

FAITH

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U.S. Catholic bishops elect 'culture warrior' as new president

By Peter Smith and David Cray
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Military Services, who oversees Catholic ministries to the U.S. armed forces, was elected as the new president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Broglio, 70, was elected to a three-year term from a field of 10 candidates. He will succeed Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, who assumed the post in 2019.

The archbishop of Baltimore, William Lori, was elected as the conference's new vice president.

Usually the election of a new USCCB leaders is a formality, with the bishops elevating the conference's vice president to the post. But this year's election was wide open because the incumbent VP — Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron — will turn 75 soon, making him ineligible to serve.

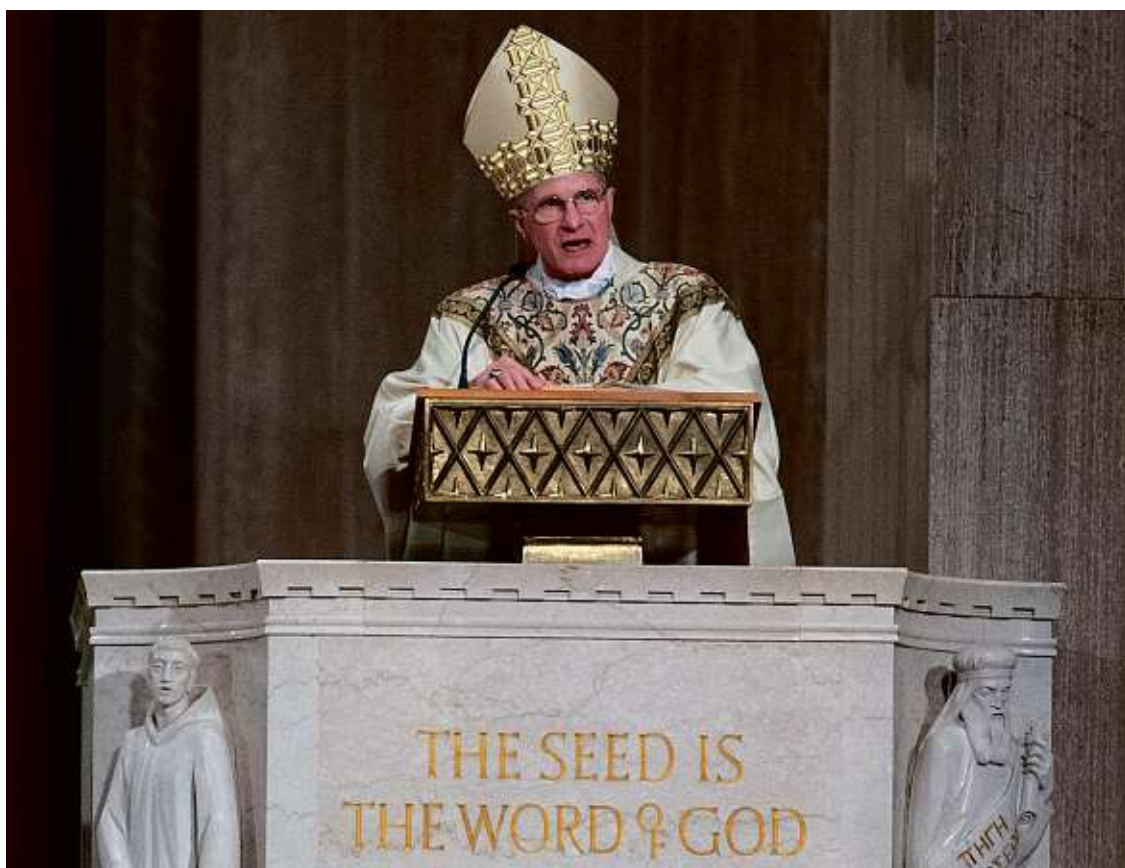
The 10 candidates ranged from the relatively moderate Archbishop Paul Etienne of Seattle to San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, a staunch conservative. Cordileone made headlines this year by barring House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a San Franciscan, from receiving Communion in the archdiocese because of her support for abortion rights.

The candidates were nominated by their fellow bishops, who bypassed several of their colleagues who have been elevated to cardinal by Pope Francis.

While Broglio was not considered as hardline a conservative as a few other candidates, his election was not welcomed by some left-of-center Catholics who empathize with Pope Francis in his occasional conflicts with the U.S. bishops.

"I'm disappointed Catholic bishops chose a new president who has a history of being a

culture warrior," said John Gehring, Catholic program director at a Washington-based clergy network called Faith in Public Life. "Even as Pope Francis offers a better path forward for the church, too many American bishops double down on old strategies that have failed to engage and energize the faithful."



