

## INTERFAITH VOICES

## Modern parallels to the Good Samaritan

Jesus Christ was once asked, “Who is my neighbor?”

He replied with a story of a man on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho who was robbed and beaten by thieves and left half-dead. Two people had passed this traveler without stopping to help.

Then a Samaritan, traveling this road, found the injured man and not only stopped to bind up his wounds but put him on his beast, brought him to an inn and continued to offer support that evening. The next morning, as the Samaritan prepared to leave, he provided money to the innkeeper for future needs, and promised to pay for any additional costs when he returned.

James Talmage, an Apostle for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the early 1900s, penned this profound

thought: “When the Samaritan came along and saw the wretched state of the wounded man, he had no excuse for he wanted none.” If we seek an excuse to not offer aid, we will find one. It is a choice we all make.

Dr. Martin Luther King echoed this sentiment by teaching that the two men who did not offer any aid perhaps asked themselves, “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” The Samaritan reversed the question and asked, “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?”

Adding to the depth of this message was the fact that Samaritans, a group of people from north of Jerusalem in Samaria, were often discriminated against during the time of Christ’s teachings. And yet it was a Samaritan who found no excuse and chose to render service.

Christ ended the story by

asking the lawyer which one of the three men was a neighbor to the one who had been beaten by the thieves. The lawyer responded, “He that shewed mercy on him,” to which Jesus admonished, “Go, and do thou likewise.”

It appears that Christ’s intention was not to condemn those who failed to offer aid. His emphasis was clear: Simply love your neighbor, regardless of cultural or ethnic differences. Chieko Okasaki, a Latter-day Saint leader, said, “When we set aside the burden of judgment, then our hands and hearts are free to serve others with joy.”

The last few weeks have been heart-wrenching as we have witnessed the destruction of human life, livelihoods, homes and cities in Ukraine. There are many Ukrainians lying on the “road to Jericho” at this time.

The only glimmer of light that I can find in this situation is the many modern Samaritans

who are offering assistance. Thousands of Oregon citizens have rallied with open hearts to provide funds and material aid to the refugees in Corvallis’ sister city of Uzhhorod, Ukraine. Schoolchildren have sent messages of hope, artists have created works of beauty, and businesses have donated profits and goods.

I stand amazed as my friends in Uzhhorod experience inflation, fear and uncertainty and yet find room in their homes to take in refugees fleeing the ravages of war. A former exchange student in Uzhhorod who lived with our family has taken in 30 additional displaced people.

Goodness is more likely to prevail when many are involved. Lifting the burdens of others will be lighter if we work together. Like the Samaritan, we all make similar choices each day, to see or to glance away from those in need. If we choose to give assistance, it may be as an individual or as

## ABOUT INTERFAITH VOICES

The weekly “Interfaith Voices” column includes a regular rotation of writers representing the broad spectrum of spiritual voices throughout the mid-valley. The column is coordinated by the Reverend Barbara Nixon, who can be emailed at revbabs2000@gmail.com.

part of a group effort. Samaritans from all corners of the earth are reaching out and “doing likewise” to aid their neighbors during this difficult time.

Alice H. Rampton is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She co-directs a nonprofit agency for Ukrainian children through the Corvallis Sister Cities Association, volunteers for the Benton County Historical Museum, and has co-authored a book for grieving parents. She and her husband, Mark, are the parents of seven children.

## Trial places pope, top aide at center of deal

NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The former director of the Vatican’s financial watchdog agency testified Wednesday that Pope Francis asked him to help the Vatican secretariat of state get full control of a London property, once again putting the pope and his top deputies in the spotlight for their roles in the problematic deal.

Tommaso Di Ruzza is one of 10 people accused in the Vatican’s sprawling financial trial, which is centered on the secretariat of state’s 350 million euro investment in a luxury London property. Vatican prosecutors accused brokers and Vatican officials of fleecing the Holy See of millions of euros in fees, much of it donations from the faithful, and then extorting the Vatican of 15 million euros to get full control of the property.

