

New Evangelization Office promotes renewal, continues Synod ministry

BY PAULA DOYLE
Staff Writer

With roots in the archdiocesan Synod initiatives and responding to pontifical calls for a renewal of Christian faith among baptized believers, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is establishing a new and permanent Office of the New Evangelization, tasked with implementing five priorities recently announced by Archbishop José Gomez.

The new office will incorporate and succeed the current Office of Synod Implementation, established after the 2003 Synod.

In his first pastoral letter, "Witness to the New World of Faith," published last October to mark the start of the Year of Faith declared by Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop Gomez outlined the five priorities, selected to serve as a kind of spiritual "program" to guide individuals, parishes and archdiocesan ministries in the coming months and years.

These priorities, explained in detail at <http://archla.org/newworld>, are:

- Education in the faith.
 - Promoting vocations to the priesthood and to religious and consecrated life.
 - Fostering our universal "catholic" identity and diversity as the family of God.
 - Proclaiming the Gospel of life.
 - Strengthening marriage and family.
- "I want to stress that these priorities are

not only 'mine,'" wrote Archbishop Gomez in a letter to archdiocesan pastors Jan. 4. "They grow out of the excellent guidance I have received from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and from our common prayer and reflection on the initiatives of the Archdiocesan Synod of 2003."

Final reports on the six Synod Initiatives (evangelization, participation and accountability, education and formation, ministry and leadership, Eucharist and sacramental, and social justice) are published in detail at <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/synod/Pages/initiatives/index.aspx>.

"We're still actively implementing the Synod's initiatives, but we're in a process of transition as the Office of Synod Implementation and Stewardship becomes the Office of the New Evangelization," said Deacon David Estrada, who retired as executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Synod Implementation/Stewardship on Jan. 2.

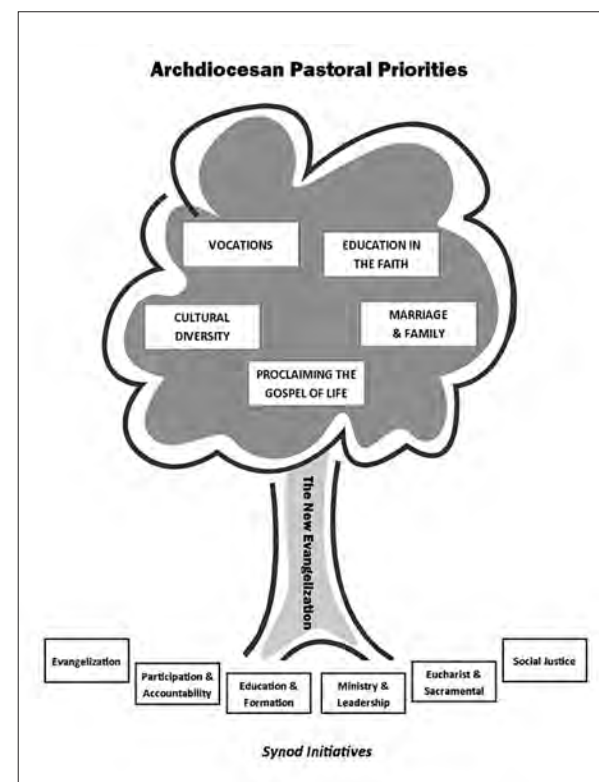
"The Synod initiatives will continue to serve as the seedwork upon which, through the lens of the New Evangelization, we will now begin to focus on the five priorities that Archbishop Gomez has identified," said Estrada. "All the work we've done is continuing with an emphasis on the five priorities. It's an exciting time as we begin to move beyond Synod implementation and expand our priorities. They're all related."

Over the past decade, Estrada has over-

seen implementation of many structures recommended by the Synod, including the establishment of regional pastoral councils followed by the creation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council made up of three representatives from each of the five pastoral regions as well as two each of priests, nuns and deacons.

