

May 10-16, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter

*“The loveliest
masterpiece of the
heart of God
is the heart
of a mother.”*

– St. Thérèse of Lisieux



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm Vigil
5:30pm Vigil

Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 10:30am
12pm • 5:30pm • 12pm Vietnamese (Hall)

Weekday 7:30am • 8:30am • 12pm

Confession - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 3-4pm • Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11am

Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-12pm

Rosary - Rosary prayed after 7:30am Mass

St. Martha Catholic Church

200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 • Tel 941.366.4210 • Fax 941.954.8434 • StMartha.org

Facebook St. Martha Roman Catholic Church • Instagram stmarthachurch_in_srq • YouTube St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

Parish Office Hours Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 12:30-4pm

May 10, 2026, Sixth Sunday of Easter by Deacon Bob

Jesus reminds us today if we love Him, we need to keep His commandments. He goes on to tell us He will be leaving us the Holy Spirit and explicitly states that the Holy Spirit is the *Spirit of truth*. In this relativistic world, do we ever fall prey to relativizing the commandments of Jesus?

The cultures of this world embrace relativism. It preaches that there are no absolutes. We find this world justifying all behaviors. In fact this week, in the news a judge literally apologized to a man attempting to kill as many of his political opponents as he could (along with other bystanders of his own political ilk) because the authorities placed him in solitary confinement for his own safety. We can justify literally anything with relativism.

Today Our Lord is telling us that there ARE absolute truths, absolute knowledge, and absolute morals. These absolutes come from His commandments.

*"If we love Him,
we will keep
His Commandments."
- Deacon Bob*

Logically, there must be absolute truths, knowledge, and morals if we are to believe Jesus is God. Otherwise Jesus could not be God. We believe Jesus came to die for our sins. But if we adopt relativism, we can

justify almost any action. If we can justify any action, then there is no sin. We say to ourselves that sin is on a sliding scale. Yes, we did this action, but we justify it and believe it not to be a sin. If our bad actions are not sins, then Jesus' whole message is a farce.

Relativism justifies our actions and therefore we come to think our actions are not sinful. Jesus who came to die for our sins, just simply wasted His time as relativism negates sin. If that is the case, we did not and do not need a Savior. What would we need a Savior for? Relativism tells us there were good and righteous reasons why we acted the way we did. Simply put, we do not need a Savior because there is nothing to be saved from.

The devil continues to work in our lives to push relativism so that we think we understand better than Jesus. Soon, whether we see it or not, through relativism we have assumed the mantle from Jesus and we become our own God. With relativism, we foolishly believe we know more than He does! That is when the devil wins.

But Jesus IS the Truth, the Way, and the Life, as we heard in last week's Gospel. In a different part of the Scripture, He tells us His teachings are hard. But He promises us that we will not be alone in the struggle with relativism. He leaves us His Holy Spirit, and He is with us always till the end of the age. He also tells us today that we are in Him, and He is in us. He knows our struggles were, are, and will be difficult. He knows we will fall on our path to Him (and that is

continued to →



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Deacon Pat Macaulay is retiring - We are all invited to a *Happy Retirement* reception for Deacon Pat which will be held in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, May 16th at 6:30pm**. Thank you Deacon Pat for your ministry in St. Martha: for assisting at Masses and preaching the word of God, for celebrating baptisms in English and in Spanish, for celebrating Liturgies of the Word of God in our church and in care homes and distributing the Holy Communion, for doing Burials of Deceased parishioners, for

preparing tens of families for Baptisms, for your leading role of coordinating the work of Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion, for coordinating the OCIA in our Parish, for your part in the Parish Council and for many things which you did and which are too many to be listed here. May God love you and bless you!

We need to suspend the 8:30am weekday Mass for two weeks - One of our priests will be away on Retreat, so the parish, school and hospital ministry will be in the hands of two priests. The **8:30am weekday Mass will be suspended from Monday, May 18 to Saturday, May 31, 2026**. It should be **back on Monday June 1**.

Next Sunday, May 17, 2026, is The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.

With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family,
Father George



Prayer Intention for May 2026
That Everyone Might Have Food
Pope Leo invites us to pray that no one might lack the food they need and that we might learn to live more responsibly, recognizing that the earth's resources are a gift for everyone.

← continued from previous column

okay if we get back up). The Good News is our God is a merciful God and offers us that unending mercy with a love beyond all telling. Today, Jesus is asking us do we love Him?

