

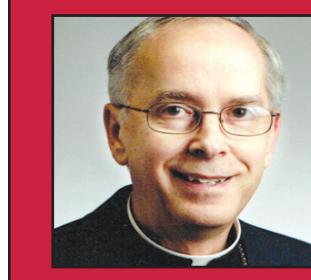
the Rio Grande Catholic

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FEBRUARY 2017



The Power of Belief pg.3

Two Nations,
One Faith
Pictures
pg. 10

How Do We
Prepare Our
Hearts for
Lent?
pg. 7

100th
Anniversary
of St. Patrick
Cathedral
pg. 13

El Día del
Matrimonio
Mundial
página 8

One Year Ago, Pope Francis Made His Historic Visit to the Borderland Called for a World of Compassion and Mercy

By Janine Young

Rumors about a possible visit by Pope Francis to Mexico circulated among the Catholic faithful beginning in early 2015. In November, the Holy Father confirmed his plans to visit Mexico in February 2016 including a final stop at Ciudad Juárez on the US-Mexico border, a location clearly meant to express Pope Francis' solidarity with immigrants to the United States.

The official announcement of the pontiff's trip to Mexico came on December 12, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pope Francis' trip to Mexico, a heartland of global Catholicism, was one of the most important of his papacy. Latin America is home to 40% of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics with Brazil and Mexico having the two largest Catholic populations in the world.

Mexico is a global symbol of immigration, not just from Mexico to the United States but as a crossroads for Central Americans traveling north in search of safety and economic security for their families in the United States.

80% of the population of Mexico is Roman Catholic. It is a country where more than 100,000 lives have been lost to the decade-long drug war. The cities of Morelia and Ciudad Juárez have been epicenters of this violent drug war; it is therefore not surprising that Pope Francis included both on his itinerary.

Ciudad Juárez was the last of the Pope Francis' four-city tour of Mexico. The Holy Father arrived in Mexico City on Friday, February 12. On Saturday, he met with the Bishops of Mexico and celebrated Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On Sunday, February 14, the Holy Father celebrated Mass in Ecatepec, one of the most impoverished communities in Mexico and on Monday, Pope Francis visited the indigenous community of Chiapas. On Tuesday the 15th, the Papal entourage arrived in Morelia where Pope Francis met with young people affected by the country's drug war.

On Wednesday morning, his last day in Mexico, Pope Francis arrived in Ciudad Juárez and was greeted by an entourage of dignitaries including Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso and Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces. The pope began his visit in Juárez by touring Cereso Prison No.3, followed by a meeting with maquila workers and business leaders at the Colegio de Bachilleres.

Pope Francis' visit to our region called attention to many realities that are lived on both sides of the US-Mexico border, particularly the plight of so many migrants and refugees fleeing violence and poverty in their home countries. For Juarenses, Pope Francis' visit also signaled a new beginning for the embattled city of 1.3 million people. Residents expressed a pride unique to those who have survived staggering violence and a culture of fear but who have maintained their human dignity and faith in the essential goodness of people.

At four in the afternoon, the Holy Father arrived at the fairgrounds barely 300 feet from the Rio Grande River. Shortly before the Mass started, the Holy Father walked up the ramp that had been placed at the river's edge and prayed at a memorial that had been built for those who have died along the border, in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Then he stood alone for a few moments before placing a bouquet of flowers on a small table before the memorial cross.

It was an incredible moment. On the Mexican side, the crowd of 200,000 watched in silence. On the American side, a group of 100 migrants and guests of Bishop Mark Seitz were allowed to watch from the levee. This moment of spiritual unity was an opportunity for the Bishops of Juárez, Las Cruces and El Paso to give witness to the solidarity of the Catholic community on the border. "In spite of the borders and boundaries that exist, we see ourselves as one great Catholic community," said Bishop Seitz.

At the same time, more than 30,000 faithful gathered at the Sun Bowl in El Paso to watch a simulcast of the Mass on the other side of the border. Near the end of Pope Francis' homily, the moment that the celebrants in the stadium had been waiting for finally arrived. Many in the Sun Bowl were moved to tears as the pope acknowledged and thanked those gathered there to watch the events on the other side of the border. "Thank you, brothers and sisters in El Paso," Francis said, as the stadium erupted in cheers.

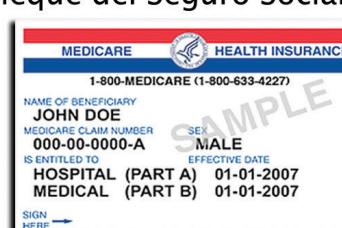
Continued on pg. 10

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I remember the day when I decided to leave the circular world of media after 28 yrs and give my talents, time and passion to a cause that means everything to me. It was a decision I made to do good for my family and my new church family, coming from a world that has high stress, and struggles with new and several digital platforms that compete against "Radio", but terrestrial form of broadcasting seems to still be the comfort zone for many while the young search into the future for new ways to find their audible choice. We all must believe the foundation to these new and amazing digital platforms came from AM, FM and TV. When I interviewed with Bishop Mark he spoke to me of his vision of radio and I was pleased to know he was no stranger to this mission and how he was part of the start of radio for the Dallas Diocese. It is very helpful when "The Boss" knows what it takes to get a radio station going. I use the phrase "Habemus Radio" as many catholic faithful's scream out with joy when a new pope has been chosen. It's a phrase of new "Hope". Radio to The Diocese of El Paso and catholic community is just that. To be able to spread the joy, the love, the passion and the service the church has to offer. Bishop Mark tells us "Pope Francis our Holy Father in union with a long line of his predecessors has challenged us forcefully to reach out beyond the walls of our churches, to truly make our Faith present in the midst of the world."

I applaud our Bishop for having faith in the communications dept., a department of a few, to get this radio station on air even through legalities, budget restraints and very little tools to get "The Bridge"/"El Puente" on air! We have teamed with Noel Diaz founder of ESNE "El Sembrador" Radio Network and Ave Maria Radio for Catholic content in both spanish and english. We continue to build our format with local shows from our clergy which is set to launch in the next several weeks along with more music in a bilingual format as well as diocesan services, which is available via our website www.elpasodiocese.org. The radio station will offer shows with the help of each and every ministry such as, Catholic Education, Tepeyac Institute, Peace & Justice, Vocations, D.M.R.S, Catholic Counseling, Foundation & Progress, Youth & UTEP campus ministries as well as Pro-life and our local priests. We are going to make this fun and enjoyable listening with the focus of our catechesis and Catholic Church platforms.

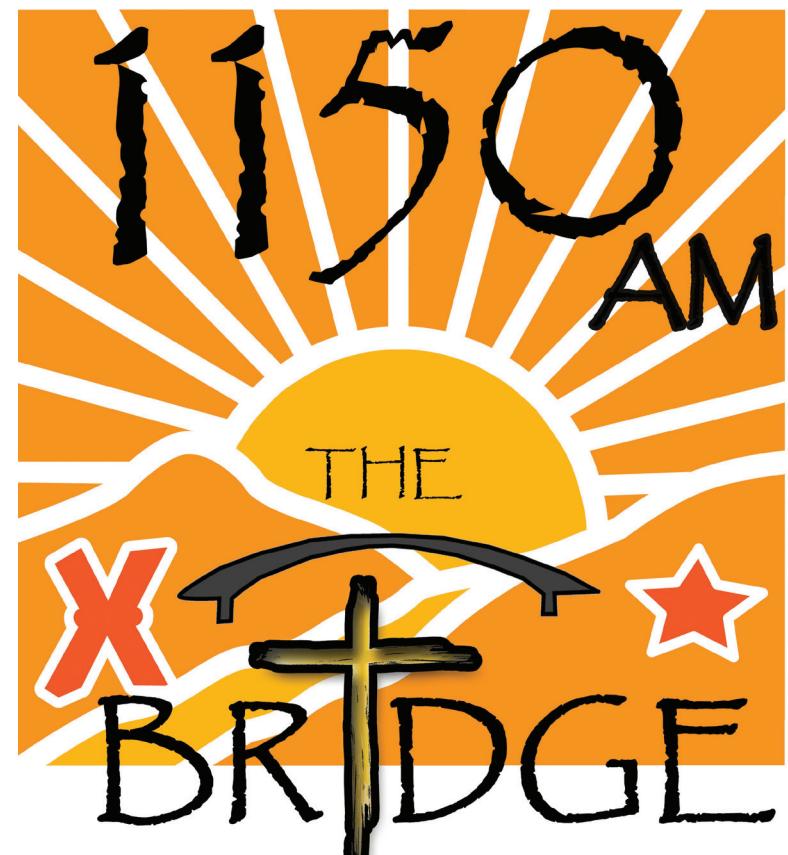
It's exciting to know we are one of a few dioceses with a terrestrial radio station. Digital platforms will follow. I am honored to help this radio station launch and pray that it is the beginning of something much bigger and broader than ever before. I thank my family of Entravision where I departed from and gained much of my knowledge for the 19 of my 28 yrs of radio. To my Diocesan family thank you for the support, suggestion and expertise in helping me grow in yet another format chapter in my career. To Chancellor Pat Fierro and Father Tony our Vicar General for their words of wisdom

and support, and to Bishop Mark for the vision and the "Inseitz into the Faith" we needed to launch this long overdue avenue and platform for our church and community. Let this be our strongest Bridge into our Faith and the New Hope our Church has to offer. Tune in 1150am or online www.elpasodiocese.org

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Jojo Garcia
Guest Editor



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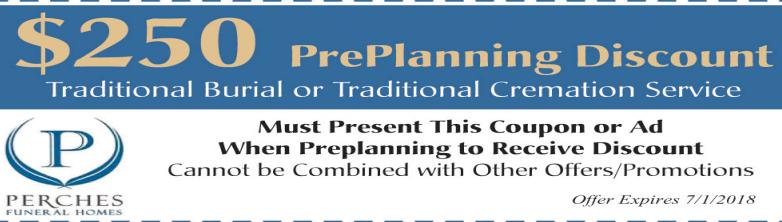
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The Power of Belief

"Mind over matter". We have all heard this saying many times and I suspect that even in this unbeliefing age many accept that there is some truth to this saying. Certainly athletes know they can push themselves beyond presumed physical limits by virtue of the willingness of their mind to extend the boundaries of the possible. Each of us in our life have had similar experiences in the way we have risen to overcome overwhelming difficulties beyond what our bodies seemed capable of doing. We all know that the human mind has amazing power over the physical/material aspects of our life.

Now science is adding credence to this intuition. According to a recent article in the National Geographic, which on the cover is titled, "The Healing Power of Belief", what science has for ages called the "placebo effect" really has something to it. For many years people involved in the practice of medicine have noticed that people who thought they had received some medical treatment but instead received nothing but a sugar pill or even those who had only received an incision instead of a surgery, nonetheless experienced an improvement of their condition or an alleviation of their pain.

Now with the help of science we are beginning to understand a bit about how the placebo effect works. Scientists have discovered that when people believe they are receiving something that will help them, even before the medicine begins to work, the brain itself releases hormones and endorphins that have qualities similar to opioids, powerful drugs which have the ability to alleviate pain and have other healing effects.

The proposition is that a prayer or a ritual, whether pagan or Christian, it matters little, could also offer these benefits. Interestingly, it seems these positive effects are even more powerful when they are supported and reinforced by a community of people surrounding the infirm individual. The article traces the experience of various religious groups who gather for prayer, sacrifices and pilgrimage to purported holy places. The story is told of one person who walked a long and arduous pilgrimage to a shrine in Bavaria despite the fact that he was recovering from a serious injury to his heel. When he arrived, according to his testimony, the pain left for good.

Of course we who are familiar with the Latino culture are aware of many examples of healing at holy places and elsewhere. Many of us have gone on pilgrimages to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe or to places as close as Mount Cristo Rey seeking God's help or to give thanks for help received. We feel close to others as we pray for their needs and very often we believe we have seen the fruit of our prayers.

Unfortunately what this article seems to suggest is that science is explaining the reasons people experience healing and help when they believe they are

receiving healing – and God is not a part of the equation. Simply believing that one will be healed is enough. The author proposes that it is all a natural process – the placebo effect.

