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VIEWPOINTS

JULY 4, 2013 | THE GEORGIA BULLETIN

QUESTION CORNER

Did Jesus have siblings?

Catholic News Service

Q At a Bible study group in our apartment complex, it was shared with those attending that Jesus had five siblings. What Bible passage does that come from and, if it's true, why do we call Our Lady "Virgin Mary"? (Come in the group said that Mary was a virgin at the time of Jesus' birth but had five additional children with her spouse Joseph.) (Albany, N.Y.)

A The perpetual virginity of Mary—before, during and after the birth of Christ—has been consistently taught by the church from the early Christian era. We reflect that belief at Mass when we say, in the Confiteor, "Blessed Mary ever virgin."

What, then, are we to make of such passages as Mark 6:3, where Christ's neighbors in Nazareth ask, "Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" Traditionally, Catholic biblical scholars have pointed to the fact that the Greek word "adelphos" used in this Marcan passage could mean not just "brother" but also such relations as step-brother, nephew or cousin. But there are still other interpretations consistent with the perpetual virginity of Mary.

The second-century proto-evangelium of James, for example, described these "adelphoi" as children of Joseph by a previous marriage. Likewise, Orthodox churches today speculate that Joseph was a widower who had other children before he married Mary, and some Catholic commentators agree.

(They point to the fact that Joseph is often portrayed in art as an older man and that Joseph had clearly died before the public ministry of Christ, or else his role in that ministry would have been support from the fact that Jesus, on the cross, entrusted his mother to the beloved apostle John; Jewish law dictated that the responsibility of caring for a widowed mother would have passed to the next oldest son, had one existed.)

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfrkenndoyl@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.

ARCHBISHOP'S SCHEDULE

ATLANTA

Following is the public schedule for Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory for the coming weeks.

■ Sunday, July 1, to Wednesday, July 31, Archbishop Gregory will take personal time.

Sweeping the devil away



BY LORRAINE V. MURRAY

I'D BE TELLING A HUGE LIE if I said this has been a good summer so far. In fact, it could go down in history as one of the world's worst. We have been battling an ongoing painful shoulder injury that my husband sustained about two months ago, which means he has only one arm that works. He has had to let go of many things he once could do, and that includes preparing delicious suppers, fixing things around the house, riding his scooter to work, helping with laundry and groceries, yard work, heavy lifting—and even, alas, bear hugs.

To add insult to injury, so to speak, we went on vacation for a week, but it took us two weeks to recover since we came

back with seriously awful colds. I'm well aware that the crafty old devil has a way of getting his clutches into folks and tempting them to lose hope—and there are moments when he seems to be getting the upper hand with me.

One day I realized it was time for some fervent prayer. Oh, don't get me wrong! I had certainly beseeched my friends for prayers, and I was praying in my own way through constant pleading and the ongoing worry that sometimes passes as prayer. And every night I got down on my knees and told God my troubles—and cried.

But I was avoiding the rosy because, you know, it takes so much time! And, gee, I'm busy what with grocery shopping, cleaning, cooking, doing laundry, taking my husband to medical appointments, writing my columns and all that.

Then I realized how stupid my excuses were, given that I waste so much time every day checking Facebook. But frankly I do hate sitting in one place too long, and saying the rosary seems to require that.

One evening, I headed out to the back deck and took a new approach to the rosary: walking around as I prayed the Joyful Mysteries. As I walked, I prayed for healing for my husband and healing for

myself, from depression. I prayed for a friend who just had surgery on his hand and for our godson, going on vacation the next day.

I also prayed that the devil would leave me alone, just for a few minutes.

And here are all the things that happened as I prayed that one rosary: A plane drifted through the sky overhead and a flock of sparrows landed in a large nest in a nearby tree, where they chirped excitedly as if discussing the floor plan.

A chipmunk scurried by while sirens shrieked in the distance—and I suddenly noticed there were spider webs in the corners of the porch. Next

a frog croaked and another plane went by, while someone down the block a rowler

crossed the road and the corn

And some busy folks just a few feet away were

Once I grabbed my keys and swept the porch. There were no spiders, but I brushed and

Spiders were gone. I was

My husband, Robert, is a

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"We want The Georgia Bulletin to be the source (or one of the sources) that you go to for Catholic news every day."

Mary Anne Castranio

It's a whole new fresh and updated website

Internet news has evolved in recent years, and we're ready to evolve with it. Rather than be an either/or proposition, we want both the print and online products to be valuable sources of news and information for our increasingly diverse audience. For that reason, we felt that a redesign of

georgiabulletin.org was just as important as the print redesign. And our hope was to create an easy-to-navigate, frequently updated website that takes full advantage of the rich multimedia potential of the web. Our home page is now more engaging, with greater emphasis on local news and top stories featured prominently. The sections of the site are equally engaging and easy-to-use. Among our most exciting new features:

- A **multimedia section** that includes photo galleries, slideshows and video presentations.
- An **events page** that helps you stay up-to-date on social and educational opportunities around the Archdiocese.

OUR GOALS

- Be cleaner, bolder, more active, compelling and distinctive
- Allow scanners to quickly find the information they are most interested in and put it into immediate context
- Reassure our in-depth readers that they are getting as much substance and value as before
- Amplify the authoritative voice of our commentary, and reaffirm its role in the Catholic community
- Index, cross-reference, and preview our best inside, online, late-breaking news and upcoming content
- Organize information in the most appropriate ways into text (narrative, segmented, or brief), photographs, and/or infographics
- Provide readers with an on-line experience that is equally engaging and informative
- Use the website to inform our readers with news that occurs between two-week print production cycles
- Where appropriate, be innovative and have fun!