Di Ruzza, the former director of

the Vatican’s Financial Information Authority, or AIF, is accused of abuse of office for allegedly failing to block the 15 million payment to broker Gianluigi Torzi and of allegedly failing to alert Vatican prosecutors to a seemingly suspicious deal.

Di Ruzza testified Wednesday that he had neither the authority to block the payment, nor the sufficient evidence at the time to flag it to Vatican prosecutors as suspicious under international norms or the Vatican’s own anti-money laundering laws.

Furthermore, he testified that AIF’s involvement in the deal was correct, noting that as soon as he learned about the deal he launched a multi-pronged, international financial intelligence investigation that was active when Vatican police raided his headquarters on Oct. 1, 2019.

“I have always acted in compli-

ance with the rules and to protect the interests of the Holy See,” he said.

At issue in the case are contracts signed between Torzi and the secretariat of state in November and December 2018 asserting that the Vatican would own 30,000 shares in the London property’s holding company and Torzi 1,000. But Torzi’s shares were the only ones with the right to vote, meaning he controlled the building.

By December 2018, the Vatican realized it had an empty box on its hands, and scrambled to figure out a way to get full control of the building: either by buying out Torzi’s shares or launching legal action against him for what the Vatican considered to be a fraudulent deal.

The No. 2, or substitute in the secretariat of state, Archbishop Edgar Pena Parra, already told prosecutors that based on Fran-

co’s desire to “turn the page,” and spend as little as possible to get control of the building, the Vatican decided to pay off Torzi rather than take him to court.

Di Ruzza testified that he met with Francis on or around March 26, 2019 and that Francis told him that he wanted to have a “direct management, without intermediaries” in the property.

Pena Parra sought AIF’s opinion to get a loan from the Vatican bank, known as IOR, to obtain a 150 million euro loan to extinguish the mortgage on the property since the existing mortgage was too onerous, Di Ruzza said. AIF was asked to make sure the loan was compliant, which Di Ruzza said it was.


Di Ruzza said AIF opened an investigation into the deal on March 18, 2019, sending requests for financial information to a half-dozen countries’ financial intelli-

gence units, soon after it learned about it from Pena Parra.

But asked by Prosecutor Gianluca Perone why he didn’t file a suspicious report at the time with Vatican prosecutors, Di Ruzza responded: “Let me ask a question: Who should I have denounced? The substitute?”

He testified that by the time Vatican police raided its headquarters on Oct. 1 2019, AIF’s investigative file contained 65 documents from intelligence investigations inside and outside the Vatican. But he said the investigation wasn’t yet completed and was still missing responses.

He said under the Vatican’s own laws, he needed “a well-founded motive to suspect an activity of money-laundering or terror financing’ ... or of predicate crimes, of which there were no elements or signals from inside or outside the Holy See.”