Jose Luis Magana/Associated Press

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, elected Nov. 15 as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, says he is "certainly in communion" with Pope Francis.

The recent meeting was the bishops' first gathering since the U.S. Supreme Court in June overturned the Roe v. Wade decision, which had found a constitutional right to abortion, and returned the question of legal abortion to the states.

Lori, chairman of the bishops Committee on Pro-life Activities, acknowledged that many Catholics favor legalized access to abortion.

"The demise of Roe is a great victory, but it will be a Pyrrhic victory if we fail to win in the minds and hearts, first and foremost of our fellow Catholics," said Lori.

"We cannot credibly speak in a polarized society as long as our own house is divided," the Baltimore archbishop said. "At the same time, we cannot wait until perfect unanimity has been attained before we bear witness to the ambient culture

about human life and dignity."

AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of voters in the 2022 midterm elections, found that Catholic voters in Michigan split about evenly on a referendum enshrining abortion rights into the state constitution, while 60 percent of Catholic voters in Kentucky voted against an anti-abortion constitutional amendment.

Broglio — a staunch opponent of abortion — has extensive experience outside U.S. borders, having studied in Rome and serving in the Vatican's diplomatic corps.

He worked as chief of cabinet

for the late Cardinal Angelo Sodano, who was Vatican secretary of state, from 1990 to 2001. Sodano has been widely criticized for stalling investigations into prominent clerics found to be sexual abusers, such as the Rev. Marcial Maciel, leader of the Legion of Christ, a religious order.

"Hindsight is always 20/20," Broglio said at a news conference after his election. "Many things that we've learned now perhaps certainly weren't known then."

He said that during his tenure, Maciel "had everyone fairly well buffaloeed" because he was recruiting so many new priests.

Broglio said he had left the secretary of state's office "by the time the great accusations came out" against Maciel.

While allegations against Maciel did grow in the 2000s, they initially came to light in a major report in 1997 by the Hartford Courant, which reported accusations by eight men against him.

The experience is a "good reminder that we have to be attentive and be proactive," Broglio said.

Broglio also stood by an earlier statement in which he linked the church's sexual abuse crisis to homosexuality.

He had previously stated that many cases of abuse involved homosexuality rather than pedophilia because many of the victims of abusive priests were 12 and over.

A 2011 study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, commissioned by the bishops, said homosexuality was not a cause of abuse by priest.

"It's certainly an aspect of the sexual crisis that can't be denied," Broglio said Tuesday. "That's certainly not to point a finger at anyone but I think it would be naive to suggest that there's no relationship between the two."

Bishops continues on F2

BELIEF by Jacqueline Herrera

Practicing gratitude shouldn't be limited to Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving means "expression of gratitude, especially to God," according to the Oxford English Dictionary. We may have been aware of this, yet the word thanksgiving has multiple associations, from turkey and family to American history. I invite you to pause amid the busyness that holidays bring and reflect on gratitude. Multiple studies have shown gratitude's positive impact on our mental health and overall quality of life. However, have we incorporated thankfulness into our daily lives? Have we been able to teach our children the power of gratitude?

Children learn the importance of saying "please and thank you" at a very young age. Most of us use these words without thinking twice. It doesn't mean we are not thankful; the words are uttered so quickly that we move right along. Slowing down to notice feelings of gratitude increases your sense of satisfaction.



Herrera

Pause and sit in gratitude when you recognize the goodness in your life and the source of your thankfulness. These brief experiences of awe

and gratitude encompass a spiritual life.

Spirituality is a way of living, an experiential space, a lived reality. Sharing feelings, experiences, and observations with your child teaches them to be open to spiritual experiences and incorporate gratefulness into their daily lives. Children learn best through routine and rituals. If this is a new practice for you, setting a routine with your child can help strengthen your relationship and increase your sense of awe. Some practical ways to increase this practice include:

- Pick a daily routine (driving to school, dinner, bedtime, etc.) and ask each other what



Getty Images

The author offers seven ways to increase the practice of gratitude during daily life, including the busy holidays.

you are most grateful for today. This allows you to model reflection and vulnerability and encourage these values in your child.

- Point out kindness, whether it's your child's generosity or that of others.
- Creating a gratitude calendar,

each person can write a word or phrase of what they are grateful for that day.

- Journaling at the end of the day can help you highlight the goodness in your day; as a result, you increase your sense of gratitude.
- Find fun, creative ways to

express gratitude to others. That could mean creating a fun video with your child, drawing a thank you card together, or leaving little post-it notes in unexpected places.