I want to be clear about something. I love science. I always have. I marvel at what science has been able to understand and to accomplish. But science can only deal with that which can be tested and verified, and God will never be present in a way that a scientist can dissect in a laboratory like a mouse of frog. In this unbeliefing, skeptical age once again people are trying to use science to go well beyond what science could ever prove or fully explain.

Allow me to suggest a couple of things this article seems not to have considered:

1. If God is the one who created this natural world (the origins of which science will never explain, i.e., how something came from nothing) and He wanted us to be able to benefit by knowing Him would God not have placed within us the natural ability to experience healing through believing? Jesus himself often asks those he will heal, "Do you believe I can do this?"

2. While the placebo effect may explain some cases in which pain is relieved and even certain healing is experienced it falls far short of explaining how a person can experience an instantaneous cure: how a person blind from birth can see, how a person with crippled limbs can pick up his mat and walk, how a dead person who has been cold and decaying in the tomb for 4 days can be called forth like Lazarus, or how a crucified Man whose heart was pierced with a lance can rise again as Jesus did.

Ultimately our faith does not rest on miracles. It rests on our living relationship with the God who has entered into our lives, whom we have come to know through prayer, the Scriptures and the Sacraments, and who daily reveals His love for us in ways that no scientist can measure.

For me and for every person of faith it comes as no surprise that mind (namely, the spiritual aspect of our life) has power over matter. We believers just see in the "placebo effect" another reason to praise our wise Creator.

Bp. Mark

El Poder de Creer

"Mente sobre materia". Todos hemos escuchado este dicho muchas veces y sospecho que incluso en esta época de incredulidad muchos aceptan que hay algo de verdad en este dicho. Ciertamente los atletas saben que pueden empujarse más allá de los límites físicos presuntos en virtud de la voluntad de su mente para ampliar los límites de lo posible. Cada uno de nosotros en nuestra vida ha tenido experiencias similares en la forma en que hemos resucitado para superar dificultades abrumadoras más allá de lo que nuestros cuerpos parecían capaces de hacer. Todos sabemos que la mente humana tiene un poder increíble sobre los aspectos físicos y materiales de nuestra vida.

Ahora la ciencia está agregando credibilidad a esta intuición. De acuerdo con un artículo reciente en el "National Geographic", (revista famosa en los Estados Unidos) y en donde la portada titula: "El Poder de Curación en la Creencia", lo que la ciencia ha llamado durante años el "efecto placebo" realmente

tiene algo que ver. Durante muchos años las personas que participan en la práctica de la medicina han notado que las personas que pensaban que habían recibido algún tratamiento médico, pero que su lugar recibían nada más que una píldora de azúcar o incluso aquellos que sólo habían recibido una incisión en lugar de una cirugía, no obstante experimentaban una mejora de su condición o un alivio de su dolor.

Ahora con la ayuda de la ciencia estamos empezando a entender un poco acerca de cómo funciona el efecto placebo. Los científicos han descubierto que cuando las personas creen que están recibiendo algo que les ayudará, incluso antes de que la medicina comience a funcionar, el cerebro mismo libera hormonas y endorfinas que tienen cualidades similares a los opioides, fármacos poderosos que tienen la capacidad de aliviar el dolor y otros efectos curativos.

La proposición es que una oración o un ritual, ya sea pagano o cristiano, poco importa, podrían también ofrecer estos beneficios. Curiosamente, parece que estos efectos positivos son aún más poderosos cuando son apoyados y reforzados por una comunidad de personas que rodean a la persona enferma. El artículo traza la experiencia de varios grupos religiosos que se reúnen para la oración, los sacrificios y la peregrinación a lugares pretendidamente santos. La historia cuenta de una persona que caminó por una larga y ardua peregrinación a un santuario en Baviera, a pesar de que se estaba recuperando de una lesión grave. Cuando llegó, según su testimonio, el dolor se había ido para siempre.

Por supuesto que los que estamos familiarizados con la cultura latina somos conscientes de muchos ejemplos de sanidad en lugares sagrados y en otros lugares. Muchos de nosotros hemos ido en peregrinaciones a la Basílica de Nuestra

Señora de Guadalupe o a lugares tan cercanos como el Monte de Cristo Rey, buscando la ayuda de Dios o simplemente para dar gracias por la ayuda recibida. Nos sentimos cercanos a los demás cuando oramos por sus necesidades y muy a menudo creemos que hemos visto el fruto de nuestras oraciones.

Desafortunadamente, lo que este artículo parece sugerir, es que la ciencia está explicando las razones por las que las personas experimentan la curación y la ayuda cuando creen que están recibiendo sanación y Dios no es parte de la ecuación. Basta con creer que uno será sanado. El autor propone que todo es un proceso natural - el efecto placebo.

Quiero ser claro acerca de algo. Yo amo la ciencia. Siempre lo he hecho. Me maravillo de lo que la ciencia ha sido capaz de entender y de lograr. Pero la ciencia sólo puede hacer frente a lo que se puede probar y verificar y Dios nunca estará presente de la manera en que un científico lo pueda diseccionar en un laboratorio como un ratón o una rana. En esta incrédula y escéptica era, una vez más las personas están tratando de utilizar la ciencia para ir mucho más allá de lo que la ciencia podría probar o explicar plenamente.

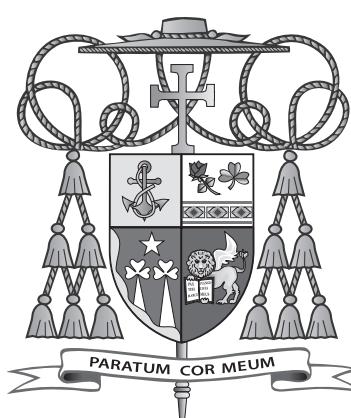
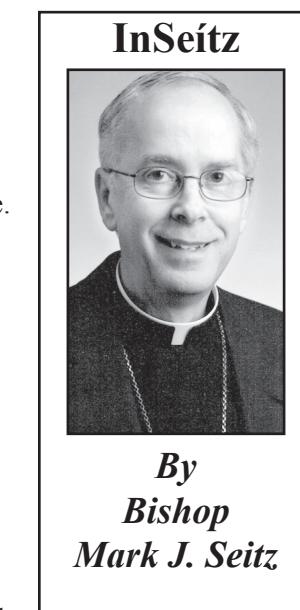
Permitanme sugerir un par de cosas que este artículo parece no haber considerado:

1. Si Dios es quien creó este mundo natural (cuyos orígenes la ciencia nunca explicará, es decir, cómo algo vino de la nada) y Él quería que pudiéramos beneficiarnos al conocerlo, ¿acaso Dios no habría colocado dentro de nosotros la capacidad natural de experimentar la curación a través de creer? El mismo Jesús a menudo preguntaba a aquellos a quienes sanaba: "¿Crees que puedo hacer esto?"
2. Si bien el efecto placebo puede explicar algunos casos en los que se alivia el dolor e incluso se experimenta cierta curación, no se puede explicar cómo una persona puede experimentar una cura instantánea: cómo una persona ciega desde nacimiento puede ver, cómo una persona con discapacidad pueden recoger su estera y caminar, cómo un muerto que ha estado frío y en descomposición en su tumba durante 4 días puede ser llamado a levantarse, como Lázaro, o cómo un hombre crucificado cuyo corazón fue perforado con una lanza puede elevarse de nuevo como Jesús lo hizo.

En última instancia, nuestra fe no descansa en los milagros. Se basa en nuestra relación viva con el Dios que ha entrado en nuestras vidas, a quienes hemos llegado a conocer a través de la oración, las Escrituras y los Sacramentos y que revela diariamente Su amor por nosotros de manera que ningún científico puede medir.

Para mí y para cada persona de fe no es de extrañar que la mente (es decir, el aspecto espiritual de nuestra vida) tenga poder sobre la materia. Los creyentes sólo vemos en el "efecto placebo" otra razón para alabar a nuestro sabio Creador.

Obispo Mark



New Liaison for Women Religious of the Diocese of El Paso

In November Sister Janet Gildea, a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, was named Liaison for Women Religious of the Diocese of El Paso. She accepted the responsibilities that had been so capably managed for the previous eleven years by Sister Isabel Fierro, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The Liaison for Women Religious facilitates programs and services that support the Sisters in their ministries as well as in their personal and spiritual needs.

In addition the Liaison supports the vocation to consecrated life. "Shining a spotlight on the ways Sisters continue to serve the people of God within our diocese is one of my priorities," said Sister Janet. "God is still calling women to the consecrated life. I hope that by sharing stories of the creative and dedicated service of Sisters here, a



new generation will be encouraged to discern the call and respond with generosity and love!"

Happy Birthday

Fr. William Morton, SSC	2/9
Fr. Mariano H. Lopez	2/14
Fr. Valentin A. Cota, MNM	2/14
Fr. Jovino Antonio Martinez	2/18
Msgr. David G. Fierro	2/18
Fr. Salvador Aguilera, CAPT, CHC, USN	2/22

Ordination Anniversaries

Fr. Sergio (Roberto) Hernandez, OFM **2/2/63**

Diocese offers assistance for victims of sexual abuse

Bishop Mark J. Seitz invites anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, religious or any minister of the church, to contact the Victims Assistance Coordinator, Mrs. Susan Martinez, LCSW, at (915) 872-8465 or the Chancery, (915) 872-8407. The Church desires the healing of anyone that has been harmed.



La Diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abuso sexual

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz invita a cualquier persona que haya sido víctima de abuso sexual por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o ministro de la iglesia, para que se comunique con la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Víctimas, Sra. Susan Martínez, LCSW, al teléfono 872-8465 o con la Cancillería, 872-8407.

La Iglesia desea sanar a toda persona que haya sido lastimada.

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10. Participates in staff retreats and continuing education.
11. Responsible for promoting a spirit of cooperation and trust between the Diocesan Ministry and the Finance Office.
12. Performs other duties as assigned.

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1 PETER 4:10

Adoratrices of Corpus Christi Monastery Celebrate Fifty Years

By Sister Janet Gildea, SC

For fifty years the Diocese of El Paso has had a hidden treasure in the Lower Valley. Nestled among the pecan groves and small family farms is the Corpus Christi Monastery of the Adoratrices Perpetuas del Santísimo Sacramento. The contemplative nuns, distinctive in their red scapulars over a white habit and black veil, came from Cristo Rey Monastery downtown to start a new monastic foundation on Mockingbird Lane on February 19, 1967. Since that day they have provided a place where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and available for all people to come for prayer and adoration. This is the central purpose for their religious consecration, the special reason for their founding and the focus of their life together in community.

Blessed María Magdalena of the Incarnation founded the congregation of the Adoratrices in Rome in 1807 but in 1879 the charism bloomed quite surprisingly in Mexico. A young religious sister petitioned Rome to start a Mexican contemplative congregation dedicated to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and was directed to the rule of the existing Adoratrices. A native community of Adoratrices was established and spread throughout the country. With the religious persecution during the Mexican Revolution the Adoratrices in Guadalajara wrote to Bishop Schuler, requesting to start a monastery in the Diocese of El Paso. "Bishop Schuler told the nuns not to come but they didn't understand and they came anyway!" said Mother María Gema, current superior of the monastery. Jesuit Fr. Guillén convinced Bishop Schuler of the need for a contemplative congregation with a Eucharistic focus and so the first monastery of Adoratrices, Christ the King, was established on Cotton Street in 1925.

By the mid-1960s the monastery in the heart of El Paso was too crowded, even for the nuns who have so very few possessions! Twelve volunteers plus one who came from a monastery in San Francisco moved to what was at that time the wilderness. Three of the original monastic "settlers" live at Corpus Christi today along with four professed nuns and one novice. Sister Carmen Rosario remembers, "There were lobos and it was very, very dark...so quiet after the noise of the city! We had a house but no furniture. We moved the chairs from the dining room to the chapel every time we prayed. But even though we were far out in the country, people came in search of the peace, in search of a place to pray and to adore the Blessed Sacrament."