If we love Him, we will keep His commandments. Because if He is God (and He is!!), His teachings are absolute, His knowledge is absolute, and His Way is absolute.

A beautiful May Crowning Mass marked the close of our Family Masses and Religious Education year. We are grateful for a wonderful season of faith and formation – classes will resume in the fall.



Shine the Light of Jesus

Camp Kindness

June 22-26 from 9am-noon
Join the kids at St. Martha School



St. Martha Church VBS/ Summer Activity Week
Community Service • Arts & Crafts
Sports • Games • Music • and more

Welcoming Pre-K3-Grade 5
(Pre-K3 must be 3 years old & fully potty trained)

St. Martha School, Zazarino Center 4380 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota



Come as you are. YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

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Wednesdays, April 8-May 20 from 9:30-11:30am
St. Martha Geenen Hall

For information contact Jacqueline Kelly/Lani Dixon
stmarthawwp@yahoo.com

Join us for *Living in the Father's Love* to discover just how much God loves us and how the Gospels are deeply relevant to our relationship with God and with those we love.

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Fun Fact about the ART in St MARTHA Church

St Mark the Evangelist

Our highlight this week is part of *The Four Evangelists* windows. We see St. Mark holding a book, the *Gospel of Saint Mark*. He also has a quill pen as he is one of the Four Evangelists. At his feet is a winged lion for courage and resurrection, while the wings symbolize that the writing of the Gospel is not just human, but divinely inspired. The colors are important as well, with gold representing divinity and heavenly glory, blue representing divine truth, and red representing sacrifice.

St. Mark, St. Matthew, St. Luke, and St. John are The Four Evangelists, collectively, the *Tetramorph*. They each have a symbol: St. Mark, the winged lion; St. Matthew, the human/angel; St. Luke, the ox; and St. John, the eagle. These symbols are derived from prophetic visions from the *Books of Ezekiel* (1:15-10) and *Revelation* (4:7).

Each hand-painted, crafted stained glass window along the church walls is a piece of art, created in 1941 by the K. J. Mueller Studio of Zephyrhills. Our stained glass windows are historically significant and are included in the 1994 State of Florida Historical Stained Glass Survey. They were restored by Mr. Mueller's nephew.



Read much more about our Parish at StMartha.org

Live The Liturgy - Inspiration of the Week

When we want to see Christ's face, we must look to the Sacraments. *The world will no longer see Me*, Christ tells His disciples, *but you will see Me*. This ability to see Jesus is a gift of the Holy Spirit, one made again and again - even today.

Observances for the week of May 10

Liturgical Calendar

Sun, 10	6th Sunday of Easter; <i>Mother's Day</i>
Tue, 12	Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
Wed, 13	<i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>
Thu, 14	The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation in some U.S. dioceses); St. Matthias, Apostle
Fri, 15	St. Isidore
Sat, 16	<i>Armed Forces Day</i>
Sun, 17	The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

Events & Announcements

Consecration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 2026 - a historic moment in the US as bishops consecrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus signaling to God that His goodness is not forgotten and that our country relies on God's providence for continued flourishing, bringing blessing and hope to a country suffering from wounds of division and an epidemic of loneliness. Parishes across the country, including here in the Diocese of Venice, are asked to join in this consecration. Guidance in planning this celebration within a Mass can be found here. More about what consecrating the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus means and how it can bless our nation can be found at popesprayerusa.net.



Mental Health Counseling Services - Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice is offering Mental Health Counseling and Tele-Health Counseling for adults and children provided by licensed mental health therapists. If you or someone you know is feeling stressed, anxious, depressed, helpless, or overwhelmed, Catholic Charities can help. For more information, please call **239.455.2655** or visit Catholic Charities catholiccharitiesdov.org/behavioral-health-center.

A Message from BISHOP DEWANE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) is an opportunity to bring truth and hope to people across the United States and around the world. Through websites, social networks, television, radio and print, the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) makes it possible for campaigns supporting marriage, family and catechesis to reach millions.

Your support of the Catholic Communication Campaign provides the means to fund grants that support the collective communication work of the Bishops of the United States, such as the daily reflection videos found on the USCCB website. These powerful videos help viewers grow in faith by engaging with the texts of the daily Mass readings.

The Catholic Communication Campaign Collection is scheduled in the Diocese of Venice for the weekend of May 16 and 17, 2026. Half of the funds collected remain here in the Diocese to further our Evangelization efforts through regular communication to all the faithful, including production of a weekly digital newspaper, monthly radio program and televised Sunday Mass for the homebound.

