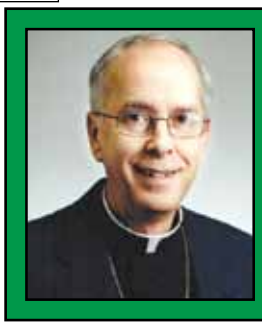
the Rio Grande Catholic

IS THIS ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, CUT IT OUT, CORRECT IT AND SEND TO: THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC 499 ST. MATTHEWS ST. EL PASO, TX 79907



InSeitz-Into The Faith
Independence Day Reflections
Pg. 3

VOL.26 NUMBER 3 | SERVING 646,340 CATHOLICS IN THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO | JULY 2017

Franciscan Sisters at Home on Both Sides of the Border
Sr. Janet Gildea
pg. 5

Can I Donate my Body to Science?
Fr. Tad Pacholczyk
pg. 9

Laws Are Meant To Protect People, Not Break Them
ArchBishop of Sante Fe
John C. Wester
pg. 14

3rd Annual Dei Gratia Awards
pg. 19

Come Holy Spirit

By: Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

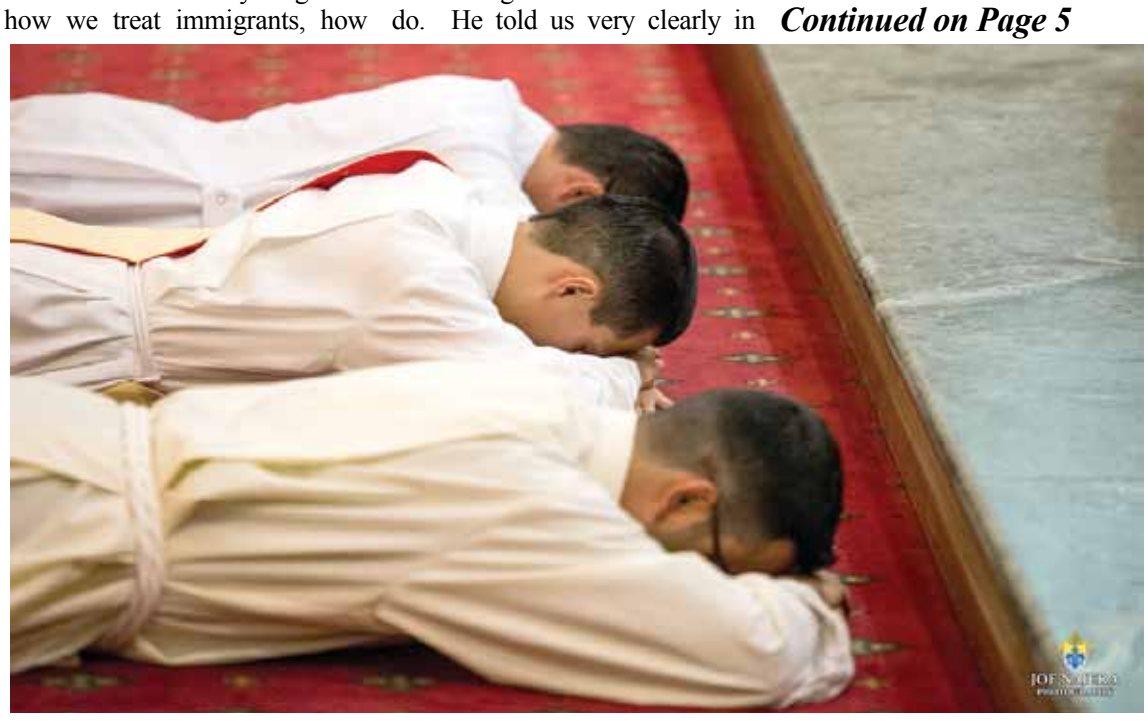
In May our Catholic community welcomed joyfully and with great thanksgiving to God one new priest and two new deacons whose ordination took place on May 26, 2017. The ceremony for Cong Vo into the Ministerial Priesthood and Victorino Loresca & German Alzate into the Diaconate was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral. St. Patrick's was at standing room only and this was the first ordination ceremony to be broadcasted live on El Paso's only Catholic Radio Station, The Bridge 1150am.

This was my first time witnessing the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands by a Bishop. For this special ordination I took my two youngest sons, Pete, eleven and Luka, seven. The youngest, Luka, has always had an inclination to all things Catholic. On Sundays you will find him reciting the whole mass along with our priest and for this special event he expressed interest in attending an ordination of a priest.