People would be surprised to realize how busy life is within the monastery. Each nun is assigned an hour of adoration daily, in addition to Mass and recitation of the Divine Office in community. But there are many tasks that keep



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Carmela Manago - Executive Director

them running, literally, from the gift shop to the bakery to the sewing room and answering the many requests for prayer and counsel that come each day. It is also not unusual for people to arrive unannounced to give thanks for prayers answered. "Thank you, Sisters!" exclaimed a petite woman with a toddler gripping her hand. "The doctors told me I would probably never get pregnant. When I did they said that each pregnancy would be very delicate. But here is my third child- all healthy and happy- and me, too! Thanks be to God and thanks to your prayers!" Most of the time, however, the nuns never know the outcome of their fervent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. It is part of their poverty, to trust in God's providence without needing to see the results.

Sister María Siria, director of novices, discerned her call to the contemplative religious life through series of vocation retreats in the Diocese of Cd. Juarez. "I was surprised to discover that I would find my life fulfilled this way and in this place!" She visited the monasteries of several other congregations, all in Mexico, before finally agreeing (at her mother's insistence!) to visit Corpus Christi. What caught her heart was the unique focus of the Adoratrices on Eucharistic adoration. "Our foundress said that the Eucharist isn't just ours. It is for all the people. So our chapels are in the city with the doors open. In the middle of the noise of the city, here we are!" The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration every day from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Although the nuns are generally not seen, their voices can be heard as they chant the prayer of the Church known as the Divine Office. People come to join them for these prayers, for Mass or for the rosary. "Many stop by on a lunch break or after work for a few minutes," remarked Mother Gema. "They say that they feel the peace as soon as they turn in the gate."

The monastery is sustained by donations and by a little income from subscriptions to their magazine and the sale of pecans and cajeta de membrillo. Trust in God's providence is at an all-time high with so few nuns and so much to do in a monastery that is now fifty years old. "Everything needs repairs," said the superior, "but what we really would love to have is a steeple on the top of our chapel!" It was in the original plans but never completed. More than anything, what the Adoratrices are praying for is vocations to the contemplative life. "Who will come to work and pray with us for the people of God and the needs of the world?" Still, they don't spend much time wringing their hands about it. They have many other things to pray for and they know that God will provide.





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Mass of Atonement



Bishop Mark Seitz will celebrate a Mass of Atonement and Hope for the victims of abuse of any kind, whether the abuse occurred within the church, in the family, or society. Mass will be held on Saturday, March 11 at St. Patrick's Cathedral starting at 10am.

"Let's all continue to pray earnestly and daily for all victims of the terrible crime of child sexual abuse." -Bishop Mark Seitz.

For more information please call the Safe Environment office at 915-872-8427

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be taken on Ash Wednesday. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. For more information please visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

The Black and Indian Mission collection exists to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American and Native American and Alaska Native People of God. A portion of the funds collected each year is returned to the Diocese of El Paso in a form of a grant for the Tigua Native American Ministry. On the weekend of March 4th & 5th please be as generous as possible. Thank you and God bless you.



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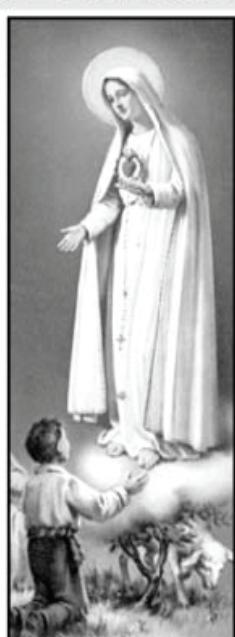
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Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery is the only cemetery in El Paso established specifically to serve the Catholic community. In your greatest need, Our Lady of Mount Carmel is an extension of the parish family that provides services and support to help you manage the difficult decisions and many practical details that come with end-of-life arrangements.

Cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo

El cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo es el único cementerio en El Paso establecido específicamente para servir a la comunidad Católica. Cuando usted más lo necesite, el Cementerio de Monte Carmelo es una extensión de la familia parroquial que proporciona servicios y apoyo para ayudarle a tomar las decisiones difíciles y detalles de los arreglos prácticos que vienen al final de la vida.



Facilities and Services

Our Lady of Mount Carmel offers a full range of options:

- * Intimate chapel for on-site services
- * Tradicional burials, in-ground or in a mausoleum
- * Internment of cremated remains in the columbarium or the chapel
- * Peaceful, well-kept grounds maintained with environmentally-responsible reclaimed water

Aside from the immediate need services available at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, staff members can provide assistance with arrangements for future needs

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One in a series of informational presentations



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How Do We Prepare Our Hearts for Lent?

By: Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator

St. Ignatius of Loyola says that we should always prepare before a prayer moment in our lives. He encourages us to prepare even in these ordinary prayer moments. The season of Lent is around the corner and as St. Ignatius says, we need to be prepared. How can we prepare for the season of Lent, our season for reflection, redemption and conversion?

I believe the best way to prepare our hearts for Lent is to love one another. Increase our love to God, our love for our neighbor, our love for our parish, and our love for ourselves. I encourage each of our readers to journey with Jesus 40 days with compassion and mercy loving one another.

You can start by asking: 1) what moment of the day will be ideal to increase my relationship with God? 2) What social issue in our country needs my help? 3) What are the needs of my parish and my pastor? 4) How can I financially support my parish community? 5) Finally, how can I take care of myself better before taking care of others?

Here are some ideas on how to prepare for Lent:

- Show your love for God by keeping his commandments, especially by loving others.
- Pray for your family and friends, for those who suffer.
- Cut down on the amount and richness of food and drink.
- Help those in need.
- Give cheerfully to God, who has given us everything we have.
- Nourish your faith by spending time in quiet reading and reflection.
- Build up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.
- Control desire for entertainment.
- Serve God by living out your vocation in love each day.

Our Church walks everyday with the ones who suffer and who are poor. Therefore, this Lent I encourage you to prepare your heart by loving the ones who suffer with mercy and compassion. Besides preparing our spiritual resources for Lent, let's put our faith into action and start increasing our love for one another.

For more information on the spirituality of stewardship, contact Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator at (915) 872-8412 or ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org.



Como Preparar Nuestro Corazón para la Cuaresma?

Escrito por: Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad

Como Preparar Nuestro Corazón para la Cuaresma?

Escrito por: Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad

San Ignacio de Loyola nos menciona que antes de un momento de oración debemos prepararnos para estar en la presencia de Jesús, incluso nos recomienda prepararnos aun en aquellos pequeños momentos de oración. El tiempo de Cuaresma esta por llegar y como dice San Ignacio debemos de estar preparados. Y la pregunta es ¿Como podemos prepararnos para la Cuaresma, tiempo de reflexión, redención y conversión?

Sugiero que la mejor manera de preparar nuestro corazón para esta Cuaresma es el amarnos unos a otros. Incrementar nuestro amor a Dios, al hermano, a nuestra parroquia y a nosotros mismos. Los invito a caminar con Jesús 40 días con compasión y misericordia amando al prójimo.

Podemos preguntarnos: 1) ¿Que momento del día es ideal para incrementar mi relación con Dios? 2) ¿Que problema social en nuestro país necesita de mi ayuda? 3) ¿Cuales son las necesidades de mi parroquia y mi pastor? 4) ¿Como puedo apoyar económicamente a mi comunidad parroquial? 5) Finalmente, ¿Como puedo cuidarme mejor antes de cuidar de los demás?

Algunas recomendaciones para prepararnos para el tiempo de Cuaresma son:

- Mostrar mi amor a Dios siguiendo sus mandamientos, especialmente a amando al prójimo.
- Orar por mi familia y amigos, en especial por aquellos que sufren.
- Reducir la cantidad de alimentos y bebidas.
- Ayudar a los necesitados
- Dar alegramente a Dios que nos ha dado todo lo que tenemos.
- Alimentar mi fe leyendo y reflexionando en silencio.
- Construir tesoros en el cielo en lugar de en la Tierra.
- Controlar nuestro deseo de entretenimiento.
- Servir a Dios viviendo nuestra vocación en amor día a día.

Nuestra Iglesia camina todos los días con los que sufren y lloran por justicia. Por lo tanto en esta Cuaresma los animo a preparar nuestro corazón amando a los que sufren con misericordia y compasión. Aparte de prepararnos espiritualmente, propongo poner nuestra fe en acción e incrementar nuestro amor unos a otros.

Para mas información sobre la espiritualidad de corresponsabilidad, contacte a Karina Sandoval, Coordinara en Corresponsabilidad al 915-872-8412 o al ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org.



World Marriage Day

By Deacon Frank Segura

World Marriage started in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1981. Couples had approached and were successful in receiving the support of the Bishop, Mayor and even the governor in proclaiming St. Valentine's Day as 'We Believe in Marriage Day'. By the next year, 43 Governors had officially recognized the second Sunday in February as the celebration of marriage and in 1983 the name was changed to "World Marriage Day"! In 1993, (Saint) Pope John Paul II blessed World Marriage Day with his Apostolic Blessing.

More and more countries and faith expressions continue to embrace this day every year! The permanent theme for this second Sunday in February is "Love one Another".

"This one at last... " exclaimed the man, "for out of "her man" this one has been taken. "Gn. 2:23

Completed and fulfilled in this man, his bride is the great reason for the man to leave and forsake all others (literally, his father and mother) and cling to the woman God has brought and presented to him.

Becoming one body, one flesh as the scripture stresses the fact that the couple's union is willed by God, the couple answers the New Commandment.

"I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34-35.

We know that a couple's daily "yes" (sometimes more often, as a veteran couple will share) and make the decision to love is a key to following the commandment to love and thus becomes the foundation to a covenant love. As my wife Mona of 42 (!) years shares, "not a contract to be broken, but a commitment to love for a lifetime."

What wonderful stories can be shared about how a couple has met, how the Lord's plan has fallen in place.... when the two meet! Awesome feelings of recognition and joy, uncharacteristic shyness, or just a few words that grew into long conversations. That special moment when the couple just "knew" that "this one at last is THE ONE".

Please join us for the World Marriage Day mass celebration February 12, 2017! Share our church's joy in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. St. Patrick's Cathedral at 3:00pm. Reception to follow at the school cafeteria.

Special recognition for significant anniversaries and certificates awarded to all registrants.

Call or send in your forms to Marriage and Family Life, 915-872-8401.

El Día del Matrimonio Mundial

Diácono Frank Segura
Traducción: Martha Marmolejo

El Día del Matrimonio Mundial comenzó en Baton Rouge, Louisiana en 1981. Las parejas se habían acercado y tuvieron éxito en recibir el apoyo del obispo, del alcalde e incluso del gobernador en la proclamación del Día de San Valentín como: "Creemos en el Día del Matrimonio". Al año siguiente, 43 gobernadores habían reconocido ya oficialmente el segundo domingo de febrero como la celebración del matrimonio y en 1983 el nombre fue cambiado a "Día Mundial del Matrimonio"! En 1993, (San) Papa Juan Pablo II bendijo el Día Mundial del Matrimonio con su Bendición Apostólica.

¡Cada vez más países y expresiones de fe continúan abrazando este día cada año! El tema permanente de este segundo domingo de febrero es "Amaos los unos a los otros".

"Éste al fin..." exclamó el hombre, "porque de" su hombre "éste ha sido tomado. Génesis 2,23

Completo y realizado en este hombre, su esposa es la gran razón para que el hombre se marche y abandone a todos los demás (literalmente, su padre y madre) y se aferre a la mujer que Dios le ha traído y presentado.

Convertidos en un solo cuerpo, una sola carne como la escritura subraya el hecho de que la unión de parejas es deseada por Dios, la pareja responde al Nuevo Mandamiento.

"Les doy un mandamiento nuevo: Amense los unos a los otros. Como yo os he amado, así también debéis amaros unos a los otros. Así sabrán todos que sois mis

discípulos, si tenéis amor los unos por los otros. "Juan 13: 34, 35.

