October 25-31, 2026

WHICH COMMANDMENT IS THE GREATEST?

MATTHEW 22:36

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm *Vigil* • 5:30pm *Vigil*
Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 9am (Hall) • 10:30am
12pm • 12pm Vietnamese (Hall) • 5:30pm
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

October 25, 2026
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Mt 22:15-21
by Father George

The Book of Exodus gives us examples of the love of neighbor. It starts with:
- do not oppress a foreigner;
- next it tells us not to wrong a widow or an orphan;
- and finally, it instructs the believers to be good and merciful to the poor and to debtors.

The writer of Exodus is very serious when it comes to the treatment of other people and uses strong and direct words to convince his people to love their neighbors. His argument is personal and clear. He said: *You were once foreigners in Egypt, so don't you now molest foreigners living among you. If you harm widows and orphans, I will kill you so your wives and children will become widows and orphans. Don't hesitate to be merciful, and, if you don't show mercy to the poor before sunset, I will hear his cry.* This directness shows that the commandment of the love of neighbor comes from a personal God who loves humans, His children, and warns strongly against hurting them.

St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians and expressed his joy from the fact that they turned to God from idols, and their faith was becoming known in the region of Achaia and Macedonia, which is Greece and the north of Greece. If they had followed their old beliefs in idols, they would have remained uncertain about the future and without real hope for eternity. They would have continued their free conduct of carnal pleasures and would have treated poor and vulnerable people like commodities for their use. But, as Paul writes, they turned from idols to God. They started to love God with their hearts, souls and minds; they understood that faith in God engages the total person, heart, soul and mind. At the same time, they began to follow God's commandments and lives of virtue. They helped each other and loved their neighbors, rich or poor, citizens or slaves. That is why their faith became well known and grew into universal faith. It spread through Greece and Macedonia and became attractive for others. Other people saw in it this personal grace a of true God who cares for His children and answers their prayers.

> *"Our God in Heaven deserves our total love because His love is real and so helpful."*
>
> *- Father George*

Our God in heaven deserves our total love because His love is real and so helpful. It needs to be praised and then passed on to those who live in darkness. Our neighbors, who are His children, deserve our merciful attention because they are in the same human family.



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Halloween – I don't know much about it. I know what *trick or treat* means, and I love to see children happily playing safe games. If Halloween is about the spirits of the dead, so important in certain cultures, my faith tells me that they are in the hands of God, who is the God of the living and the dead. They belong to God. In the Creed we profess that we *look forward to the resurrection of the dead*, so I am convinced and I pray that every soul will find eternal happiness in the resurrection of Christ and that there is no soul that hangs somewhere in the air.

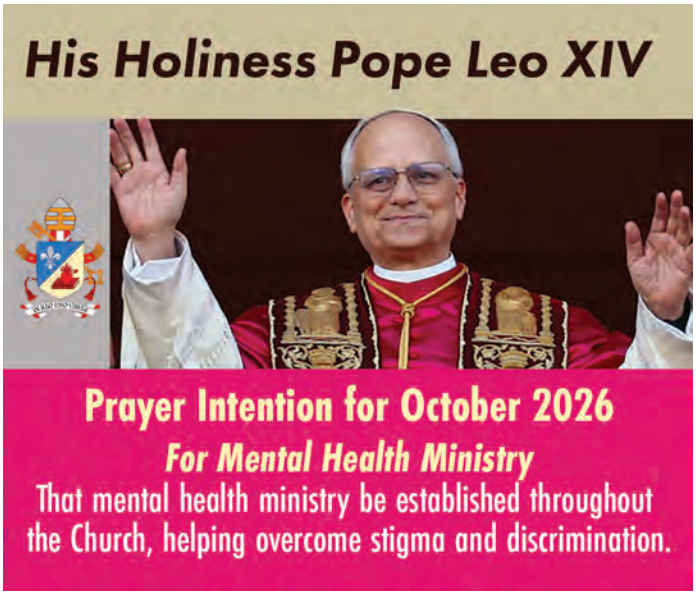
All Saints (November 1) – The Saints celebrate the resurrection in the presence of God as members of the communion of Saints. The latest, Blessed Fulton Sheen, is one of those who belong to the Triumphant Church, which lives in heaven in the fullness of life.