MID-VALLEY

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

<p><b>ALBANY</b></p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> First Assembly of God—Lebanon 726 W. Oak St. • 541-259-1265 Pastor Kevin Parker Sunday Worship: 10:45am www.lebanonfirstassembly.com</p> <p><b>Hope Church</b> 2817 Santiam Hwy. SE • (541) 967-HOPE (4673) www.hope.church Pastor Mark Robinson Sunday Worship 9am, 10:45am &amp; 6pm Wednesday Classes 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Neighborhood Church</b> 2815 Pine St. SE • 541-926-7981 Dan Clements, Lead Pastor Sun. 9am &amp; 10:30am In person &amp; Online www.albanync.org</p> <p><b>BAPTIST</b> <b>Harvest Baptist</b> 2660 Marion • 541-967-0577 J.T. Lemus, Pastor Sunday School 10am, Worship 11am, 6pm</p> <p><b>Riverside Baptist Church</b> 1300 Springhill Dr., Albany • 541-928-2133 Blake Laberee, Pastor Sun. School 9:15am, Worship 10:30am, 6pm Wed. Bible Study, 7pm; Youth: 6pm</p> <p><b>SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b> <b>Knox Butte Baptist Church SBC</b> 3615 Knox Butte Road SE (Across the street from Cascade Grill on Knox Butte Road) Sunday Worship, 11:30am www.KnoxButteBaptistChurch.com Pastor Travis McKinney: 503.679.9080</p> <p><b>BIBLE CHURCH</b> <b>Whitespires Berean Bible Fellowship</b> 510 5th Ave. SW, Albany Robb Tobey, Pastor Sunday School 9:45am Traditional Worship 11am Wednesday Bible Study 4pm</p> <p><b>CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST</b> <b>Crowfoot Baptist</b> 699 Cascade Drive • Lebanon • 541-258-3138 Jeremy Zderad, Pastor Sunday School 9:30am, Sunday Worship 10:30am Iglesia Hispania Nueva Esperanza</p> <p><b>Willamette Community Church</b> 420 3rd Ave. SE • 541-926-8881 Scott Miller, Lead Pastor www.wccalbanyc.org Sunday Worship 9am &amp; 10:30am</p>	<p><b>CATHOLIC</b> <b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b> <b>St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Albany</b> 815 Broadalbin St SW • 541-926-1449 www.stmarysalbanyc.com Rev. Maro Escano English Masses: Sat. Vigil 5pm, Sun. 8:30am, 10:30am, Wed. - Fri., 8:30am Spanish Masses: Sabado 7:00pm, Domingo 12:30pm, Martes 7:00pm</p> <p><b>CHRISTIAN</b> <b>Crabtree Christian Church</b> 37650 Crabtree Dr., Crabtree Dave Nolte, Pastor • 541-619-8688 Sunday Worship Service: 9am &amp; 10:30am www.crabtreechurch.com</p> <p><b>Eastside Christian Church</b> 1910 Grand Prairie Rd SE (541) 928-9349 www.eastsidechristianchurch.com Sunday Service: 8:45am (in-person) and 10:30am (in-person and livestream) Preaching Pastor Ben Atchley</p> <p><b>First Christian (Disciples of Christ)</b> 432 Ferry St. SW • 541-926-8606 Tim Graves, Lead Pastor Eric Eide, Associate Pastor Online worship: fccalbanyc.com/online-worship Zoom Worship &amp; Coffee: Sun., 10am Email: fccalbanyc@comcast.net for info</p> <p><b>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</b> <b>Christian Science Society</b> 537 7th Ave. SW • 541-926-7979 Sunday Service 10am Testimony Meeting 1st &amp; 3rd Wed. 3-4pm</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> <b>Hill Street Church of Christ</b> 1805 Hill St. SE, Albany • 541-926-0606 Jonathan Harless, Minister Sunday School for all ages: 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am &amp; 6pm hillstcoc.org</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY</b> <b>Albany Community of Christ</b> 2526 SE 20th Ave (off Waverly Drive) • 541-220-7733 Sunday hours: 10:00 am Children’s classes and Adult Bible Study 11:00 am Worship • All are welcome</p> <p><b>Tangent Community Church</b> 32114 Tangent Dr., Tangent 541-926-3803 David Carlson, Pastor Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am</p> <p><b>EPISCOPAL</b> <b>THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF</b> <b>ST. ALBAN, ALBANY</b> 1730 Hill Street, SE, Albany 541-967-7051 Sunday mornings at 9:30 – Holy