Sabemos que el "sí" diario de una pareja (a veces más a menudo, como una pareja veterana compartiría) y tomar la decisión de amar es una clave para seguir el mandamiento de amar y así se convierte en el fundamento de un amor de pacto. Así como mi esposa Mona de 42 (!) años comparte, "no es un contrato para que se rompa, sino un compromiso para amar para toda la vida".

Qué historias tan maravillosas se pueden compartir sobre cómo una pareja se ha reunido, cómo el plan del Señor ha quedado en su lugar... ¡Cuando los dos se encuentran! Sensaciones impresionantes de reconocimiento y alegría, timidez inusitada, o sólo unas pocas palabras que se convierten en largas conversaciones. Ese momento especial en el que la pareja "sabía" que "éste, al fin, es EL INDICADO".

¡Por favor, únase a nosotros para la celebración del Día Mundial del Matrimonio, este próximo 12 de febrero del 2017! Comparta la alegría de nuestra iglesia en el Sacramento del Santo Matrimonio. Catedral San Patricio a las 3:00 pm. Recepción después de Misa en la cafetería de la escuela.

Reconocimiento especial para todos los aniversarios significativos y se otorgaran certificados a todos los inscritos.

Llame o envíe su inscripción al Ministerio de Matrimonio y Vida Familiar, 915-872-8401.

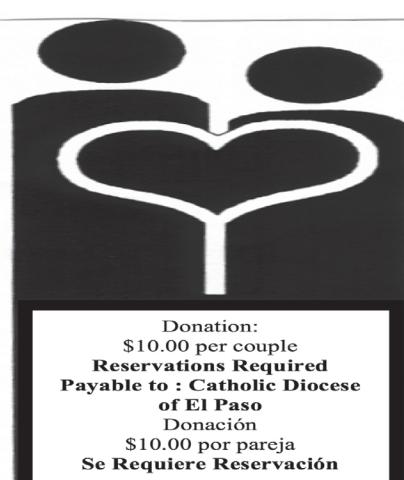


World Marriage Day 2017 Día Mundial del Matrimonio 2017

Couples Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries from 1 to 100 years are invited to join;
Las parejas que celebran sus Aniversarios Memorables de Bodas de 1 a 100 años están invitadas a reunirse con el;



St. Patrick Cathedral, 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 12th
Reception/Certificates Following Mass at
St. Patrick School Cafeteria



Iglesia de San Patricio, 3:00 p.m.
Domingo, 12 de Febrero
Recepción/Certificados después de la misa en el
Cafeteria de Escuela San Patricio
enseguida a la Iglesia

♥♥♥

Registration Form / Forma de Inscripción
Mail to / Enviar a: Family Life Office, 499 St. Matthews St., El Paso, TX 79907
Register by phone/ e-mail 915-872-8401ofc ,
marriaga@elpasodiocese.org or fsegura@elpasodiocese.org

Last Name, Husband and Wife First Name/ s Apellido y Nombre del Esposo y Esposa

Anniversary Being Celebrated / Años de Aniversarios:

Address / Domicilio

City / Ciudad State / Estado Zip Code / Código Postal

() Telephone / Número de teléfono Amount Enclosed/Cantidad Incluida \$ _____

* We wish our certificate in English
* Queremos nuestro certificado en Español

Final Day to register: February 8, 2017 Día Final Para Registrarse: 8 de Febrero de 2017.

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Restoration of Churches

By Delores Orneles, Catholic Properties

The successful restoration of the Ysleta Mission was completed with the blessing of the Texas Historical Commission. There was structural work done as well as restoration of the altar and the interior to reflect the original look.

After over 20 years of fund raising, the parishioners of St. Matthew have a new church that seats 1,200. The old church will be used as a multi-purpose center. The dedication of the new parish was held on January 14, 2017, with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Seitz.

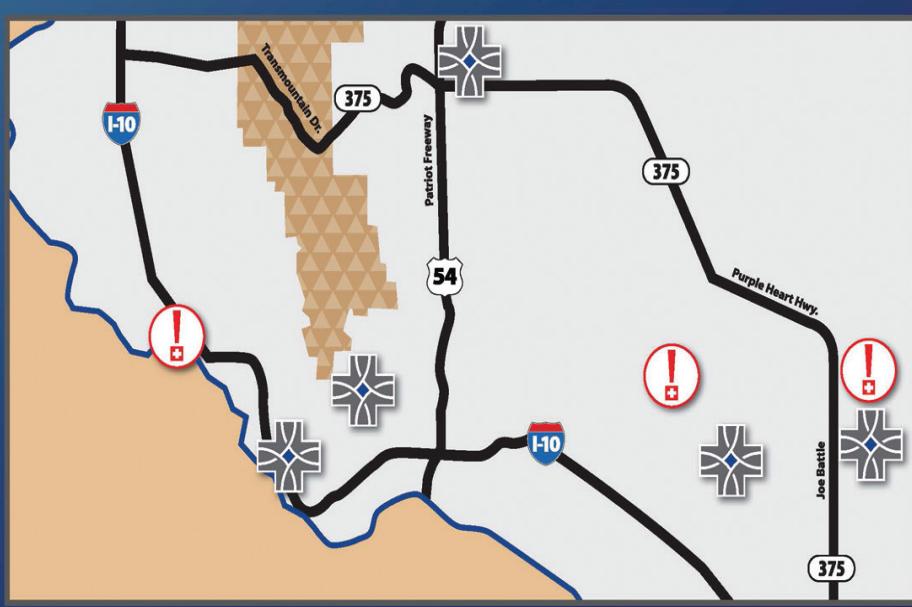


ST. MATTHEW



¿TIENE UN PLAN EN CASO DE EMERGENCIAS?

Los Hospitales de Providence y MedPost Urgent Care aquí están para sus GRANDES emergencias y las menores también.



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Children's Hospital
Pediatric Emergency Room
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(915) 577-6011

Sierra Campus
1625 Medical Center St.
(915) 747-4000

East Campus
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Trawood
Emergency Room
2400 Trawood
(915) 577-8100

Northeast
Emergency Room
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(915) 577-8221

West
601 Sunland Park Dr.
(915) 577-8223

East
9100 Viscount
(915) 594-4475

12371 Edgemere Blvd. Ste. 207
(915) 856-0008

Cuando buscar una sala de emergencias:

- Problemas respiratorios
- Dolor en el pecho o abdominal superior
- Desmayo o mareos repentinos
- Cambios en la visión
- Hemorragia incontrolable
- Tos o vómitos con sangre
- Confusión o cambios en el estado mental
- Huesos rotos

Cuando buscar un centro de atención urgente:

- Quemaduras o lesiones menores
- Esguinces o distensiones
- Tos, resfriados o dolores de garganta
- Infección de oídos
- Reacciones alérgicas (sin amenaza de vida)
- Fiebre o síntomas similares a la gripe
- Sarpullido o irritación de la piel
- Asma leve
- Mordeduras de animales
- Vacunas contra la gripe o examen físicos para los deportes o la escuela

En una emergencia, llame al 911 o vaya a la sala de emergencia mas cercana.

Photos by Joe Najar,
Diocese Photographer



Continuation of page 1

In his homily, Pope Francis made an impassioned plea for migrants around the world. He called upon all people of goodwill to embrace the immigrant, the poor, and the forgotten. Calling for compassion and mercy, the Holy Father said, "We cannot deny the humanitarian crisis which in recent years has meant the migration of thousands of people, whether by train or highway or on foot, crossing hundreds of kilometers through mountains, deserts and inhospitable zones. The human tragedy that is forced migration is a global phenomenon today."

Pope Francis cited poverty, violence, drug trafficking and lawlessness as the root causes of migration to the United States from Central America and Mexico. He reminded us that this tragic global phenomenon should be measured, not by numbers and statistics, but by individual names and stories and families, and that those running from danger should not be criminalized.

It has been a year since Pope Francis visited our border community. Momentous historic events have occurred throughout the world since then. Moving forward into the unknown future, we as a community of faith must move together, remembering the Holy Father's admonition to remain engaged in the world, rather than to close our hearts to the needs of humanity.

In this period of crisis today, it is important not to turn in on ourselves, burying our own talent, our spiritual, intellectual, and material riches, everything that the Lord has given us; but, rather to open ourselves, to be supportive, to be attentive to others. Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful. Life is not given to us to be jealously guarded for ourselves, but is given to us so that we may give it in turn.

Pope Francis

April 24, 2013

Two Nations, One Faith



Photo by Servizio Fotografico
"L'osservatore Romano"

Photos by: Joe Najera and Al Baeza



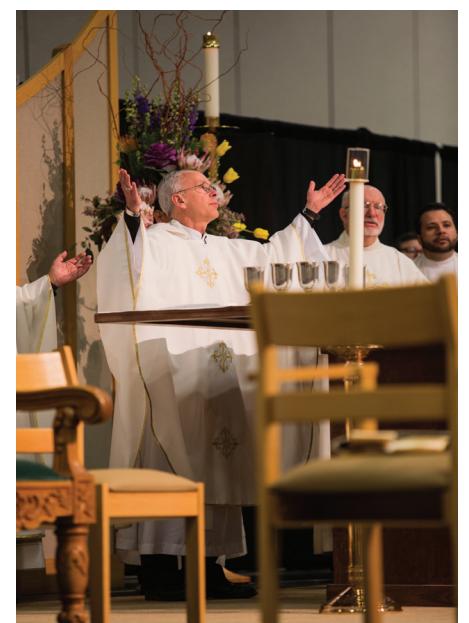
Southwest Liturgical Conference (SWLC)

By Peter Kolar

Photos by Joe Najera, Diocese Photographer

The Southwest Liturgical Conference's (SWLC) 55th annual Study Week was held at the El Paso Convention Center January 18 to 21. This yearly liturgical gathering is the longest-running and one of the most respected in the nation, taking place in a different diocese or archdiocese in the Southwest United States each January. The last time this conference was held in El Paso was 1979. This year's theme, "Breaking Bread: the Eucharist and the Domestic Church," focused on the Eucharist as the center of our Catholic faith at home, in the family, and in daily life. The opening keynote was by renowned author Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, with additional keynotes by Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, scripture scholar Fr. Dempsey Rosales, and Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio. Workshops were offered on a wide array of liturgical, musical and catechetical topics by leading clinicians. Bishop Mark Seitz was even joined by several of his siblings to lead a session on their experiences of faith in their family.

Throughout the conference, the over 1,300 participants prayed together in various liturgies, with the gathered faithful partaking of engaging homilies and beautiful music led by the El Paso Diocesan Choir under the direction of Mr. Peter Kolar. The conference planning committee, chaired by Fr. Marcus McFadin, worked for over two years on this event, the result being an overwhelming and resounding success for our diocese and region. SWLC will be held in Cheyenne, WY in 2018.



DO YOU HAVE A PLAN WHEN EMERGENCIES HAPPEN?

The Hospitals of Providence and MedPost Urgent Care are here for your **BIG** emergencies and small ones too.



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(915) 594-4475

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MedPost

MedPost Kids URGENT CARE

When to seek an emergency room:

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- Fainting or sudden dizziness
- Changes in vision
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Confusion or changes in mental status
- Broken Bones

When to seek an urgent care center:

- Minor burns or injuries
- Sprains and strains
- Coughs, colds, and sore throats
- Ear infections
- Allergic reactions (non-life threatening)
- Fever or flu-like symptoms
- Rash or skin irritations
- Mild asthma
- Animal bites
- Flu shots and physicals for sports or school

In an emergency, call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room.

Plans Underway to Mark 100th Anniversary of St. Patrick Cathedral

Contributors: Diocese of El Paso Centennial History by Jannie Young, Chief Operating Officer, Foundation for the diocese of El Paso
Sofia Larkin Appleby, Major Gifts Officer, Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso

The Cathedral of St. Patrick will begin centennial celebrations on March 16 and 17. The weekend will include a seated dinner on Thursday, March 16 at the Hilton Garden Inn for clergy and people who were baptized or married at least 50 years ago. On Friday, March 17 Bishop Mark Seitz will celebrate a mass at 9:00 a.m. with the students of St. Patrick Cathedral School to commemorate the Feast Day of St. Patrick and a parade will follow at 11:00 a.m. with all of our Catholic schools participating. Evening mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. followed by a reception. Guided tours of the Cathedral will be offered on Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19.