- Helping others in need may help put your child's life into perspective. Volunteering together can strengthen your bond and help your child develop compassion for others and gratitude for their privileges.

- Create a "Gratitude Jar" where each family member adds something they are grateful for daily. Pick a day of the week to read them together and build on those grateful moments.

As you prepare for the holiday season, I encourage you to return to the definition of thanksgiving — an "expression of gratitude, especially to God." Whether or not you incorporate the above ideas, pausing and recognizing the goodness

Belief continues on F2



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Courtesy Catholic Charities
J. Antonio Fernandez receives the Heart of the Servant Award from Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Fernandez is recognized by group

Catholic Charities president and CEO J. Antonio Fernandez recently received the Heart of the Servant Award from Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

"I am humbled to receive this honor from such an important organization in our community. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has actively supported our mission," Fernandez said. "It is a pleasure to serve together and an honor to be recognized by them."

Door company donates \$75K for 75th anniversary

Hollywood-Crawford Door Co. celebrated its 75th anniversary by donating \$75,000 to six Christian-based non-profit organizations serving San Antonio and the Hill Country.

"We can't think of a better way to celebrate 75 years of service than by contributing to organizations that are chang-

ing lives in our community," Hollywood-Crawford president Randy Oliver said in a news release.

The donations will be split among six nonprofit groups: Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries, Daily Bread Ministries, iHope for Kids, Any Woman Can, The South Texas Alliance for Orphans and the SHARE Center of Bulverde and Spring Branch. For more information visit HollywoodCrawford.com or call 210-494-3434.

Choral Evensong is this evening at St. Luke's

Choral Evensong will be held at 4:30 p.m. today at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 11 St. Luke's Lane. Music by Pitoni, Smith, Friedell and Lauridsen will be featured. A reception will follow. For more information, contact Russell Jackson at (210) 828-6425.

St. John's will host Charity Messiah

St. John's Lutheran Church will host the eighth annual Charity Messiah featuring the San Antonio Choral Society's chamber orchestra and soloists next Sunday.

Established in 1965, the San Antonio Choral Society is an 80-plus, mixed-voice performing ensemble.

The concert starts at 4 p.m. at St. John's, 502 E Nueva. Tickets are \$25 per person and may be purchased at sanantoniochoralsociety.org (click on the performances tab). A portion of ticket sales will support youth literacy.

From staff reports

Jewish detective bows on TV during a wave of antisemitism

By Mark Kennedy
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK — Viewers of "The Calling" will quickly learn it isn't a typical TV police procedural. Just two minutes in, the lead detective of a fresh murder bows quietly over the dead body — and prays.

Detective Avraham Avraham is an unusual figure in the New York Police Department: A keen observer of human behavior from his study of philosophy and his Orthodox Jewish faith.

"I'm proud to play a Jewish detective that is religious," says actor Jeff Wilbusch, who plays Avraham. "It's very unique to have such a show. And I think it's an important story to tell."

Peacock's "The Calling," which co-stars Juliana Canfield as Avraham's partner, is from celebrated showrunner, writer and executive producer David E. Kelley, with Oscar- and Emmy-winning Barry Levinson directing the first two episodes and Hans Zimmer and Steve Mazzaro providing the music.

Based on a series of books by Israeli crime writer Dror A. Mishani, "The Calling" puts a Jewish detective who quotes from the Torah front and center on U.S. prime time during a new spasm of antisemitism.

"We're living in tricky times, sad times," says Wilbusch. "I believe very much in the power of storytelling. You know, I don't know how much power I have, but I'm very



Heidi Gutman/Associated Press

This image released by Peacock shows Jeff Wilbusch, right, in a scene from "The Calling."

proud of the series."

"The Calling" is a quirky, quieter show, using melodies that borrow from the Middle East and cinematography ground into the gritty streets of New York City, where it was filmed during 2022's spring and summer. One recurring character is a homeless former professor.

"This is a different animal. It's not going to be for everyone," says Kelley. "It's a battle to wrestle for the viewer's attention and when you use as your vehicle to wrestle a more quiet character in a quiet show, it brings certain challenges with it."

Wilbusch's Avraham, or Avi to his colleagues, is a lone wolf of a detective — brilliant but a bit standoffish and sometimes too blunt. He doodles pictures of fish on napkins to relax and can read a room — and a suspect — like no other detective.

"The mood of the show is intentionally enigmatic," says Canfield. "Avi is a

detective who operates in a different way from your run-of-the-mill detective. And I think the show mirrors his approach in a lot of ways, which is to say the show and Avi are both deeply interested in character and human behavior."