Please generously support the Catholic Communication Campaign which through the means of media, invites everyone to encounter and come to know God.

I take this opportunity to assure you and your families of my continued consideration as well as my prayers. Thank you for your generosity!

May God bless you for your kindness and generous response!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, May 10 . . . Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

- 7:30am [GR] . . Rose Linsky by the Corsaro Family
- 9:00am [FS] . . Casey and Dr. Terry Kane by Peggy Mock
- 10:30am [GS] . . For All Parishioners
- 12:00pm [GS] . . Domingo Tengco by Romulo and Mafalda Tengco
- 12:00pm [JV] . . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
- 5:30pm [GS] . . L & D Mbrs of the Cummins Family by Bob and Virginia Forget

Mon, May 11 . . . Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4a

- 7:30am [GS] . . For Greater Respect for All Human Life
- 8:30am [JV] . . Nancy Pinder by Dan Cerone
- 12:00pm [JV] . . L & D Mbrs of the Olds Family by the Family

Tue, May 12 . . . Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11

- 7:30am [JV] . . Zofia and Jan Palko by Daughter
- 8:30am [GR] . . (L) Quinn McGruder by John and Mary McGruder
- 12:00pm [GS] . . Anna Tirado by Mjubica Plisic

Wed, May 13 . . . Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15

- 7:30am [GR] . . Cathrine and Mertl by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly
- 8:30am [GR] . . Doris Rittenhouse by Jeff and Tracy Kirchner
- 12:00pm [GS] . . L & D Mbrs of the Thomas Family by Betty and Joe Plouffe

Thu, May 14 . . . Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17

- 7:30am [JV] . . Marge Lortie by Veronica and Chuck Costner
- 8:30am [GR] . . (L) Gladys Gonzalez by Daughter
- 12:00pm [FS] . . (L) Donna Bakr by Cruz

Fri, May 15 . . . Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23

- 7:30am [GR] . . Marge Lortie by David and Paula Shigley
- 8:30am [FS] . . Famiglia Perrucci by Marianna Stragapede
- 12:00pm [JV] . . Barbara Maggio by James Maggio

Sat, May 16 . . . Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28

- 7:30am [JV] . . Famiglia Campanale by Marianna Stragapede
- 8:30am [FS] . . Claire El Masri by Joe and Nora Stephan
- 4:00pm [GR] . . Rose Mary Cusimano by Tiffany and Nick Adell
- 5:30pm [GS] . . Gerald J. Boryszewski, Jr. by Mom and Dad

Sun, May 17 . . . Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

- 7:30am [GS] . . Ryan Halstead by Mom
- 9:00am [GR] . . Anatoli Romachko by Parishioners
- 10:30am [FS] . . For All Parishioners
- 12:00pm [GS] . . James W. Meade by Claire Meade
- 12:00pm [JV] . . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
- 5:30pm [GR] . . L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Betty and Joe Plouffe

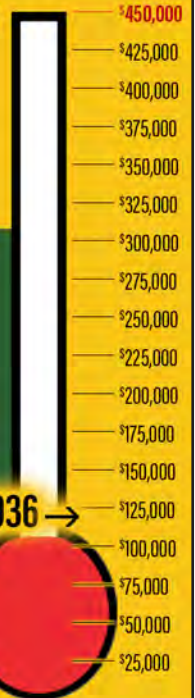
Fr. George (GS), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr. Guennadi (GR)

CATHOLIC FAITH Appeal

2026 Catholic Faith Appeal GOAL **\$450,000**



Given to Date **\$119,936**
 Pledged **\$173,156**
 % of Goal **38.48%**



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dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa



\$119,936



SCAN HERE

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Wedding Banns

Dante Coradin & Gabriella Herrera (1)
 Jordan Kue & Yen Nguyen (1)
 Tin Ha & Phuong Nguyen (1)



Our Lady of Victory Council

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& Estate Planning Night



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May 26
from 6:30pm

RSVP by May 23
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kennota@kennotalaw.com

Congratulations to Fr. Clemente on celebrating 50 years of priestly ordination! We are grateful for his faithful service at St. Martha's from 1989-2004 and for the many lives he has touched through his ministry..



Information for Families with Students in Catholic School

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that parents receive the responsibility of evangelizing their children and calls them the first heralds of the faith. The family is also called domestic church – the church of the home. It is so important for parents to be strong role models as active Catholics, becoming the primary catechists in the faith development of their children.