Located on the Northeast corner of Mesa and Arizona, the Cathedral is a work of art and an historic landmark. Plans to build the church of St. Patrick originated with the Irish Catholic community in El Paso in 1908 when parishioners at Holy Family Church, formerly St. Mary Chapel, began to fundraise for a larger church. El Paso at the time was a major center of the mining industry and many of the miners were Irish. In 1913, Rev. Edward Barry, S.J., the pastor at Immaculate Conception, devised a unique fundraising idea. He distributed cards with a picture of a proposed new church to parishioners saying that whoever donated \$10,000 would be given the right to name the new church after a saint. Delia Lane presented a check to Father Barry on December 31, 1913 but passed along the naming privilege to the Daughters of Erin, of which she was a member. They unanimously chose St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, as the name of the new church.

Several sites were considered for the new church before Father Barry settled on the current location. He purchased the property for \$20,000 in February 1914. When Bishop Anthony Schuler, S.J. became the first bishop of El Paso in November 1915, he indicated his intentions to make St. Patrick the Cathedral. On November 12, 1916, Bishop Schuler blessed the cornerstone and the site of the altar was marked by a large wooden cross. In the cornerstone was placed a metal box with coins, medals, a historical record of the ceremony written on parchment and placed in a glass tube to prevent its destruction from dampness, the names of the governor, mayor, and officials, and a list of benefactors and contributors. On November 19, 1917, the finished St. Patrick Church was officially designated by Bishop Schuler as the Cathedral for the Diocese of El Paso. The dedication ceremony took place on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1917.

The plans for St. Patrick were drawn up by Barnett, Haynes and Barnett of St. Louis, Missouri. The church was designed in the Byzantine style of architecture and constructed from brick and Carrara marble and designed to seat 720 worshippers. The interior is adorned with Roman columns and elaborate frescoes that depict biblical scenes. The Stations of the Cross are carved in bas-relief on the interior walls. The impressive marble altar is 75 feet tall and a duplicate of the altar in the St. Louis Cathedral. It contains an eight-foot statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus under a large canopy that is topped with a golden eagle. The St. Patrick Cathedral Altar Society is currently overseeing the restoration of the Sacred Heart.

Bishop Schuler requested that the Cathedral be administered by the Jesuits but his request was denied by Rome because the New Mexico-Colorado Province of the Society of Jesus was in the process of being divided. Bishop Schuler appointed Rev. George C. Frund the first rector in October 1917 and the church has been administered by diocesan priests ever since.

One of the early pastors at the Cathedral was Father Malachy O'Leary who started St. Patrick Parochial School and laid the plans for the Catholic Community Center which became Cathedral High School. In June 1925, Father O'Leary was succeeded by Father Robert O'Laughran. Under him, the Community Center was finished and the Christian Brothers arrived in El Paso to open Cathedral High School. In time, the parish came to encompass the entire city block including the church, Cathedral High School, the priests' homes, St. Patrick Parochial School, the Christian Brothers' home, and the Catholic Museum building. Across the street was the Chancery and Bishop's house. St. Patrick School was administered by the Sisters of Loretto from its founding in 1923 until 1979. Initially, it shared the building of Cathedral High School until September 2, 1938 when St. Patrick Parochial School opened in its own building. St. Patrick Cathedral School serves students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grades.

Parishioner Frank Gorman was baptized at St. Patrick Cathedral in 1924 and has vivid memories of his grade school years at the parochial school when the Sisters of Loretto ran the school. Grades 3 through 7 shared the school with Cathedral High School and 1st and 2nd graders were in a little house where the oldest part of the school is today. There were 25-30 students in each class and a Sister of Loretto for each grade. "I loved being in the choir and serving as an altar boy," Frank stated. "Mass was held daily at 8 in the morning and school started at 8:30. In those days I rode the trolley home from school." Frank's parents were married at the Cathedral in 1922 by Msgr. Henry Buchanan.

The Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick is the seat of the Diocese of El Paso and the mother church for more than 600,000 Catholics. Cathedrals are places where the bishop takes possession of his diocese, where ordinations are to be celebrated, and where the funerals of bishops are to occur. Bishop Mark J. Seitz, D.D. is the pastor of the Cathedral and Reverend Trini Fuentez serves as the rector. In 2005, the parish dedicated a nave to the memory of San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, the martyr of the Diocese of El Paso who was ordained by Bishop Schuler in the Cathedral in 1918. The Tepeyac Institute will lead a pilgrimage to Chihuahua from February 9 to 12 to mark the 80th anniversary of his martyrdom. Over the years, many seminarians for the Diocese have begun their service as ordained priests at St. Patrick Cathedral.

Wally and Jane Thomson, long time parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral, were married there on November 22, 1951, Thanksgiving Day. Baptized at the Cathedral in 1930 by Msgr. G. W. Caffery, Wally received his First Holy Communion on Pentecost Sunday in the 2nd grade and was confirmed with his class by Bishop Schuler the following Sunday. Wally and Jane happily shared memories of their youth at the Cathedral and their wedding day saying, "We didn't expect a large turnout because it was Thanksgiving but the church was full."

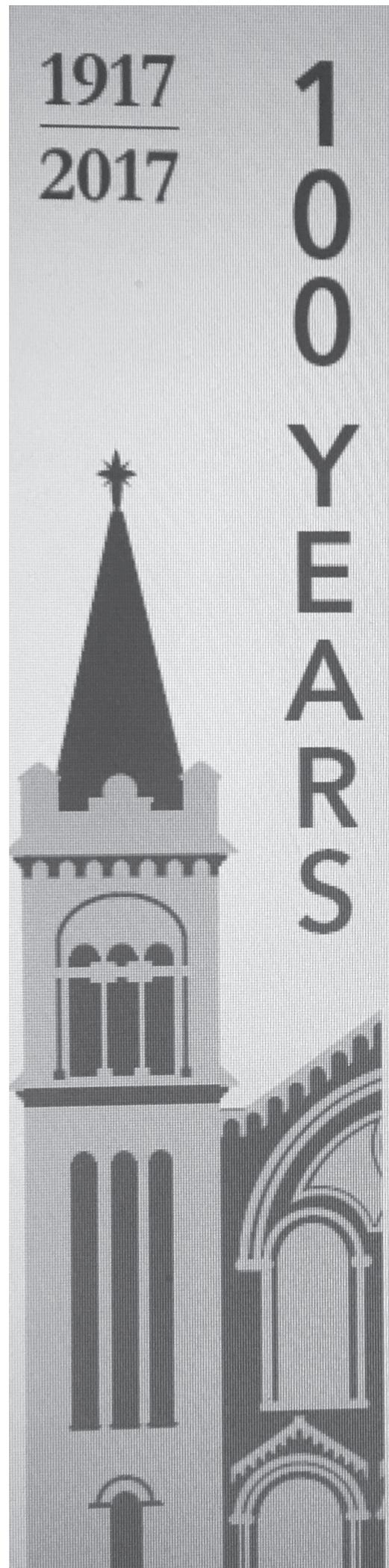
If you or your parents were baptized or married at St. Patrick Cathedral more than 50 years ago, you have stories and photos to share, or you have questions about the Centennial celebration, please contact Sofia Larkin Appleby at 915.872.8412 or slappleby@elpasodiocese.org. Photographs and stories must be submitted by February 10.

St. Patrick Cathedral Centennial Celebration Information:

Friday, March 17, 2017
Mass, 9:00 a.m.
Parade, 11:00 a.m.
Mass, 6:30 p.m.
Reception Follows

Saturday & Sunday, March 18-19, 2017
Guided Tours
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday
2:30-4:30 p.m. on Sunday

These events are free and open to the public.



News Around The Catholic Schools

Office of Education: Diocesan Science Fair

Students from the various El Paso Catholic schools will compete at the Diocesan Science Fair on February 10, at St. Joseph School, 1300 Lamar. Winners in the competition will advance to compete in the Sun Country Regional Science Fair held later this Spring at the El Paso Community College Administrative Service Center. The students who place first and second at Sun Country will then advance to the Exxon Mobile Science Fair in San Antonio.

The El Paso Sun Country Regional Science Fair stimulates and activates student interest in science and engineering, provides an exceptional experience for students through exposure to professional level judges, provides public recognition of talented students for their independent research efforts, and increases public awareness of the importance of science education in our society. Information: (915) 872-8426.

Loretto Academy: 2017 Nun Run

Loretto Academy students will continue the tradition of the annual Nun Run to raise funds for the Faisabald Diocese in Pakistan. Funds raised will also benefit the Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior classes in their class projects. The Nun Run will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 4, and will start at Loretto Academy's main entrance on Hardaway St. The race will include a 5K Competitive Run, a 5K Non-Competitive Walkathon, and a 1-mile Family Fun Walk. Registration fee is \$30.00 and there will also be registration on the morning of the race. Racers can register online at: raceadventuresunlimited.com. T-shirts commemorating the event will be available for the first 375 5K participants. A pre-event registration and packet pick-up take place on February 3, at Loretto Academy's High School Foyer from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Information: (915) 566-8400.

St. Pius X School: Heifer International Mission

St. Pius X Catholic School once again participated in the Heifer International Mission program. Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. For more than 70 years, Heifer has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for food and income. Heifer currently works in 30 countries, including the United States, to help families and communities become self-reliant. This is the second consecutive year that St. Pius X students have raised money for this Mission program, headed by alumni. Over the course of 3 months, \$264 was raised. With these funds, St. Pius X Catholic School has been able to send the following work animals: 1 Heifer, 1 goat, a school of fish, 40 chicks, 40 geese and 3 honeybee colonies. The hallmark of the Heifer program is "Passing on the Gift," in which each family that receives an animal gift passes on the first female offspring to another in need. Whether farmers pass on animals or time; money and knowledge, the practice doubles the impact of the original gift, transforming recipients into donors.

Information: (915) 772-6598.

Loretto Academy: Scholarship winner



Ivane Rodriguez has been named a QuestBridge College Match Scholarship Recipient. She will be the beneficiary of a full, four-year scholarship. Ivane was matched with the prestigious Colby College, located in Waterville, Maine. Colby is a private liberal arts college, founded in 1813. She will be participating in a 3-2 Program, which means she will spend her first three college years at Colby, followed by two years at a school offering an engineering education. Ivane will work toward transferring to either Columbia University or Dartmouth College. For Ivane, the outcome will mean that she will graduate college with both liberal arts and engineering

degrees. Ivane came to Loretto Academy in 6th grade as a Challenge Program Scholar after meeting its rigorous application demands. She was one of six students citywide selected to receive a full scholarship toward her Loretto education.

Information: (915) 566-8400.

Loretto Academy: NHI leader

Loretto student, Jacqueline Legate, has been selected Outstanding Female/Most Promising Future Leader during the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) competition, Celebración, this past November. Celebración was held in McAllen, Texas, and 686 participants from seven countries competed. This prestigious award is not the only honor bestowed upon Jacqueline; during last year's Celebración competition, Jacqueline and her team won Silver in the overall competition. This past summer, Jacqueline was selected as the Committee Chair for the House of Representatives at Lorenzo De Zavala (LDZ)



in Chicago. LDZ is an eight-day program for NHI where students from seven Latin American countries learn about governing and the legislative process. Jacqueline has continued to demonstrate her dedication to the NHI and its ideals of advancing the people and culture of the Hispanic community. NHI is a leading organization that fosters future community leaders for the expanding Latino community throughout the United States and Latin America. NHI establishes the means to attract and engage high potential students in learning experiences that inspire their imagination, develop their repertoire of skills and competencies, broaden their knowledge of Latino culture and make community leadership a life-long learning commitment. Information: (915) 566-8400.

Loretto Academy: Writing competition winner

Ivanna Torres, was recently named the recipient of the national writing competition in Mexico: "La Juventud y la Mar" (the Youth and the Sea). The competition is backed by Secretaria de Marina Armada de Mexico (the Secretariat of The Mexican Navy). A first place winner is designated for each Mexican state and Ivanna was the winner of the state of Chihuahua. Ivanna wrote a short story about the sea. Among her prizes, Ivanna was awarded a trip to Veracruz and Mexico City where she was able to meet Mexico's Subsecretary, Admiral Joaquin Zetina Angulo.

