journey due to their experience with childhood sexual abuse. This coming fall, we hope to begin a support group for spouses of survivors of sexual abuse which will be co-facilitated by our Victim Assistance Coordinator along with the spouse of a survivor.

This addresses the understanding that healing is necessary for the primary victims,

as well as the secondary victims who are spouses, parents, and children. The loved ones of survivors often have to deal first hand with the effects of the trauma caused by the sexual abuse victims endured.

We cannot ignore that healing is also necessary for our lay faithful, those who bravely fill our pews when others challenge them for remaining faithful Catholics after an epidemic of sexual abuse had occurred in the Church and caused such scandal. Now that the movie "Spotlight" has given us another vehicle to discuss this difficult topic, our Diocese will offer evenings of discussion in Brooklyn and Queens. These evenings of discussion will allow our lay faithful to share their reaction to the movie, share their concerns, their anger, their fears and pain and also gain knowledge and awareness of what the Church is actively doing to prevent such abuse from ever happening again.

The Mass of Hope and Healing allows victims, who have wished to remain anonymous, to take part in a step towards healing, and perhaps avail themselves of the assistance provided by the diocese, rather than trying to cope and suffer on their own.

The fact is, the abuse happened. And it will never be forgotten or just go away. One cannot just "get over it." However, through meeting each other on this journey, coming together in prayer and hope for healing, the possibility exists for the brokenness to begin to mend.

As you know, there are good days and there are bad days. For so many survivors, the bad days are magnified by the abuse, since negative feelings often trigger feelings associated with abuse. This is not easy to deal with. It is our duty and we are committed to ongoing efforts to continue to accom-

pany those who suffer.

This is not something that we "just deal with" once or twice, and then say, "okay it has been addressed." This is something that we have to continue to bring to the forefront because many still suffer from the consequences of that abuse. This is why we are dedicated to continue providing assistance to all victims of sexual abuse.

The Mass of Hope and Healing is not only for victims but for all effected by the sexual abuse crisis. We also recognize that there are many who have suffered sexual abuse, not at the hands of clergy or members of the Diocese, but by others, who are also in need of healing. We welcome them to participate in this Eucharistic celebration.

At the conclusion of the Mass, members of our Healing Intervention Team, comprised of mental health professionals, lay faithful involved in the protection of children, and clergy members, will be available. Should someone wish to speak to a member of the Healing Intervention Team, they will be available as well as information regarding the services offered by the Office of Victim Assistance and about services offered by other local organizations that provide assistance to all victims of abuse.

This Mass of Hope and Healing is our second attempt to put out into the deep and address the difficult issue of healing from sexual abuse. Your prayers for victims and survivors are very much appreciated and your participation at this Eucharist will provide support to those who are on the road to healing.



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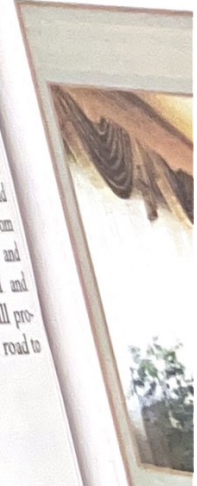


## Bisho

Auxiliary Bishop Paul Sanchez le Francis on Monday, April 4, in t

## Pope Will Fr This Weeke

VATICAN CITY (CN effort to highlight the dra tion of refugees left in l Greek island of Lesbos, and other Christian lea with the migrants Apri "Naturally, the pe



## New Papal Nuncio to the US

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to Mexico since 2007, to be the new apostolic nuncio to the United States.

He succeeds Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, who has held the post since 2011. Archbishop Vigano turned 75 in January, the age at which canon law requires bishops to run their res igation into t

As president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, shared "a heartfelt greeting and my prayerful support" of the newly named nuncio "as he embarks on his service to our country." "A shared closeness with th church in Mexic

"With fond affection, allow me also to thank Archbishop Vigano for his selfless contributions to the life of the Catholic Church in the United States," Archbishop Kurtz added.

A nuncio is a Vatican diplomat with the rank of ambassador. He is responsible for diplomatic relations with the government, but also serves as the pope's representative church in

Pierre was born Jan. 30, 1946, in Rennes in France's Brittany region where his family has had roots for many generations. He first attended school at Antsirabe in Madagascar, pursued his secondary education at the College of Saint-Malo in France and also spent one year in Morocco at Lycee Francais of Marrakesh.