Eucharist In-person or via Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/stalban.albany.oregon</p>	<p><b>St. Martin’s Episcopal</b> 257 E. Milton, Lebanon • 541-451-1159 email: stmartinslebanon@gmail.com Sunday Service via YouTube on our website: www.stmartinslebanon.org/ or www.facebook.com/St.Martins.Lebanon/</p> <p><b>EVANGELICAL</b> <b>Albany City Church</b> 2418 Geary St., S.E., Albany • 541-926-4762 Lead Pastor Josh Conn Sunday Worship: 9am &amp; 10:30am Duane Troyer, Youth Pastor albanycitychurch.org</p> <p><b>Albany Evangelical Church</b> 1332 SE First Ave., Albany • 541-926-2635 Jeremy Gange, Pastor Sunday Worship 10:45am www.albanyec.org</p> <p><b>Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> 2515 Queen Ave. SE., Albany Phone: (541) 928-0214 Bible Study: 9:15 am Sunday Divine Service: 10:30 am Sunday http://www.holycrosslutheranalbany.org/</p> <p><b>Sodaville Evangelical</b> 38200 Middle Ridge Dr., Lebanon • 541-259-2153 Pastor Winston Thurton Sunday School 9:30am, Fellowship 10:25am Worship 10:45am • Congregational Prayer 6pm www.sodavillechurch.org</p> <p><b>LUTHERAN</b> <b>Bethlehem Lutheran (LCMS)</b> 434 E. Grant St. (across from Booth Park) 541-258-6393 • Lebanon Mike Miller, Pastor Sunday 10:30am, Sunday School 9am Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone</p> <p><b>Christ Community Lutheran Church (LCMC)</b> Pastor Fred Westerhold • 541-259-7729 320 Market St., Lebanon Adult Forum/Sunday School 9:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:30am</p> <p><b>Good Shepherd (ELCA)</b> 1910 34th Ave. SE, Albany • 541-926-4875 Laura O’Brien, Pastor 10am Sunday service Indoor service, unvaccinated or compromised health, please wear masks. Coffee hour follows www.goodshepherdalbany.org FREE Drive Thru Community Dinner, Wednesday, 5-6pm. Call the church office, 541-926-4875, to reserve the number of meals you will pick up. Can leave message.</p>	<p><b>Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> 2515 Queen Ave. SE Albany, OR 97322 Phone: (541) 928-0214 Bible Study: 9:15am Sunday Divine Service: 10:30am Sunday For more information visit: http://www.holycrosslutheranalbany.org</p> <p><b>Immanuel Lutheran (LCMS)</b> 154 Madison S.E. • 541-926-3495 Rev. Larry Oliver, Pastor Sunday Worship 10:30am, Sunday School 9am • Adult Bible Study 9am</p> <p><b>Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church (ELCA)</b> 3111 S. Main Rd., Lebanon, 541-451-1065 Pastor Sarah Schaffner 9:30am Worship and Children’s lesson Facebook &amp; Youtube www.oslclebanon.org</p> <p><b>Saint John’s Orthodox Lutheran Church</b> 483 Tangent Street, Lebanon Paul E. Bloedel, Pastor Adult Bible Class &amp; Children’s Sunday School 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Grace Alone, Faith Alone and Scripture Alone</p> <p><b>MENNONITE</b> <b>Albany Mennonite</b> Along I-5 on Century Drive • 541-926-1443 Peter Epp, Pastor Sunday School: 10am Sunday Worship 11am www.albanymennonite.org</p> <p><b>Halsey Mennonite Church</b> 910 East First St., Halsey • 541-369-2540 Jason Schrock, Minister Sunday 10am &amp; 6pm, Wed. eves 7:30pm www.halseymennonite.org</p> <p><b>METHODIST</b> <b>First United Methodist</b> 1115 28th Ave. SW, Albany (541) 928-3505 Rev. Lura Kidner-Miesen Online Worship: 10:30am www.albanymethodist.org</p> <p><b>Lebanon First United Methodist Church</b> 1890 South Second St., Lebanon • 541-451-1170 Rev. David Childress Sunday Service 11:00am</p> <p><b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> <b>The Salvation Army</b> 345 Columbus St. SE • 541-928-4774 Capts. Charles &amp; Dawn DeJesus Sunday School: 9:30am, Sunday Worship: 11am</p> <p><b>Valley Life Church</b> Come see us at our new building at Park &amp; Vine St, Lebanon Sunday Service 8:30am &amp; 10:30am www.valleylifechurch.net</p>
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