

CHILDREN

From page F1

coloring activity, she unexpectedly, stated that she was angry at God, emphasizing that God was taking away her loved ones. She expressed anger and confusion, which shortly after turned to sadness. Through our relationship, she was able to put words to her experience; this led her to begin to heal.

You do not have to be a professional to help a child, particularly your own.

Here are some practical applications to help a child navigate suffering:

- Maintain routines — this helps rebuild their sense of safety and familiarity.
- Share your feelings in an age-appropriate way — this provides an example they can model.
- Ask open-ended questions to understand their perspectives.

• Integrate spiritual practices into your daily routines, such as going on a walk and engaging your senses; listening to spiritual music; or spending time coloring how you are feeling.

Integrating the child's view of God as a source of comfort and security is important for their spiritual well being and resilience.

The more a child feels safe and loved by significant adults and a divine presence, the more they can make meaning of difficult life experiences.

Jacqueline Herrera is a licensed psychologist at Clarity Child Guidance Center. She will speak on "Spirituality in Childhood" at Claritycon — the annual Continuing Education Unit at the Children's Mental Health summit this week at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort. For more, visit claritycg.org/

FOOD

From page F1

"There is ample food to distribute," Wojtkiewicz told Religion News Service, "but they've had to limit ... distribution to different food pantries."

Maj. Deb Coolidge at the Salvation Army's distribution center in Plymouth has had trouble sourcing fresh food. "Less salad mix and cucumber — oranges and apples," Coolidge said. "Those have not been on the list for the last couple of months."

At ICNA Relief in Missouri, Ferdous Hossain, associate operations coordinator, has likewise found it increasingly difficult to provide fresh produce to the 300 families who rely on the pantry each month. Local

agencies, farms and food banks that ICNA collaborates with are also feeling the produce pinch.

Donors are also stepping up, thinking creatively to help fill the gaps. Wojtkiewicz said the Christ Church pantry in Plymouth received 100 gift cards to local grocery stores.

"People are generous," said Darra Slagle, director of Rose's Bounty at Stratford Street United Church in Boston, "and when they are made aware of the need, are able to help."

Hoffman at the Midwest Food Bank said prayer is another life raft for anti-hunger operations.

"We have a lot of prayer warriors," he said. "The faith community is a huge part of what we do."

Jesuits remember 2 priests, journalists slain in Mexico

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — The Roman Catholic Church began a special round of prayers for peace in Mexico last Sunday after the June slaying of two Jesuit priests and a tour guide.

Jesuits held a moment of silence for the priests, who were allegedly killed by a local drug gang leader as they tried to protect the guide.

Dozens gathered at the downtown monument known as the Stella of Light for the moment of silence.

The Jesuits said they won't be intimidated into leaving the Tarahumara mountains, where the order has ministered to the Rarámuri Indigenous community for centuries. Two priests have already been assigned to replace their fallen brothers, said the Rev. Jorge Atilano González.

"Today we are starting a cycle of prayers for peace at the national level. It is the opening of a month marking the memory of all the people killed and disappeared.



Moises Castillo/Associated Press

People attend a July 10 Mass in Mexico City for all priests and others who have been killed. Two Jesuit priests were killed on June 20 in the town of Cercoahui.

Today we are remembering the priests, the journalists, the social activists and the young people who have died violently," González told the gathering.

So far this year, 12 journalists have been killed in Mexico, making it the most dangerous country for journalists outside a war zone.

The church's Catholic Multimedia Center said seven priests have been slain under the current

administration, which took office in December 2018, and at least two dozen in the six years of the previous president.

But many more average citizens have been killed in gang-fueled violence.

"The over 100,000 disappeared and the 122,000 killed during this administration is a source of pain, of strength, of anger and courage to build justice, reconciliation and

peace," González said.

The murdered priests, the Rev. Javier Campos, 79, and the Rev. Joaquín Mora, 80, had spent much of their lives serving the Indigenous peoples of the Sierra Tarahumara. The Jesuits were shot to death in the small church in the town of Cercoahui on June 20.

The bishops' council also called on the faithful to pray on July 31 for the conversion or redemption of the killers.

Unification Church distances itself from suspect in Abe assassination

By Ben Dooley and Hisako Ueno

NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO — When Tetsuya Yamagami was arrested after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, he told police he had "a grudge" against a "certain group." But authorities haven't identified the organization or explained its connection to Abe.

Scrutiny, amid a swirl of Japanese media speculation, is now focused on the Unification Church, the Christian group known for its mass weddings and efforts to cultivate relationships with conservative political parties worldwide.

At a news conference last Monday, church officials detailed the organization's ties to Yamagami's mother, describing her as a longtime member. She had joined the church in 1998 but lost touch with the group for a long period before returning earlier this year, said Tomihiro Tanaka, head of the church's Japan branch.

The church, which did not specifically identify itself as the group cited by police, said it had no records indicating that Tetsuya Yamagami had ever been a member and was not aware of any threats directed by him at its members. The church also said it had no direct relationship with

Abe, although it had interacted with other lawmakers through an affiliated organization.

Police have revealed few details about Yamagami, 41, who has been charged with murder. Abe was shot from behind with a homemade gun in Nara on Friday while delivering a speech for a candidate two days before a parliamentary election.

The Unification Church was founded in South Korea in 1954 by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. It later expanded overseas. In the 1970s and 1980s, the group faced lawsuits over soliciting funds and charges of "brainwashing" by parents who said their chil-

dren had been forced to join.

The church established its branch in Japan in the late 1950s, and it soon found common cause with right-wing Japanese politicians, including Abe's grandfather Nobusuke Kishi, over their shared animosity for communism.

But the Unification Church's influence in Japan has dwindled in recent decades, and it has had difficulty recruiting new members since a schism following Moon's death in 2012, said Yoshihide Sakurai, a professor of sociology and religion at Hokkaido University who has studied the Unification Church in Japan.

BRIEFS

Sabbath event approaches

The Source of Light Center at University Presbyterian Church will host "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of

Rest and Delight" Aug. 9-11 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Led by the Rev. Lydia Hernandez Trickey, the Presbyterian Women's/Horizons Bible study will be held at UPC, 300 Bushnell Ave. Tuition is \$15 before Aug. 2, and \$20

after. For more information and to purchase study books, visit sourceoflightsa.org/classes-and-events.

Center offers summer movies

The Guadalupe Community Center, an agency of Catholic Charities, is holding summer movie nights for the whole family. Disney's "Encanto" will be featured at 7:30 p.m. on July 28. Free popcorn and drinks will be available. Those attending are asked to bring their own blankets and lawn chairs. See the movie at the center, 1801 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.

participate by visiting jw.org or on streaming platforms.

Interfaith group seeks volunteers

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition requests volunteers to deliver sandwiches to asylum-seekers at the downtown Greyhound bus station and to San Antonio International Airport. Volunteers also may need to provide boarding assistance to immigrants who have been granted legal asylum and may be traveling to stay with relatives in the United States. To volunteer, call 210-989-0681 or visit interfaithwelcome-coalition.org and select the volunteer tab.

Project Cool is underway

With record-breaking heat, Project Cool organizers continue seeking donations of fans for seniors over age 60, who may receive them for free. Donations of new fans may be dropped off at St. Stephen's CARE Center, 2127 S. Zarzamora. Those seeking fans can visit St. Stephen's CARE Center or Catholic Charities, 202 W. French Place, or the Guadalupe Community Center, 1801 W. César E. Chávez Blvd. For information on donating or receiving a fan, visit ccaosa.org/project-cool/.

From staff reports

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