Starting on the Solemnity of All Saints and motivated by the All Souls Day, when we begin our November prayers for the dead and their eternal peace, we will have our symbolical *Book of the Living* displayed in front of the altar, in the church, during the month of November. Think about family members and let's pray for God's mercy for them so that their names can be added into the Book of the Living.

We will have a special Mass for the Dead on Monday, November 2, at 5:30pm and then special prayers in the Garden of Remembrance for those whose Cremains are buried there.

Next Sunday, November 1, 2026, is the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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



Family Mass, Coffee & Doughnuts, and Religious Education



Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God

Join us for ***Touching the Divine*** to explore the qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper relationship with Jesus as we reflect on His life and personality.



The First Regular Lesson is This Wednesday
October 28 · 9:30-11:30am
St. Martha Geenen Friendship Center
Try Us Out and/or Register On Site
Questions? Contact Jacqueline Kelly
stmarthawwp@yahoo.com

walking with purpose
www.walkingwithpurpose.com



2026-27 Religious Education/ Faith Formation Classes

Registration Available Online Now!
stmartha.org

Are you thinking about becoming CATHOLIC?

Or, are you Baptized and want to complete your Sacraments?

Interested in the Catholic Faith and want to know more?

If you are serious about converting to Christ, learn the *next steps*, or maybe you are Catholic but want to learn more about your Faith, Prayers, and the Bible ... pray and listen to God calling your heart!

We are here to help ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Appointments with **Fr. George 941.366.4210 x0**
Any questions contact **Patricia Sileo DRE sileo@stmartha.org**

HELP WANTED CARITAS VOLUNTEER

A volunteer is needed to join the Tuesday team, every other week, from 9-11am. Training and mentoring will be provided.

We are looking for a caring and compassionate person to serve families in financial need. The Caritas Ministry provides client families with work attire, utility payments, prescription drug payments, bus transportation, and food assistance.

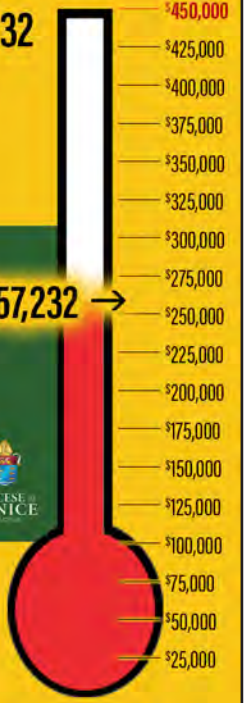
Contact: Stuart Love, *Volunteer Coordinator*
941.780.7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org

CATHOLIC FAITH *Appeal*

2026 Catholic Faith Appeal GOAL $450,000 by January 2027



Given to Date $257,232
Pledged $270,647
% of Goal 60.14%



WAYS TO GIVE

CHECK: Payable to CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Credit or Debit Card, Gift of Securities, IRA:
Send us the info via the pledge card or
dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa

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Info: call 941.486.4719 or email cfa@dioceseofvenice.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

September 23rd til November 1st



HELP SAVE LIVES IN SARASOTA

September 23-November 1
40 DAYS FOR LIFE

October is Respect Life month.

The 40-day campaign runs from **September 23 through November 1.** The heart of the campaign is the daily commitment to prayer and peaceful witness. For those people who can come and pray on the sidewalks in front of Planned Parenthood, whatever time you can spend is appreciated. If you are not able to pray with us at the abortion facility, there are other ways to participate; praying at home, offering a daily rosary for the protection of life, attending Eucharistic Adoration. For those who can be with us on the sidewalks, it would be wonderful, since we have been told by abortion-minded mothers that seeing people praying for them and their unborn babies is what changed their minds and caused them to *choose life.*

September 23-November 1
40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Learn more, get involved, and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at **40daysforlife.com/sarasota**

With God's help, here are the proven results:

- Over 25,000 babies saved from abortion
- More than 170 closed facilities
- More than 270 converted workers

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils, and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1 million+ volunteers!