The first season centers on the case of a missing teen, which stretches out over the eight hourlong episodes. The detectives run down every lead, from school friends and his sister to his unhappy mother and stern father. Avraham is always trying to get inside the head of a suspect or victim, even sitting quietly on the edge of the missing teen's bed to feel his essence.

"He sees the world with empathy," says Wilbusch. "He believes every single one of us is entitled to infinite respect — doesn't matter where he comes from, which faith he belongs to, and the color of his skin."

It's a character that immediately intrigued the Israeli-born actor. Few acting jobs led him to

prepare by asking real homicide detectives how they decompress after work while also reading essays about Hellenistic-period Stoics like Marcus Aurelius.

In one scene, Canfield's character notices the shelves of books in her partner's cubicle. "There's a copy of the Torah and the Talmud, but there are also books written by great Greek philosophers and classical philosophers. So he uses Judaism as a sort of entry point into a way of thinking about the world philosophically. And that's how he approached his detective work."

The interplay between Avraham and Canfield's rookie detective is delightful. She is an ambitious, by-the-book cop who sees him use his pools of knowledge and hyper-detailed observations of social behavior to crack cases. "You can't learn what he does," warns her commander. "Yes, I can," she responds.

She becomes a yin to his yang. "She isn't put off by his sometimes alienating tendencies. And I think she's also someone who has things to teach him about how to stay grounded and how to come out of his cloud-covered genius castle in the sky," says Canfield.

"She manages to surprise him," says Wilbusch. "They build a very interesting relationship that they never knew really that they needed so badly."

The original book was set in Tel Aviv.

Novelist, philanthropist Scott gives record \$15M to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

By Jack Jenkins
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

Novelist and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott has awarded Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service \$15 million in donation funds, the single largest contribution in the advocacy organization's 83-year history.

Scott announced donations to LIRS and more than 340 other organizations in a recent Medium post; the gifts total nearly \$2 billion doled out over the past 7 months.

According to a news release from LIRS, Scott's \$15 million donation comes as the group works



Scott

to resettle Afghan refugees, people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine and asylum seekers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"This unprecedented and timely gift will make a monumental difference in the lives of the most vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers as they strive to achieve their own American Dream," Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of LIRS, said in the news release. LIRS is one of nine

groups that partner with the federal government to help resettle refugees — six of which, like LIRS, are faith-based. The group not only assists the refugees, but also advocates publicly for their cause.

"We are extremely grateful to MacKenzie Scott for this recognition of our decades-long legacy of service. Her support represents a transformational opportunity to expand innovative programming and reimagine how the U.S. welcomes new Americans," said Vignarajah.

It's the second time Scott has listed faith groups — including other

immigration rights groups and liberal-leaning religious advocacy organizations — among the recipients of her grants. In 2021, she also awarded funds to Faith in Action, Faith in Public Life, HIAS, Repair the World, Inner-City Muslim Action Network, Muslim Advocates, Pillars Fund, Homeboy Industries and Repairers of the Breach.

Scott's ex-husband, tech mogul Jeff Bezos, also revealed on Monday his intention to donate the majority of his vast wealth to charity — although it is unclear what organizations the Amazon founder will prioritize.

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BISHOPS

From page F1

Broglio declined to speculate on why he was elected or whether the vote signaled a different agenda from the pontiff's.

"I'm certainly in communion with Pope Francis," he said. "I'm not aware that this necessarily indicates some dissonance with Pope Francis."

Last year, Broglio attracted national attention when he asserted that servicemembers should be able to get religious exemptions sparing them from the Pentagon's mandate that all troops receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

"Notwithstanding the moral permissibility of

these vaccines, the Church treasures her teaching on the sanctity of conscience," said Broglio. "Accordingly, no one should be forced to receive a COVID-19 vaccine if it would violate the sanctity of his or her conscience."

Broglio was ordained as an archbishop by St. John Paul II in March 2001. In 2007, he was named the fourth archbishop of the Military Services USA.

As a member of the USCCB, Broglio currently serves as secretary of the conference. In the past he has served as chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace and chairman of the Canonical Affairs and Church Governance Committee.

GRATITUDE

From page F1

in your life can reset your priorities. As a nation, we have experienced difficult years; gratitude does not mean ignoring pain or engaging in toxic positivity. Gratitude, amid pain, reminds us of goodness

and kindness and fills us with hope.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

Jacqueline Herrera is a licensed psychologist working with children and adolescents at Clarity Child Guidance Center, claritycg.org/.

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