Watching as our deacons and priests file in and sit together was truly inspiring seeing the many that care for the flock in this diocese. We heard the readings in three different languages from the homelands of at that time Deacon Cong and Seminarians Victorino and German: Vietnamese, English and Spanish. The music led by Peter Kolar , the Director of our Diocesan Choir, also reflected the heritage of those being ordained. Bishop Seitz homily called for "more martyrs" and reminded us that those being ordained are called to be radical witnesses to the faith in Jesus Christ. Their promises of celibacy, obedience, prayer and life according to the Gospel in simplicity and self-giving were reiterated by Bishop Seitz calling them to be radical signs of their faith. Bishop Seitz highlighted how each one being ordained came from a bloodline of martyrdom in that they each came from countries (Vietnam, Philippines and Colombia) experiencing political unrest, civil war, terrorism and violence towards the Church. Bishop Seitz also reminded us, the faithful audience that night, that we too are called to be martyrs (meaning martyr as witness) in our own commitment to witness to Christ in this world.

That night I could not help but think about how just a few days before the ordination we saw the bombing at Manchester Arena. There are so many global targets for violence that it is overwhelming to see the widespread hatred and assault that is taking place. I thought of how all the political issues that surround us today turn out to all be moral issues. Everything from how we treat immigrants, how we treat other countries, the poor, the sick and the environment. These are all "What Would Jesus Do" issues. We know exactly what Jesus meant with regards to these things and what he would do. He told us very clearly in the Gospel what we should do. The church does not endorse a political candidate but the moral issues we are dealing with happen to be political ones too. Recent headlines remind

Continued on Page 5



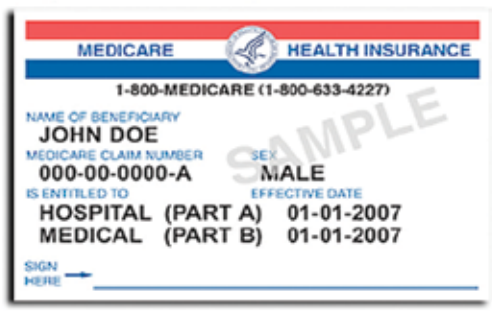
Ordinands Victorino, Cong and German Lying Prostrate symbolizing their dependence upon God and the prayers of the Catholic community

Incremente su cheque del Seguro Social por $104.90

Reune usted los requisitos para el programa de Descuentos de Medicare ???

Verifique los limites de ingreso aqui abajo

Si usted califica para el **Programa de Descuentos de Medicare** podria ser **Elegible** para que la prima que usted paga de la **PARTE B** sea rembolzada por el estado. Dependiendo cuando tomo su **PARTE B** pudiera incrementar su cheque del Seguro Social hasta **$135.00 dlls al mes.**



Limite de Ingreso Mensual:
Casado, menos de $1793
Soltero, menos de $1325
Otros "Requisitos" financieros deben ser aprobados

BYGA Healthcare Insurance. For a Medicare No-cost Consultation
Call Today!
ELPASOMEDICAREPLANS.COM

BYGA HEALTHCARE INSURANCE
"Fitting You to the Right Medical Plan"

915-613-5102

Llamando a este numero se comunicara con un agente con licencia

Building A Bridge

By: Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

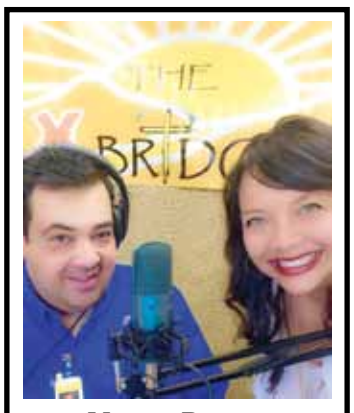
The Diocese of El Paso is building a bridge...yes The Bridge also known as El Puente. It has been six months since we began building The Bridge/ El Puente 1150am and it has been a labor of love for The Diocese and my team. El Paso finally has its very own Catholic radio station. We have been working very hard to get the word out and get people tuned in, so if you have not checked us out yet then please listen up.

You can find The Bridge on your trusty AM dial at 1150 am. We are also online if you wish to stream us, just go to www.elpasodiocese.org and click the Listen Live button. And soon, very soon you will be able to stream us on your phone via app! Later this summer we are launching a way for you to tune us in via your cell phone right along every other programming and news you consume...yay!

We have bumper stickers that are easy on your car and quite good looking. Maybe you can remember at mass in May where you saw our support teams in black "The Bridge" t-shirts passing out Bridge stickers so you can show your support. If you missed it, do not fret just let us know you want one and we can send one out just for you.

Follow what is happening on the The Bridge via Facebook @ Diocese of El Paso. We will soon be launching The Bridge T Shirt "Share to Win" facebook giveaway. So if you want one of the coolest shirts ever, be on the lookout for more Bridge Videos including the cutest video series ever, Bridge Kids, showing our El Paso Catholic school students reminding us to listen, learn and live our Catholic faith.

I hope you tuned in to some of our LIVE broadcasts over the radio like the St.Patrick's Centennial Celebration mass or the live in person address by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America at The Pro Life Pro



Nancy Ramos
Director/Editor

Family Binational Congress event or maybe you caught the most recent Ordination of Father Cong Vo. Remember The Bridge/ El Puente 1150am when you cannot attend these important events because you can always catch the broadcast LIVE on The Bridge 1150 am.