In keeping with this important role of parents, there will be two requirements to qualify for the Practicing Catholic Tuition Discount when submitting the Parish Affiliation Form.

The first requirement is 50% attendance at Sunday Mass for the year. To confirm your attendance, please place your offertory envelope in the basket during the offertory collection (No contribution is needed inside the envelope).

The second requirement is participation in at least one parish ministry.

Please see the list (right) of qualifying ministries for parents, children, and families.

Ministries for Children

Altar Server Assigned to serve at a Saturday Vigil Mass or Sunday Mass (training program provided)

Frequency at least once a month.

Ministries for Families

Greeters & Offertory Gift Bearers Before Mass, greet and welcome parishioners/visitors at the main entrance of the church, and during Mass bring offertory gifts to the altar.

Frequency once a month.

Family Ministry

Parents and children serve coffee and donuts to parishioners on Sunday morning for a ninety-minute shift between 7am & 1pm.

Frequency once a month.

To enroll in a ministry, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator **Stuart Love** at volunteer@stmartha.org or **941.780.7834**

BINGO NIGHT

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026
In St Martha's Parish Hall
6:00 pm
CARDS ARE \$10 EACH, OR 3 FOR \$20.

PROCEEDS HELP FUND
ST MARTHA'S CFA COMMITMENT

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Find and circle the words from today's Gospel.

Emmaus	Christ	village
talking	Moses	bread
Cleopas	Prophets	Simon

Emuams E m m a u s

Pohprets _____

vliaget _____

taklign _____

Crihts _____

berda _____

Clapoos _____

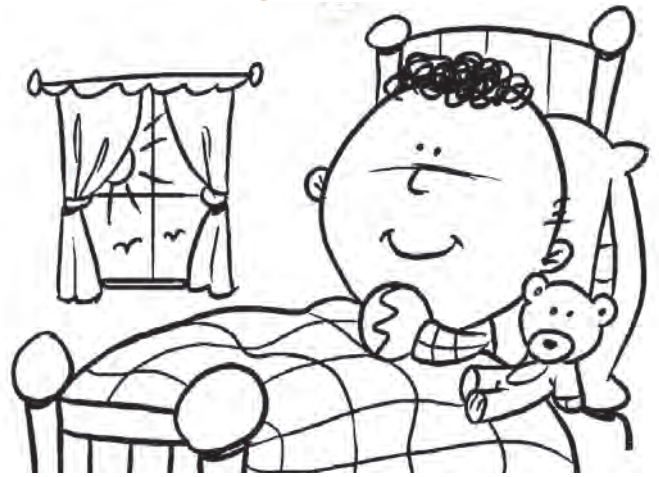
Mesos _____

Sonim _____

Gospel

Jesus gave us two commandments. The first is Love God above all things and the second is Love your neighbor as yourself. Make good choices. Put God first in your life. Say a prayer before getting out of bed every morning. Say a prayer every night. Treat others like you would like to be treated. If you love Jesus and obey His commandments, the Holy Spirit will be sent to help you.

Read the Gospel of the week and color the images below.



Mission for the Week Every morning and every night I will thank God for my family and friends.

Prayer

Jesus, help me be kind and helpful to my family and friends.

Draw Draw yourself saying a prayer before you get out of bed in the morning.



ST. MARY ACADEMY

13th Annual

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



Saturday, May 16, 2026
Heritage Harbour Golf Club
Bradenton, FL
\$150.00 per player
Shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m.

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For more information, please contact Connie Taft at (941) 366-4010 Ext. 318 or cftaft@stmarysarasota.org



A Note From The Principal...

To Our St. Martha Parish Family,

We are pleased to share that we continue to accept applications for the upcoming school year and look forward to welcoming new families to our community. In addition, our recent golf outing was a great success. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this special event. As we celebrate this weekend, we wish all of our mothers, grandmothers, and those who lovingly fill that role a very Happy Mother's Day. *Her children rise up and call her blessed.* (Proverbs 31:28)



God Bless!
Mrs. Hanson

P3 Chicks

Curiosity is hatching in PK3! Students have officially begun their chick incubation and are diving into early scientific inquiry – observing, asking questions, and learning about life cycles in real time. As they watch and wait, they are also practicing patience and responsibility, trusting in God's perfect timing.



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Mother's
Day!**



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Call the Incarnation parish office
941.921.6631 or come to one of our meetings
on the last **Monday** of each month at **6:30pm**.