Information: (915) 566-8400.



Loretto Academy: UTEP Scholarship winners

Four Loretto Academy Angels have been selected as recipients of UTEP's first-round of scholarship recipients. They are: Maria Fernanda Cos, Haydee Carolina Lozoya, Gabriela Macias and Ines Figueroa-Casas. Our stellar students have been awarded Andalusite and Jaspelite Awards, which demand academic excellence from awardees. This is only the beginning of scholarship season, and Loretto Academy eagerly anticipate more scholarships for its students in the next few months. Information: (915) 566-8400.



Cathedral High School: El Otro Lado

Cathedral High continues its ministry in hosting El Otro Lado, a five-day border immersion experience.

Andres Lopez, the coordinator, and a team of fifteen students hosted Justin-Siena HS from Napa, California, in November, and Totino-Grace HS from Fridley, Minnesota, in January. College students from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota will be the next participants in the program. Six schools, all in the Lasallian tradition, are slated to participate this school year. The schools are responding to a challenge from the international leadership to "go beyond the borders." Andres Lopez is a tutor trainer at El Paso Community College and helps with a number of ministries at San Marcos parish.



Information: (915) 532-3238.

Cathedral High School: Mattress donations

Members of the Lasallian Youth Group assisted two Cathedral alumni with the delivery and installation of 15 donated mattresses to the Ronald McDonald House. Jaime Mata, Class of '04, of Popular Mattress and David Fong, Class of '04, of Tempur-Pedic, joined forces to provide much-needed mattresses to deserving non-profits in our community.



Over the summer, they provided over 120 mattresses to the Rescue Mission of El Paso and to the Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home.

Information: (915) 532-3238.

News Around The Catholic Schools

Our Lady of Assumption: Principal search

Our Lady of Assumption School is currently seeking a school principal to lead the 4K through eighth grade campus for the upcoming school year. The position will begin during the 2017-2018 school year. Candidates applying for the position should be a visionary, spiritual and academic leader and possess a minimum of three years teaching experience in addition to proven leadership skills. Candidates must have a Master's Degree in Educational Administration, or a Master's Degree and 18 additional hours in Administration, and meet the qualifications required by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department (TCCED). Applicants should also have excellent communication skills and proficiency in technology. Anyone interested in applying can pick up an application packet from the Diocese of El Paso's Office of Education located at 499 St Matthews St. Application deadline is March 3, 2017.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TATIANA AVILA

The Rio Grande Catholic and the Office of Education for the Diocese of El Paso want to recognize the exciting and innovative things our alumni are doing here in El Paso and around the world. To nominate an El Paso Catholic School graduate, please contact Pifas Silva at psilva@elpasodiocese.org or (915)872-8126

Name:

Tatiana Avila

Current Occupation/Job Title:

Assistant News Director

Company/Organization/
School:

KVIA-TV

Interest, Activities, Clubs, and Professional Organizations:

St. Patrick Cathedral School Board, El Paso Press Club, Operation Noel Telethon. Any free time, I spend with my daughter, Venice. I enjoy jogging, reading and traveling as much as possible. Annual family road trips are a must.

Greatest Professional Accomplishment:

Covering important news in our community, such as the Pope's visit. It was an amazing experience, both professionally and personally.

What Catholic school(s) did you attend?

St. Patrick Cathedral School

What was the most valuable lesson - inside or outside the classroom - you learned while attending Catholic school(s)?

Perseverance. Teachers taught me to work hard for my goals and never give up.

What teacher/staff member/classmate most influence you?

Mrs. Herbst. She was an amazing teacher, with a big heart. She cared about her students so much. She felt like family to many of us. She inspired me to believe in myself. She would always push me to do better.

How did your Catholic School Education prepare you for what you are doing today?

I had a great education at St. Patrick Cathedral School. Teachers taught me the skills I needed to pursue my career in Journalism.

Why do you think Catholic Education is so important?

Every child should be allowed the opportunity to attend a caring and educationally-competitive school, such as Catholic Schools. I believe this kind of

learning environment allows a student to dramatically expand his or her education, as well as personal growth. This is essential because it means a student receives the tools he or she needs to succeed in life, both professionally and personally.

How are Catholic Schools shaping the future?

I think Catholic Schools are doing an amazing job in educating students in vital subjects, such as: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). Plus, a big advantage is the one-on-one attention between teachers and students. I think this helps students excel in class, and propels them to succeed in life too. In my opinion, Catholic Schools give students the confidence and skills needed to pursue their goals. I believe students here become successful, well-rounded adults; essential for the success of our community.

What advice do you have for current students?

For any student graduating or overcoming any challenge, don't worry. Whatever comes your way, you can overcome it. Nothing is impossible with God at your side. If there's one thing I've learned from Catholic Schools is to have faith. Have faith in yourself,

in others and of course, God. Always.

What was your favorite Catholic School experience/moment?

Every moment spent with my favorite teachers and best friends. I'm still close to some of them. That's a great thing about Catholic Schools, it's such a close community of people that many remain lifelong friends.



The Youth and the Calling

By Fr. Mariano Lopez, Dir., Vocations Office

"Oh no! My son wants to be a priest!" This is the cry of many parents in the Catholic community who have actively participated in their faith. They are often at meetings at their parish, or perhaps in a ministry. Others have taught their children to connect with God through some type of a popular devotion. While some might say the above quote verbatim, others might express the spirit of it in one way or another. While not all young people who are close to God and to the Church will be called to priesthood or consecrated life, it is quite healthy for the spiritual life of a young person to consider this calling for their life as they would consider marriage or single life. Ultimately, in the Catholic Church we do not believe that the young person is the one who chooses, but instead we believe that God is the one who chooses the young person for a special purpose. God calls and chooses in God's time and not in our own time. As parents, mentors, teachers and guides of the youth in the Church our role is to accept that we might panic, since all of this is unknown to us, but we have a responsibility to step beyond our fear and to support God's work in the youth.

Very often when God calls, it is similar to the wildlife that we find in an excursion of some type. There are no schedules that are followed, and no obsessive calculations that take place, but instead harmony. The bird senses when it is time to pick the worm and to nourish its youth and the trees sense when it is time to shed their leaves. Similarly, in the vocational world, it is important to help our youth to be in harmony with God's movement in their life. There are often strong signs that a young person is being called to enter formation to the priesthood or religious life, but many might advise the person to wait until they finish their college degree or until they turn thirty, etc. Sometimes, this is more than prudent advice, and it is actually an invitation for a young person to live a life of cowardice and insecurity. Other times, a young person feels that they need to wait to be married, but loved ones feel that they will bring disgrace to the family if they do not get married quickly. At one point

this might have applied to parents, now it applies to grandparents, friends and mentors. We are often the ones who seek to lead our youth towards a calculated and cold life, rather than towards a life of being one with God and responding to God when the time is just right. In the same spirit, it is important to allow our youth to discern in a different direction when things do not seem to be in sync. Maybe it's time to say goodbye to one type of a relationship and to begin another. Both in the dating life, as in seminary life and in formation for consecrated life, it is very reasonable and healthy to make changes and to discover new things about "the calling" (whatever it may be).

In the new guiding document for Seminary Formation from the Holy See, called "The Gift of the Priesthood," we are reminded that the vocation begins to grow early within the family (148). It is the Church's responsibility to help form the response to the calling. The Church is encouraged to maintain minor seminaries; these are seminaries for adolescents (16). In places where this is not possible, the Church must embrace a special responsibility to walk with adolescents in their vocational journey through different efforts, activities and movements (18). In the Diocese of El Paso, we will embrace this challenge by beginning a "Pre-Seminario" or "Pre-Seminary" program in which high school young men will be able to visit the seminary for discernment once a month and receive the support and companionship of the Church in prayer, fraternity, and reflection. All high school young men are invited to attend this day of discernment at Saint Charles Seminary on Sunday, February 5th from 1PM to 6PM and on Sunday, March 5th from 1PM to 6PM. Call the Diocesan Vocation Office to sign up now!

Los Jóvenes y el Llamado

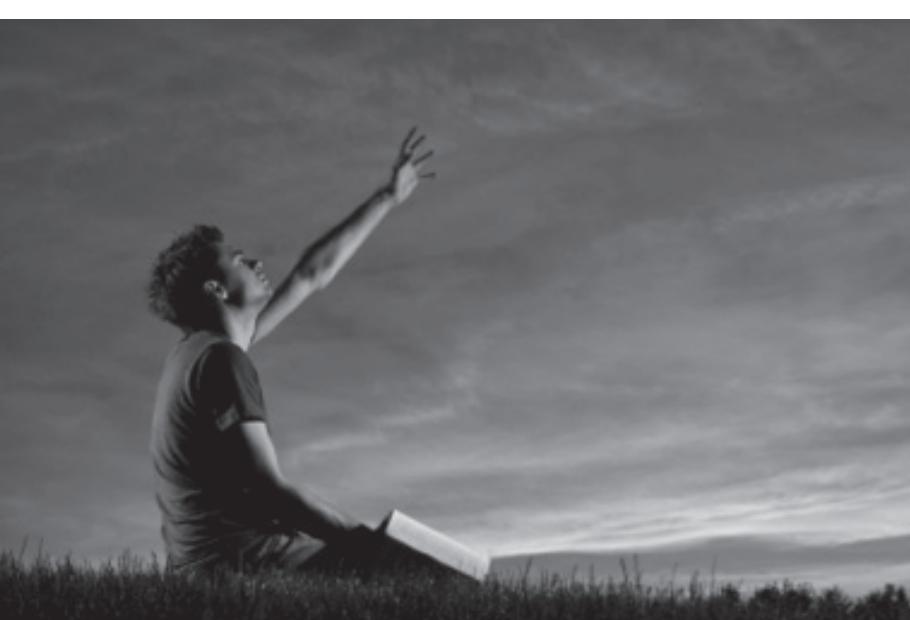
Padre Mariano López, Director, Oficina de Vocaciones

"¡No puede ser! ¡Mi hijo quiere ser sacerdote!" Este es el gemido de muchos padres de familia que participan activamente en su fe en la comunidad Católica. Frecuentemente están en reuniones de la parroquia, o tal vez en ministerios. Otros les han enseñado a sus hijos a conectar con Dios por medio de religiosidad popular. Mientras algunos dicen la cita mencionada al inicio de manera exacta, otros la expresan de otra manera. Es cierto que no todos los jóvenes cercanos a Dios y a la Iglesia serán llamados al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada, sin embargo es muy sano para la vida espiritual que un joven considere estas vocaciones para su vida así como se consideran el matrimonio o la vida soltera. Ultimadamente, en la Iglesia Católica no creemos que el joven es quien escoge, más bien creemos que Dios es quien escoge al joven para un fin especial. Dios llama y escoge en su tiempo y no en el nuestro. Como padres de familia, mentores, maestros y guías para los jóvenes en la Iglesia es nuestro deber aceptar el pánico que puede presentarse, ya que todo esto nos es desconocido, pero tenemos la responsabilidad de dejar el miedo y apoyar la obra de Dios en el joven.