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IN-DEPTH

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: 101 lessons on the debate

DENVER—Most of us have to admit we're not able to recite passages from the U.S. Constitution verbatim or explain to someone else what's at stake in the debate over religious liberty.

We hear public figures disagreeing. We read that leaders in the Catholic Church have filed an unprecedented number of lawsuits to defend the right of Catholic institutions not to violate their religious consciences, while a federal health care mandate requires that they do just that—or pay crushing fines.

Across the country, Catholic universities and hospitals are being sued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and private citizens are suing who have been largely able to have their workplace or their religious beliefs, and are at a loss. They are there because that's their only option.

But the difficulty isn't just Catholicism. Yet, many people of good will sit on the sidelines or even actively oppose the faith and individuals fighting for religious liberty.

One may be that the issue is complex, another may be that, although widely and reasonably, the debate is being colored by misinformation and fear that don't benefit the cause.

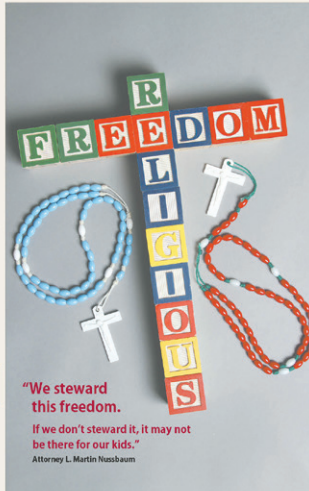
Here are three controversial aspects of the religious liberty debate and the responses by prominent religious leaders: The statements were being a religious body panel completed by Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Springfield, Mass., and Jeffrey J. Martin, who specializes in representing churches and religious organizations in litigation. I worked for the Catholic Media Commission in Denver on June 20.

1 The First Amendment protects the free exercise of religion, not simply freedom of worship.

Since 2010, top U.S. officials, including President Barack Obama and then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have used the term "freedom of religion" rather than "freedom of religious" in public statements both in the United States and overseas. In 2010, a bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) issued the change in terminology in its annual report and expressed concern that it could represent a change

Frederick, June 22

STORY BY GRETCHEN KEISER | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER | THE GEORGIA BULLETIN



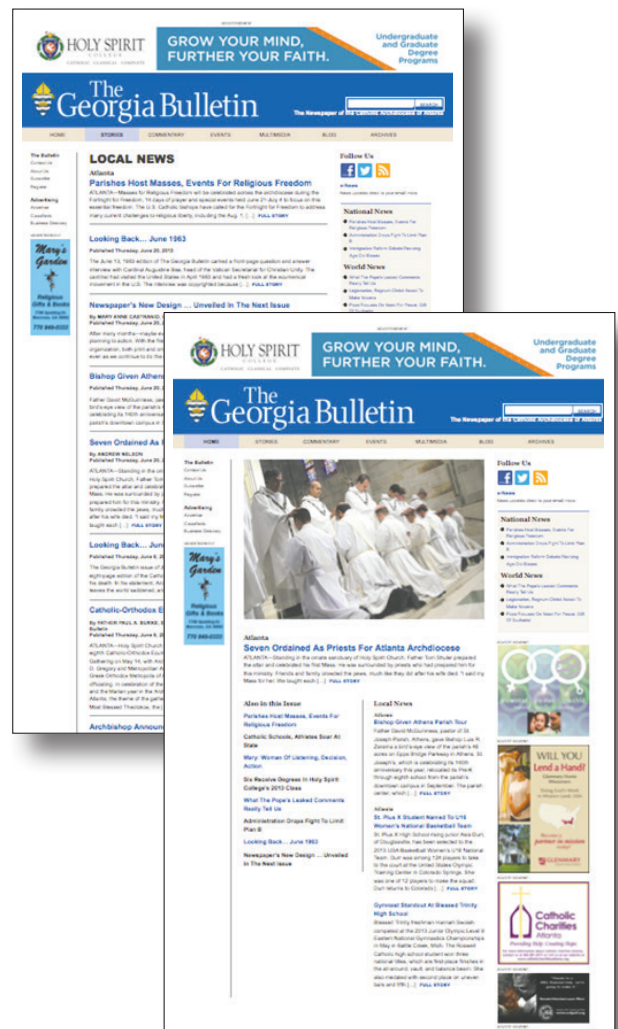
"We steward this freedom. If we don't steward it, it may not be there for our kids."

Attorney L. Martin Nussbaum

NEW CONTENT

A redesign isn't just about making a newspaper look better. It's also about exploring new ways to better serve readers. So we spent a significant amount of time brainstorming and developing new features, including:

- A planned four-page pullout section called **"In-Depth"** or **"Life Story"** that will focus on helping you better understand the Catholic faith and in a deeper way.
- A new features section called **"Culture in the Church"** that includes stories and information on understanding how to be a Catholic in today's world with commentaries and book and movie reviews. There will also be extended coverage of high school students and high school sports, and more.
- Easy-to-use **online forms** that allow you to submit news events, bulletin notes, classified ads and business directory listings.



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