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location** Outside Planned Parenthood, 736 Central Ave, Sarasota
- **Vigil hours** 7am-7pm daily
- **Local contact** Rich 941.343.0672

40daysforlife.com/sarasota

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, Oct 25 . . . . . Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40
7:30am . . . .[WG] . . .Ryan Halstead by Mom
9:00am. . . .[GS]. . . .Michael Houlihan by Michael & Margaret
9:00am. . . .[FS]. . . .(Hall) (L) Todd Yutzler by Maureen Devine
10:30am. . .[GR] . . .For All Parishioners
12:00pm. . .[FS]. . . .(L) Pam O'Brien by Mother
12:00pm. . .[JV] . . . .(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm. . . .[GS]. . . .L&D Mbrs of the Burch Family
by Betty & Joe Plouffe

Mon, Oct 26 . . . . .Eph 4:32—5:8; Lk 13:10-17
7:30am . . . .[WG] . . .Frances Stemley by David & Paula Shigley
8:30am. . . .[GS]. . . .Amber Russell by the Moran Family
12:00pm. . .[JV] . . . .Donald and Margaret Maroldy
by Magda Kovacik

Tue, Oct 27. . . . . Eph 5:21-33; Lk 13:18-21
7:30am . . . .[GS]. . . .(L) Fr. Fausto by Carolyn Ferguson
8:30am. . . .[GR] . . .Larry Arronis by Tina Mroczkowski & Family
12:00pm. . .[WG] . . .Charles Brimble by Edda

Wed, Oct 28 . . . . . Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-16
7:30am . . . .[WG] . . .Maria Van Hoy by Claire Collins
8:30am. . . .[GS]. . . .Sabrina Crain by Angela Sweeney
12:00pm. . .[WG] . . .Grace Borsky by Walter Serwatka

Thu, Oct 29 . . . . . Eph 6:10-20; Lk 13:31-35
7:30am . . . .[JV] . . . .Robert Stemley by Paula & David Shigley
8:30am. . . .[GR] . . .(L) Emma Decotis by Maureen Devine
12:00pm. . .[FS]. . . .Kevin Crowley by Ann

Fri, Oct 30 . . . . . Phil 1:1-11; Lk 14:1-6
7:30am . . . .[GR] . . .Bill Salomone by M.J. Salomone & Family
8:30am. . . .[WG] . . .Catherine O'Rouke
by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly
12:00pm. . .[FS]. . . .Daissy Targuino by Angela Sweeney

Sat, Oct 31 . . . . . Phil 1:18b-26; Lk 14:1, 7-11
7:30am . . . .[JV] . . . .Julia and Patrick Salmon by the Salmon Family
8:30am. . . .[GR] . . .(L) Harry Decotis by Maureen Devine
4:00pm . . .[WG] . . .Robert C. Reed by Mom & Dad
5:30pm. . . .[GS]. . . .Mina & Joe Piano by M.J. Salomone & Family

Sun, Nov 1 . . . . . Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
7:30am . . . .[GS]. . . .Charles Koenig by Sharon Koenig
9:00am. . . .[WG] . . .Shirley & Anthony DeBenedetto by Jim & Mimi
9:00am. . . .[GR] . . .(Hall) Annette Barth by the Suarez Family
10:30am. . .[FS]. . . .For All Parishioners
12:00pm. . .[WG] . . .Celia & John Sullivan by the Salmon Family
12:00pm. . .[JV] . . . .(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm. . . .[GR] . . .Annette Barth by Friends

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS) Fr. Gennadi (GR), Fr. Walter (WG)

Hospitality Ministry's Wine & Cheese Event





DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

"There Is Hope"

BEREAVEMENT OUTREACH



"THERE IS HOPE"

COPING WITH THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

with Deacon Henry deMena

The Office of Family Life is hosting Bereavement Retreats in various parishes throughout the Diocese of Venice focusing on coping with the death of a loved one during the holidays.

This Catholic (faith-based) retreat offers a safe place to seek peace and comfort, and will be led by Deacon Henry deMena.

Deacon Henry holds a Master's degree in counseling with extensive training and experience in Bereavement.