Frecuentemente, el llamado de Dios es como la vida silvestre que podemos encontrar en algún campamento. No se siguen horarios, y no hay calculaciones obsesivas, más bien hay armonía. El ave siente cuando es tiempo de agarrar el gusano y alimentar a sus polluelos y el árbol siente cuando es tiempo de soltar sus hojas. Igualmente, en el mundo vocacional, es importante ayudar a nuestros jóvenes a estar en armonía con el movimiento de Dios. Frecuentemente hay señales fuertes de que un joven está siendo llamado a entrar a la formación sacerdotal o de vida religiosa, pero muchas veces se les aconseja que se esperen a terminar la carrera universitaria o a cumplir treinta años, etc. A veces, esto es más que un consejo prudente, de hecho puede ser una invitación al joven a vivir en cobardía e inseguridad. Otras veces, el joven quiere esperarse para casarse,

pero sus seres queridos sienten que si no se casa pronto avergonzara a la familia. En algún momento esto pudo haber aplicado a padres de familia, ahora aplica a abuelos, amigos y mentores. Frecuentemente somos los que guiámos a los jóvenes hacia una vida fría y calculadora, en lugar de una vida de armonía con Dios y de responder al llamado de Dios en el tiempo justo. De igual manera, es importante permitir a nuestros jóvenes discernir en otra dirección cuando las cosas no congenian. Tal vez es tiempo de decir adiós a un tipo de relación y comenzar otra. Tanto en el noviazgo, como en el seminario o en la formación para la vida consagrada, es muy razonable y sano hacer cambios al descubrir cosas nuevas sobre "el llamado".

En el nuevo documento para la Formación de Seminaristas de la Santa Sede, llamado "El Don del Sacerdocio," se nos recuerda que la vocación comienza desde temprano en el hogar (148). Es la responsabilidad de la Iglesia ayudar a formar una respuesta al llamado. La Iglesia es animada a mantener seminarios menores; estos son seminarios para adolescentes (16). En sitios donde esto no es posible, la Iglesia debe aceptar una responsabilidad especial de caminar con el joven en su jornada vocacional por medio de distintos esfuerzos, actividades y movimientos (18). En la Diócesis de El Paso, aceptaremos el reto al comenzar un programa de "Pre-Seminario" donde los adolescentes varones de preparatoria podrán visitar el seminario para discernir mensualmente y recibir apoyo y compañerismo de parte de la Iglesia en oración, fraternidad, y reflexión. Todos los varones de preparatoria están invitados a participar en este día de discernimiento en el Seminario San Carlos el Domingo 5 de febrero de 1PM a 6PM y el Domingo, 5 de marzo de 1PM a 6PM. Llama a la Oficina Diocesana de Vocaciones para inscribirte ya!



Activities of St. Charles Seminary

February

Mass & Exposition of Blessed

Sacrament - Wed. 1st @ 5:15pm at

St. Patrick Cathedral

Discernment Night for Young

Adult Men - Wed. 1st @ 6pm at

St. Patrick Cathedral

Discernment Night for Young Adult

Women - Wed. 1st @ 6pm at

St. Charles Seminary

Pre-Seminario

Sunday 5th 1-6pm

Mass with Friends of St. Charles

Saturday 25th at 9am

March

Mass & Exposition of Blessed

Sacrament - Wed. 1st @ 5:15pm at

St. Patrick Cathedral

Discernment Night for Young Adult

Men - Wed. 1st @ 6pm at

St. Patrick Cathedral

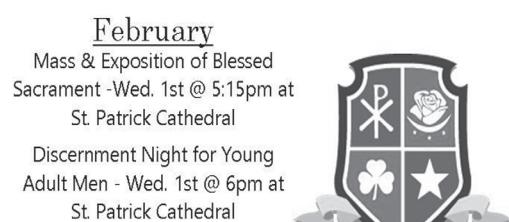
Discernment Night for Young Adult

Women - Wed. 1st @ 6pm at

St. Charles Seminary

Pre-Seminario

Sunday 5th 1-6pm



Bienvenidos!!!

St. Charles Borromeo, 8330 Park Haven,
El Paso TX 79907
For details call 872-8403

LIDERES INFLUYENTES

La sociedad siempre ha enfrentado desafíos. Algunas crisis son producto de la naturaleza. Entre ellas, vemos sequias, huracanes, terremotos... Otras son resultados de las acciones de las personas, tales como las guerras, el terrorismo, el crimen, la corrupción, las injusticias y la pobreza. Y otras crisis son consecuencia de la debilidad física o pecaminosa de la gente. Cuestiones como las epidemias, las adicciones, los trastornos sicólogo, el racismo, el odio y la violencia han infectado la humanidad. Sin embargo, la gente nunca enfrentó un dilema para el cual un buen liderazgo no tuviera respuesta. La clave para lograr una familia, una sociedad, una iglesia y una nación prospera y saludable es el liderazgo sabio y eficaz. La Biblia proporciona numerosos relatos de como Dios proporciona líderes para enfrentar un problema social. Por ejemplo, cuando el Rey quedorlaomer capturó a los ciudadanos de Sodoma, Dios llamó a Abraham y lo guió a que, junto con sus siervos, liberaran a los cautivos (Gn. 14, 14-16). Cuando una hambruna severa surgió en el Medio Oriente, Dios reclutó a José y le dio sabiduría para salvar muchísimas vidas (Gn. 41,37-57). Mientras el pueblo hebreo languidecía en el cautiverio, Dios llamó a Moisés para liberarlo (Ex. 3,10).

Cada vez que el pueblo de Dios tenía un problema, el Señor levantaba a un líder para cumplir su voluntad para con el pueblo. Dios podría haber enviado legiones de ángeles o podría haber hablado para que los problemas desaparecieran. En cambio obró a través de personas comunes y corrientes. Hoy no es la excepción. Dios está obrando en todas las naciones. Entiende como transformar sociedades. Dios está buscando líderes que acepten hacer su Voluntad para que puedan servirle en su propósito de guiar y liberar a su pueblo. LA CLAVE ES QUE EL PUEBLO DE DIOS AJUSTE SU VIDA AL SEÑOR PARA QUE EL HAGA, A TRAVÉS DE ELLOS, LO QUE SOLO EL PUEDE LOGRAR. Nuestro mundo no necesita lo mejor de nosotros, necesita lo que solo Dios puede hacer. ¿Tu vida está causando sobre los demás el impacto que Dios quiere? ¿Dios quiere hacer más a través de tu vida de lo que está haciendo en este momento?

Una visión clara permite que una familia, sociedad, iglesia y nación, sepan en qué dirección avanzan. Además ayuda a los líderes a medir su eficacia. Si no tienes una visión, eres un simple administrador, no un líder. Los líderes movilizan a las personas desde donde están hacia donde El quiere. Sin una visión clara y convincente, los líderes pierden el rumbo. La fuente de tu visión es fundamental. El mundo está lleno de visiones de otras personas, pero lo que la gente anhela es participar de algo que Dios está orquestando. Acércate al Señor, pasan el tiempo necesario para escuchar a Dios, no te conformes con un momento breve de oración y permite que El te revele lo que quiere hacer atreves de tu gente. Una vez que descubras la voluntad de Dios, compártela con todos los que conozcas y permite que el Espíritu Santo use tu vida para movilizar a

las personas hacia el centro de la actividad de Dios.

Así como los líderes tienen que decidir como lideran, los seguidores deben decidir como seguirán y si lo harán. Si los líderes no han cultivado la confianza, la lealtad o el amor a los demás, las personas quizás no quieran seguirlos. Esto sucede de muchas maneras. Los expertos han estudiado a los líderes políticos como Carlomagno, Napoleón, eran todo lo contrario el uno a otro, sin embargo los dos tuvieron éxito en su época. Otros líderes como Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln y Mahatma Gandhi, para entender como han influido a los demás. Otros han estudiando a líderes como Adolfo Hitler y José Stalin, que tenían planes, pero planes malvados. Movilizaron a millones de personas a alienarse con sus objetivos, pero lo hicieron con fuerza bruta y crueldad. Hay líderes que pueden ser grandes oradores, pero en su actuar fracasan. O como el caso de Steve Jobs, fundador de Apple, que era un empresario brillante, pero su propia empresa lo despidió porque no tenía don de gentes. Margaret Thatcher, fue muy exitosa como primera ministra de Gran Bretaña en la década de 1980. No obstante terminó renunciando cuando su propio partido ya no quería seguirla. Los líderes nunca tienen que olvidar que guían con el consentimiento de su gente!

Los grandes líderes son valientes. Los líderes militares, políticos, religiosos, deportivos y de negocios más exitosos de la historia demostraron un valor inusual al enfrentarse a los problemas. Los líderes exitosos entienden que el temor es exitoso. Si demuestran temor, sus seguidores también entraran en pánico. La valentía no es ausencia de temor. Es hacer lo necesario a pesar de tener miedo... No importa si eres un empresario, político, pastor o administrador de una escuela, un padre, el director de un comité o un empleado... Debes revisar tu desempeño como líder periódicamente. Hasta la siguiente pregunta: Porque me sigue la gente? Que motiva a las personas a seguirme? Me siguen porque creen que es su deber? O acaso ven la presencia de Dios sobre mi vida? La influencia espiritual no surge de manera automática, arbitraria o espontanea. Es algo que Dios debe producir. El liderazgo eficaz no sucede por casualidad: Es algo deliberado. Los que se abren a la acción del Espíritu Santo, se transforman en líderes espirituales influyentes!



Vida del Espíritu
por el Padre
Wilson
Cuevas

Ignore the smokescreen and remember the important truths

Red hearts sparkle. Flowers and chocolates tempt our senses. It's February and everyone is focusing on that one day this month to express their feelings. But how do we show this love? What if I really like someone's adorable laugh? Do I send a Valentine to his laugh? Uh oh, it sounds like things are getting a bit ridiculous, but hold onto that thought.

What happens when an argument erupts and we pull out old grudges? The fact that he rolled his eyes months ago probably doesn't pertain to today's discussion. As a child, my argumentative strategy was to suggest that no one loved me. As soon as the "pity cloud" crossed my face, my mother began singing, "Nobody loves me, everybody hates me. I'm going to eat some worms." By the time she got to the "big fat juicy ones, itty-bitty squishy ones," I would giggle while dodging away from her fingers that became the imaginary worms tickling me as they squirmed. She prevented me from diverting attention away from the topic at hand. But how does this connect to anything?

First, think about your loved one. Do you only love his cute dimples or nice laugh? Of course not, we are persons made up of many parts but, as a whole person, we should be respected for our humanity and personhood, not because we are the sum of our parts. Then, consider that we usually try to distract the other person in an argument when we are on the weaker, losing side. We use a smokescreen to sidetrack our opponent from the real issue.

Unfortunately, those same ridiculous strategies are often effectively used by pro-abortion advocates. In recent months, Texas lawmakers and the abortion industry have gone head-to-head regarding the disposal of fetal tissue. Rather than focusing on the main issue, abortionists immediately vomit out their favorite smokescreen by claiming that any dignified method to dispose of the human remains will cause such drastic changes to their services that abortion will no longer be safe. Oh, no! As soon as people hear the magic words that abortion will be less safe for women, everyone immediately surrenders.

No one recognizes that abortionists are just saying that nobody loves them. We should start singing about squishy worms because this is an illogical smokescreen aimed at distracting everyone from the truth.

So, let's return to the real issue. Scientific evidence shows that the "product of conception" is a human being. Period. It is not just an arm or leg, it is not fetal tissue. It is a tiny child who has been murdered. To hide the fact that it is not simply toenail clippings but is a once-living person, abortionists prefer to dump the human remains in the trash or down the sewer. Sanitary landfill is synonymous with trash heap. Those square receptacles placed by the curb are not filled with clean, tidy, no-longer-needed items intended to be donated to someone who might want them. Garbage is dumped in the trash heap, a landfill that is neither clean and sanitary nor dignified and suitable for a child's body to be placed after death.

Abortion is not the removal of a cancer, so the issue involves the proper method of taking care of a baby's remains. Presently, disposal is used, much like a normal trash day. Instead, some dignity should be shown to the aborted child just as is shown to anyone else who dies. Even if no one wants to honor that person's life, the waste management department should not handle the final arrangements.

No one is suggesting a death certificate, casket, or funeral service. No one is requiring burial or cremation for natural miscarriages occurring at home. A woman undergoing an abortion is not currently involved in any decision about the remains nor would she be a part of the arrangements for a dignified method of cremation or burial. As always, the clinic would continue to handle the final details simply as a cost of doing business. Since this is a capitalistic society, there will be many who will rise to the opportunity of a new way to earn a profit just as the abortion industry grew by taking advantage of every chance for profit. Removing the human remains left after an abortion in a manner more appropriate to common decency and respect for human beings will create no

Sidewalk Jesus
by
Janet M.
Crowe



additional risk to the woman's health and, in fact, she will probably not even be aware of the change in policy.