The harvest is indeed great, but more laborers are needed.

HELP WANTED

Care Facility Volunteer

We are looking for a caring and compassionate person to serve the Catholic residents at a long-term care facility.

- Visits last two hours
- Volunteers are needed for weekday scheduled visits
- No experience required
- Training/mentoring provided

The duties include weekly visits with residents, leading a Communion Service in the activities room, and make room visits to distribute the Holy Eucharist to the bedridden.

**Contact: Stuart Love, Volunteer Coordinator
941-780.7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org**

Welcome New Parishioners!

We are so happy to welcome you to St Martha Catholic Church
and are glad you have joined us!

To register, please visit stmartha.org
or scan the QR code ↘




St. Martha Parish Staff

941.366.4210 • StMartha.org

Samantha McDonald, Business Manager
Patricia Sileo, Director of Religious Education
Blanca Goetz, Event Coordinator
Pamela Paulson, Reception/Data Entry
Maxine Brand, Reception
Thomas Varas, Music Director
Susie Runnells, Sacristan
Janet Cocco, Sacristan
Joe Angelicola, Sacristan
Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager
Eris Nunez, Maintenance
Carlos Sierra Napoles, Maintenance
Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef

St. Martha Clergy

Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor
Rev. Guennadi Romachko, S.A.C.
Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M.,
Hospital Chaplain
Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia,
S.A.C. (Retired)
Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens
Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay
Rev. Deacon Vern Smith
Sr. Cathy Bonfield, S.S.N.D.

Important Contact Information

<h3 style="color: #0070C0;">Outreach Ministries</h3> <p>Altar Servers Dn. Vern Smith davern@stmartha.org Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice 941.484.9543 Community Pregnancy Clinics 941.260.5427 Casa Santa Marta 941.366.4448 Choir/Cantor Thomas Varas tvaras@stmartha.org Eucharist Adoration Parish Office 941.366.4210 Extraordinary Ministers Dc Pat Macaulay dcpatrick@stmartha.org Finance Council Emil Efthimides ede24@usa.com Family Ministry Gary Kerschner Kerschg56@gmail.com Herrig Caritas (9-11am, MF) Tony Cocco, Chair 941.366.5620 Hospitality Ministry Beth Cannata 941.321.2953 Knights of Columbus Dale Thompson 941.350.9010 Lectors Randy Kelly 510.853.0401 O.C.I.A. Patricia Sileo 941.366.4210 Parish Council Beth Cannata 941.321.2953 Prayer Line Parish Office 941.366.4210 Solve Maternity Homes Peggy Kerwin 941.748.0094 Ushers Steve Mislyan 941.993.0997 Volunteer Coordinator Stuart Love 941.780.7834 Witness to Love Jim & Agnes Rutushni 941.960.5128</p>		<h3 style="color: #0070C0;">Diocese of Venice</h3> <p>1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 941.484.9543</p> <h3 style="color: #0070C0;">Neighboring Diocesan Parishes</h3> <p>St. Jude Sarasota 941.955.3934 Christ the King Sarasota 941.924.2777 Incarnation Sarasota 941.921.6631 Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Sarasota 941.755.1826 St. Patrick Sarasota 941.378.1703 St. Mary Star of the Sea Longboat Key 941.383.1255 St. Thomas More Sarasota 941.923.1691 St. Joseph Bradenton 941.756.3732 St. Michael the Archangel Siesta Key 941.349.4174 Our Lady of the Angels Lakewood Ranch 941.752.6770</p> <h3 style="color: #0070C0;">Bishop Nevins Academy</h3> <p>4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 St. Martha Catholic School. Principal Mrs. Mari Jo Hanson 941.953.4181 St. Mary Academy. Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010</p> <h3 style="color: #0070C0;">Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School</h3> <p>4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 941.371.4917</p>
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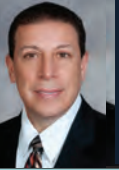
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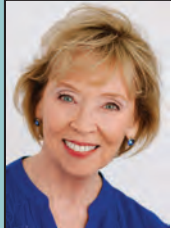
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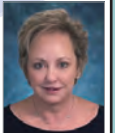
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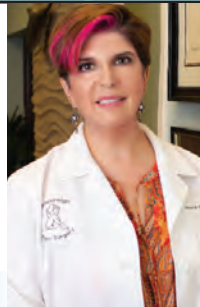
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