**Complimentary Breakfast, Lunch, & Refreshments provided.*

DATES & LOCATIONS:

November 3, 2026
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
1301 Center Rd., Venice, FL 34292

November 4, 2026
Sacred Heart Parish
211 West Charlotte Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33950

November 5, 2026
St. Paul the Apostle Parish
1330 E. Oak St., Arcadia, FL 34266

November 6, 2026
St. Agnes Parish
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34120

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

CONTACT:

Jim Gontis
Director, Department of Evangelization
(941) 486-4754
gontis@dioceseofvenice.org

REGISTER ONLINE:
https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/2026-coping-with-the-death-of-a-loved-one-during-the-holidays-

SCAN →

Prayer God, help me to love you and other people more and more every day.

Sharing the Gospel When you have a choice to make, think about what God wants. Make sure your choices are good and that they help other people. When you follow God's example, you will be ready to love other people. With God's help you can be gentle, forgiving and kind.

Read the Gospel and color the image.



Mission for the Week As a family, help an elderly person in your neighborhood. Help them clean up their home or their yard.

PUZZLE Find and circle these words from today's gospel.

~~GREATEST~~ • LAW • LOVE • LORD
HEART • SOUL • MIND • NEIGHBOR • YOURSELF

T	R	E	W	A	H	C	I	H	C	E
I	A	S	M	E	T	S	E	G	T	R
C	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	M	A
D	Y	M	N	T	S	I	T	E	H	N
L	O	R	D	E	O	J	L	A	W	S
E	U	S	L	R	U	I	E	T	D	P
L	R	E	O	T	L	O	V	E	H	V
O	S	U	W	R	I	G	D	S	O	Y
A	E	Y	L	H	E	A	R	T	U	L
R	L	S	W	O	T	U	I	L	H	A
Y	F	O	T	R	M	H	N	E	D	R

Happenings in the Diocese

Eucharistic Adoration at Incarnation, Sarasota -

Incarnation Catholic Church invites you to Eucharistic Adoration with live music and Confession, on the **first Thursday** of every month at **6:30pm,** 2929 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota 34239. All are welcome to come and spend time in the presence of Jesus!

Something New is Coming to OLPH this Christmas!

December 13, **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center**, Venice, becomes Bethlehem Village - a special Christmas celebration for families, friends, and parish communities to step into the story of Christmas with Christmas music, family activities, a festive Bethlehem Marketplace, Bishop St. Nicholas, and a Live Nativity – all centered on the joy and meaning of Christ's birth. OLPH is looking for local artisans and small businesses to become part of our Bethlehem Village Marketplace! Vendor applications are now being accepted olph-retreat.org/vendors-wanted. More information **941.486.0233**.









ST. MARY ACADEMY INVITES YOU TO OUR

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A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS
... from Struggling to Thriving!

Explore the school that can HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED - Socially, emotionally, and spiritually!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

8:15 AM - 10:00 AM

Want to learn more about St. Mary Academy? Scan Here!

WHY FAMILIES LOVE OUR SCHOOL:

- **Individualized Attention**: Small class sizes guided by certified teachers
- **Expert On-Site Support**: Full-time, certified OT and SLP therapists
- **Hands-On, Engaged Learning**: Tailored instructional strategies rooted in Gospel values
- **Scholarship Opportunities**: Step Up FTC & FES-UA and private options available

A Note From The Principal...



To Our St. Martha Parish Family,

As we continue to pray for the repose of the soul of **Bishop Emeritus Frank J. Dewane**, we are grateful for the many ways he supported Catholic education and for the special relationship he shared with our St Martha students and families. We will always remember his visits to our school, celebrating Mass with us, and the time he took to talk with our students.

There is much happening at St. Martha in the weeks ahead. Our **Open House** is Tuesday, November 10, and we encourage our parishioners to share the invitation with families who may be looking for a Catholic school home. We are also looking forward to **Garden to Table** and hope many of our parishioners will join us for this special evening with our school community. Please see the details on both events on this page.

We would love to have you with us!

The Lord is my Shepard; there is nothing I lack.
– Psalm 23:1

8th Grade Plant Propagations Mrs. Paben's 8th Graders are diving deep into the world of propagating plants in water, constructing a plant stand, and designing and painting pots, which will be available for display and purchase at the **Garden To Table** event.