It does not matter what pro-life individuals recommend, including suggestions to protect women's health. The abortion industry always spews out their smokescreen claiming that abortion will be less safe for women. Unfortunately, those magical words successfully manage to hypnotize logical minds into veering away from disturbing the abortionists' profit margins regardless of whether it would be beneficial to the women involved. Remember, smokescreens are only needed to deflect attention away from a weaker argument. Let's stop backpedaling away from the smoke and address the real issue of the fire.

The following information on where to locate helpful pro-life resources was inadvertently left out of the January issue of the Rio Grande Catholic. Please take a moment to check out these websites.

For those readers who followed the discussions in this column between Laurie and Susie from September through January, all credit should be given to the Life Training Institute and Scott Klusendorf's articles entitled the "5 Minute Pro-Lifer" at prolifetraining.com/resources where the average person can quickly learn how to defend the sanctity of life in an easy to understand method.

To contact House of Hope – a real treasure offering the best of life's choices to women facing an unplanned pregnancy – go online to HouseofHope-elp.org or email info@HouseofHope-elp.org or call 915-544-9600.

Project Rachel resources for post-abortion healing can be found at HopeAfterAbortion.com or by calling Ana Lisa, the Diocese's local contact, at Rachel's Vineyard 915-433-1983.

Catholic Foundation Announces Speaker for the 11th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner

By: Sofia Larkin Appleby, Major Gifts Officer, Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso

The 11th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner: Journey to Faith is set for Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the El Paso Convention Center from 6-9pm, with a cocktail hour beginning at 5pm. The evening includes a cocktail reception, seated dinner, Dei Gratia Award presentation, live auction, and our keynote speaker, Tom Leopold.

Tom Leopold, veteran comedy writer of such hit TV shows as Seinfeld, Cheers, and Will and Grace, has been making audiences laugh for over four decades. Now he's keeping audiences entertained as the co-host with Father Leo Patalinghug on "Entertaining Truth" on the Catholic Channel of Sirius XM. This former secular Jew and recent Catholic convert is a sought after speaker for his hilariously heartfelt and poignant performance lecture, "A Comedy Writer Finds God: My Journey to Faith, One Laugh at a Time". In 2014 he was honored with the Christopher Spirit Award by the Christophers, a nonprofit organization rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition of service to God and humanity.

Leopold's funny and moving Catholic conversion story has been featured in The Catholic Herald, Our Sunday Visitor, Catholic News Service, National Catholic Reporter, American Catholic, The Lay Catholic, CatholicMom.com, and on America: National Catholic Review Podcast, EWTN, Global Catholic Network radio, American Catholic Radio, Relevant Radio, and Hail Satire.

Tickets are \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 10. Sponsorships of \$2,500 and up provide you with invitations to attend an exclusive VIP event with Tom Leopold at a private home on Wednesday, September 20 at 6pm.

Proceeds from this event support the work of the Foundation in sustaining the long-term needs of the ministries, charities, parishes and schools of our diocese. 100% of the proceeds from our live auction needs packages—like funds for fuel for clergy and sisters ministering in West Texas, books for religious formation, and scholarships to attend Catholic school—benefit the designated school, need, parish, charity, or fund. Different needs are highlighted each year at the Foundation of Faith Dinner. The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso makes a measurable impact on the lives of thousands of people in our community but we could not do it without you! For more information, visit fofdinner.org.

Journey to Faith Info:

Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017
Time: Cocktails at 5pm, Event from 6-9 pm
Place: El Paso Convention Center
Price: \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 10
Reserve: fofdinner.org

You can reach Major Gifts Officer, Sofia Larkin Appleby, at 915.872.8412 or slappleby@elpasodiocese.org. The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is located at 499 St. Matthews Street and office hours are Monday – Friday, 9-12, 1-5, and by appointment.



La Fundación Católica Anuncia el Orador para la 11^a Cena Anual de Fe de la Fundación

Por: Sofia Larkin Appleby, Directora Oficial de Donativos Mayores, Fundación para la Diócesis de El Paso

La 11^a Cena Anual de Fe de la Fundación: Viaje hacia la Fe, está programada para el jueves 21 de septiembre del 2017, en el Centro de Convenciones de El Paso de 6 a 9pm, iniciando a partir de las 5 pm con una hora de cóctel. La velada incluye el cóctel de recepción, la cena, la presentación del premio Dei Gratia, subasta en vivo, y a nuestro orador principal, Tom Leopold.

Tom Leopold es un veterano escritor de comedia talas como Seinfeld, Cheers y Will & Grace, donde ha estado haciendo reír al público durante más de cuatro décadas. Ahora mantiene al público entretenido siendo co-anfitrión del Padre Leo Patalinghug en "Entertaining Truth" (Entreteniendo a la Verdad), en el Canal Católico de Sirius XM. Este mundano exJudio y recientemente converso al catolicismo, es un muy buscado orador después de su hilarante, sincera y conmovedora actuación en su conferencia; "El Escritor de Comedia Encuentra a Dios: Mi Viaje hacia la Fe, Una Carcajada a la Vez". En el 2014 fue honrado con el galardón "Christopher Spirit Award" por los "Christophers", una organización sin fines de lucro arraigada en la tradición judeo-cristiana de servicio a Dios y a la humanidad.

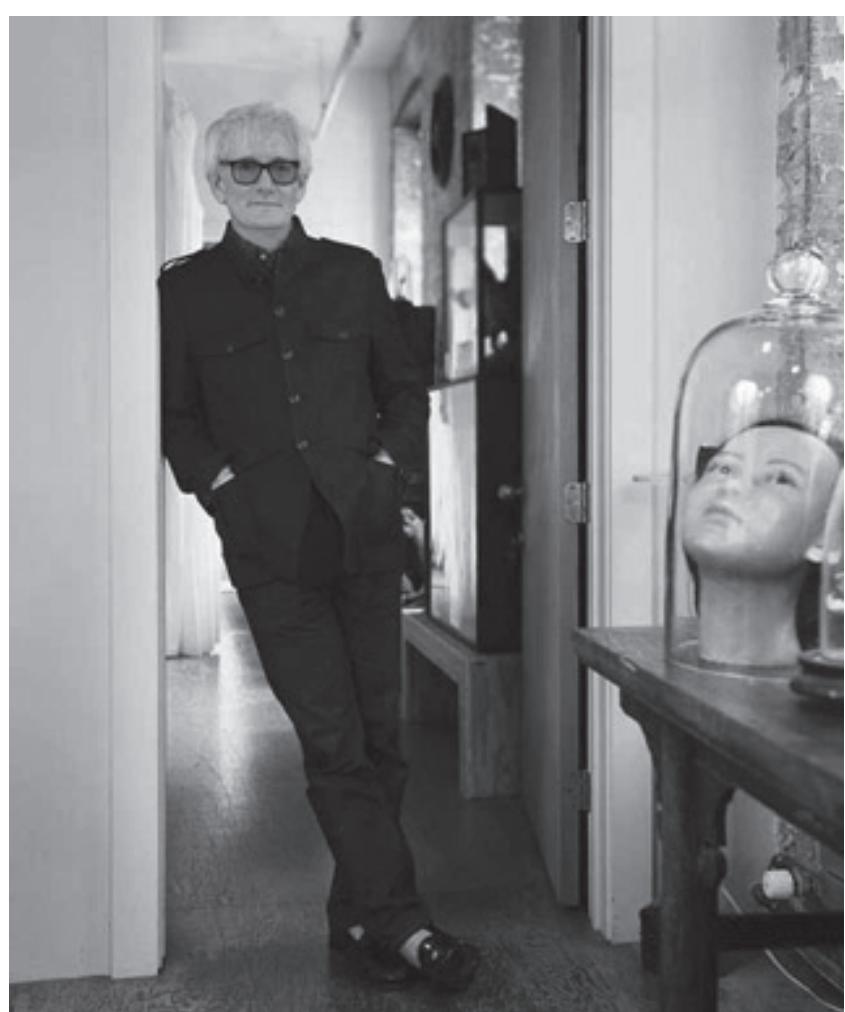
La divertida y conmovedora historia de conversión católica de Leopold ha sido presentada en el heraldo "The Catholic", en el "Our Sunday Visitor", el "Catholic News Service", en el "National Catholic Reporter", en el "American Catholic", el "The Lay Catholic", el CatholicMom.com" y en America: "National Catholic Review Podcast", el "EWTN", en la radio "Global Catholic Network, en la radio "American Catholic" "Relevant Radio" y en el "Hail Satire".

Los boletos cuestan \$100 por persona o \$1,000 por una mesa para 10. Los patrocinios inician desde \$2,500 y más, además de brindarle invitaciones para asistir a un evento VIP exclusivo con Tom Leopold, en una casa privada el día miércoles 20 de septiembre a las 6 pm.

Las ganancias de este evento apoyan la labor de la Fundación en el sostenimiento de las necesidades a largo plazo de los ministerios, las organizaciones benéficas, parroquias y escuelas de nuestra diócesis. El 100% de los ingresos de nuestra subasta en vivo sustenta paquetes—como fondos para combustible para el clero y las hermanas que trabajan en el Oeste de Texas, libros para la formación religiosa y becas para asistir a la escuela católica—los cuales benefician a la escuela asignada, la parroquia, la caridad o el fondo en dotaciones. Cada año se destacan diferentes necesidades en la Cena de Fe de la Fundación. La Fundación para la Diócesis de El Paso tiene un impacto inmenso en la vida de miles de personas en nuestra comunidad pero ¡no podríamos hacerlo sin ti! Para obtener más información, visite fofdinner.org.

Lugar: Centro de Convenciones de El Paso
Precio: \$100 por persona o \$1,000 por mesa para 10
Reservaciones al: fofdinner.org

Puede comunicarse con la Directora Oficial de Donativos Mayores, Sofia Larkin Appleby, al 915.872.8412 o slappleby@elpasodiocese.org. La Fundación para la Diócesis de El Paso está ubicada en 499 St. Matthew Street y las horas de oficina son de lunes a viernes, 9-12, 1-5 y con cita previa.



Información de Viaje Hacia la Fe:

Fecha: Jueves, 21 de septiembre del 2017

Hora: Cócteles a las 5 pm, Evento de 6 a 9 pm

Planning for the End of Life: Faithful Stewards of God's Gifts

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso cordially invites you to End of Life Planning Seminars at St. Luke on Thursday, April 6, Blessed Sacrament on Monday, April 24, and Queen of Peace on Thursday, November 9 from 6-8 p.m. Refreshments and registration begin at 5 p.m.

Attendees will learn the basics of modern estate planning. A panel of experts will co-present at the seminar, offering their expertise on topics of discussion that include wills, trusts, power of attorney for health & finance, probate court, and end-of-life decisions. There will be a Question & Answer session following the presentation and

resources will be made available. The seminar is FREE and all are welcome.

Bishop Mark Seitz, D.D. will discuss the Church's teaching on cremation, life support and end-of-life decisions every Catholic should know.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP two weeks prior to the seminar date by contacting Javier Zamarripa at 915.872.8412 or jzamarripa@elpasodiocese.org.



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Fr. Trini Fuentez

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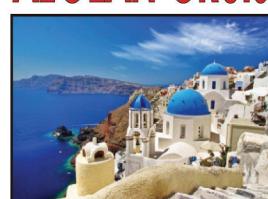
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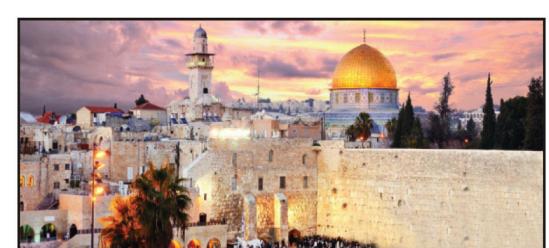
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KERRY MCCULLOUGH AT: 915-591-4246 OR EMAIL KERRY@TRAVELWK.COM

"The world is a Book and those who do not travel, read only one page" - St. Augustine

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