"The Synod emphasized each person's baptismal call and the importance for everyone to step up," noted Estrada. "The Synod was good in awakening that. It's evident that the laity is now taking on more meaningful roles."

He said he is certain that "we are at a point where there is a golden opportunity to take the energy we have been able to develop, including structures in place that we didn't have before, and move forward through the lens of evangelization to harness all we have been able to develop and make parishes even more alive. People have begun to recognize that they are gifted by God in so many ways." TD



NEW PRIORITIES — The new archdiocesan Office of the New Evangelization is tasked with implementing five priorities, outgrowths of the Synod's initiatives with a focus on evangelizing renewal among baptized believers.

Requiem for Unborn Mass: Voices for the voiceless

Singer-composer-cantor Danielle Rose sees pro-life movement 'absolutely' growing among young people.

BY PAULA DOYLE
Staff Writer

Music missionary may not be among the most familiar of job descriptions, but for Danielle Rose, it's a way of life.

She has traveled all over the world singing her original songs about God's love, and she will be the cantor at the annual Requiem for the Unborn Mass to be celebrated Jan. 19, 6 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

"It's a privilege to be able to offer my voice to speak on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves," said Rose, who has been a traveling music missionary ever since she graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2002 with bachelor degrees in music and theology.

The very summer she graduated, she sang songs about falling in love with God to one million young people attending World Youth Day in Toronto taken from her 2001 debut album released by World Library Publications, "Defining Beauty."

She spent the next several years touring and writing songs. Her subsequent albums with World Library included "Mysteries," a collection of meditations upon the 20 mysteries of the rosary; "I Thirst," a musical tribute to the life and work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta; and "Pursue Me," describing the



CANTOR — Music missionary Danielle Rose, pictured here on the Great Wall of China, will be the cantor for this year's Requiem for the Unborn Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels Jan. 19, 6 p.m. Music for the Mass was written by local liturgical composer/choir director, John Bonaduce.

journey of accepting the call to discernment, recorded immediately before her entrance into a convent in 2007 to discern whether she had a vocation to the religious life.

After more than two years of formation in the convent, Rose came to a successful discernment with her community that the Lord was calling her to follow Him in a different way. She left the congregation to continue her global music ministry. Part of that ministry now includes fundraising for an orphanage in China that she had learned about during her convent stay.

In the summer of 2010, she came to Los Angeles to work on a self-published pro-life album called "Culture of Life," a musical reflection on the interrelated components of society that are necessary to build an authentic culture of life. She was inspired to publish the album because of China's one-child policy and her desire to see an end to abortion during her lifetime. For each copy of the album purchased, a copy will be donated to support organizations that help build a culture of life, such as crisis pregnancy centers.

It's no accident that the album is scheduled for release by the end of this month, which marks the 40th anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Rose, 32, sees the pro-life movement "absolutely" growing among young people. "People are recognizing the consequenc-

es and suffering that accompany abortion," she said. "This truth is evident even when discussions surrounding abortion are not coming from a faith-based perspective. When this is combined with the wisdom revealed through our faith about God's plan for the dignity of the human person, then the capacity to transform the culture is unstoppable. It's like a tidal wave in our nation."

She looks forward to cantoring the music at the Requiem for the Unborn Mass, composed by John Bonaduce, music director at Our Lady of Peace Church in North Hills and music teacher/director of liturgical music at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks. Bonaduce also leads music at St. Bernardine of Siena's (Woodland Hills) 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass, where he directs the Shantigarh Choir, which is the choir with whom he created the Requiem for the Unborn.

"John's music is very beautiful and moving," said Rose. "When music is prayed from the heart, it has the capacity to help people encounter Jesus. I have no doubt that this will be happening in the Requiem Mass." TD

For more information on the music and albums of Danielle Rose, who will also be among those performing at the Religious Education Congress' opening ceremonies and lunchtime entertainment Feb. 22, log on to www.daniellerose.com.