St. Martha Catholic School OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026 8:15 AM - 10:00 AM

P3 - 8TH GRADE

Prospective families are invited to visit St Martha Catholic School to learn more about all we have to offer your children!

- ☑ Campus Tours
- ☑ Meet Faculty & Staff
- ☑ Meet Students & Parents
- ☑ Refreshments



4380 FRUITVILLE ROAD SARASOTA

www.stmarthaschool.net

St. Martha Catholic School Est. 1950

YOU'RE INVITED

10TH ANNUAL

Garden to Table Dinner

St. Martha Catholic School is welcoming everyone to a charming garden-to-table dinner, featuring garden tours, a market, a student art show, games, and much more.

Come gather around the table, enjoy the evening, and help our garden and cafeteria continue to grow.

5 NOVEMBER 2026
5:30PM TO 7:00PM

$25 ADULTS | **$15** KIDS

Garden To Table Tickets

DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Day of Reflection

For Sacramental Marriage



Pre-registration Required
Scan the QR Code or register dioceseofvenice.org

Day of Reflection for Sacramental Marriage is a day for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church. A volunteer team of married couples, and a priest, share their experiences and information, enabling couples to be more aware of the privileges and responsibilities of marriage.

2026 SCHEDULE

8:30am - 4pm • $60 per couple*

November 7

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center
3989 S Moon Dr, Venice 34292

Questions · 941.486.4754
gontis@dioceseofvenice.org
Jim Gontis, *Director, Dept of Evangelization*

*The $60.00 registration fee includes all retreat materials & lunch.

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*
Janet Cocco, *Sacristan*
Joe Angelicola, *Sacristan*
John Iacopelli, *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
Rev. Walter Grabowski
Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia, S.A.C. (Retired)
Deacon Robert Gaitens
Deacon Vern Smith

Important Contact Information

Outreach Ministries

Altar Servers	Dn. Vern Smith	.dcvern@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, M-F)	Tony Cocco, Chair	.941.366.5620
Hospitality Ministry	Beth Cannata	.941.321.2953
Knights of Columbus	Tom Gillis	.941.400.6991
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

Diocese of Venice

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 . . . . 941.484.9543

Neighboring Diocesan Parishes

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

Bishop Nevins Academy 4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232
St. Martha Catholic School, Mrs. Mari Jo Hanson, *Principal* 941.953.4181
St. Mary Academy, Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds, *Principal* 941.366.4010

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School
4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 . . . . 941.371.4917

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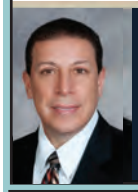
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Lakewood Ranch,
FL 34202
(941) 907-3999
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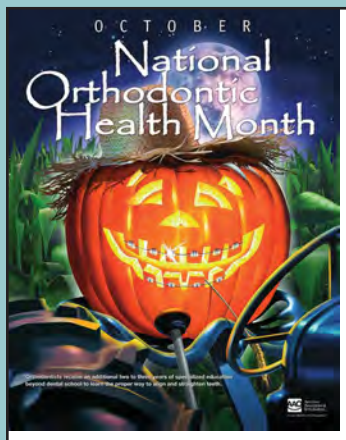
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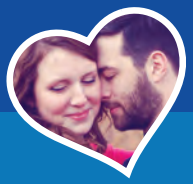
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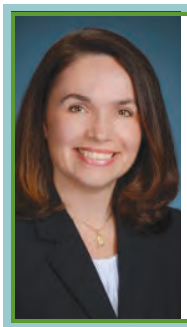
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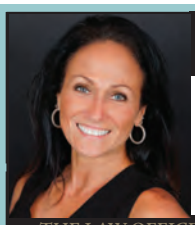


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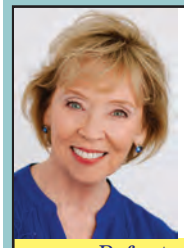
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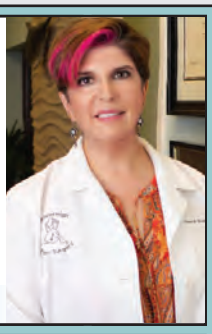


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