Make sure you tune in to only the best EWTN/ Ave Maria shows. Tune in every weekday morning at 8am for *More2Life* with Catholic counselors Greg and Lisa Popcak taking live calls and offering some of the most creative advice regarding all types of challenges faced in marriage, family, parenting and more. And do not forget to tune in daily at 2pm to one of the most notable Protestant converts Al Kresta with his popular *Kresta in the Afternoon*. Al Kresta looks at all areas of life through the lens of Scripture and the teaching of the Catholic Church. Over the years, Al Kresta has engaged in vigorous discussions with nationally known figures from politics, the arts, the Church, academia and business such as Mother Angelica, Jesse Jackson, John McCain, Gloria Steinem, Scott Hahn, Rick Santorum, Jerry Falwell, Pat Buchanan, Jack Kevorkian, John Cardinal O'Connor, Chuck Colson, Archbishop Charles Chaput, George McGovern, C. Everett Koop, Francis Cardinal George, Tim Russert, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Garrison Keillor, Dion DiMucci, Colin Raye and many more. The drive home is much better now with The Bridge 1150am and everyone's favorite afternoon drive show, *Catholic Answers*. This afternoon radio show with their Open Forum format lets the callers choose the topics for their guests with questions on every aspect of Catholic life and faith, the moral life and even philosophical topics that touch on general religious belief.

The Bridge's must listen radio line up is all about our local programs including Bishop Mark Seitz's *InSeitz Into The Faith* on air every Wednesday at 10am. Where else can you reach out and talk directly to Bishop Seitz regarding some of the most interesting topics in our Church today? Bishop Seitz is always open to questions and comments via Facebook and phone lines at 915.872.8416 and 915.872.8417. Also on Wednesdays we have *Amor Al Migrante at 10:30a* with Attorney, Melissa Lopez from Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services addressing all your immigration topics and questions. Plus our very own Catholic radio legend, Padre Raul Trigueros, every Monday at 10a, with *Catquesis y Liturgia.* New local programs include *Bridge Kids* with Bishop's Liason to Youth Ministry Father Fabian Marquez every Thursday at 10am highlighting our Catholic youth. Father Rolando Fonseca's *Tira La Red* Vocations Show and Deacon Frank Segura's *Marriage and Family Life Show* join the on air team. Be sure to check out The Bridge / El Puente program schedule at www.elpasodiocese.org.

I am honored to be a part of this great team and my hats off to our Radio Program Director, Joe (Jojo) Garcia who single handedly got us up and running and never ceases to amaze me with his expertise and knowhow for radio.

We got this Gospel party started for El Paso Catholics so tune in and enjoy the glory and praise we broadcast on air every day, all day.

BRING EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH

GECU EMPOWERMENT CREDIT CARD

*1.90% introductory rate for first six months.**

GECU REWARDS CREDIT CARD

GECU PICKAXE REWARDS CREDIT CARD

*Earn 1 point for every $1 spent on qualifying purchases.***

Imagine never having to choose between what you need and what you want. Take advantage of the GECU Empowerment credit card for the things you need. Or, get a full range of reward offerings with the GECU Rewards credit card for the things you want. Choose one, or choose both!

***Apply today at gecu.com;** on the GECU Mobile App; by calling 778.9221, toll-free at 1.800.772.4328; or by visiting any GECU location.*

Join our family — it's easy!**

*Subject to credit qualification and approval. Other conditions apply. Offer applies to new Empowerment credit cards only. 1.90% introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is subject to qualification and based on creditworthiness and other factors, and effective upon the opening of your account if you are approved for a GECU Empowerment credit card. Rate is fixed for the six billing cycles following the opening of the account for all purchases, balance transfers and cash advances. After that, the variable standard rate for purchases, balance transfers and cash advances will apply (8.65%–17.90% APR as of April 1, 2017). The variable APR for cash advances will apply to cash advances conducted after the expiration of the introductory rate. The range of the disclosed APRs will vary with the market based on the prime rate and may have changed. Please contact a GECU representative or visit gecu.com for the most-current rates. The introductory rate may end sooner if your payment is late. See the variable rate and fees disclosures included in the MasterCard® application at your GECU location or online at gecu.com. Introductory rate and range of rates do not apply to the GECU Rewards card.

**Subject to credit qualification and approval. Other conditions apply. Introductory rate not available for the GECU Rewards card. The variable standard rate for purchases, balance transfers and cash advances is 11.49%–17.49% APR as of April 1, 2017. Cash advances, balance transfers, ATM transactions, and transactions with the use of convenience checks are not eligible to earn points. Other limitations apply. The GECU Pickaxe Rewards credit card is not a UTEP-sponsored affinity program.

***Learn how to become a member at gecu.com.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER

GECU® CELEBRATING 85 YEARS

gecu.com

THE BRIDGE 1150 AM

Independence Day Reflections

By Bishop Mark J. Seitz

Every year as July 4th rolls around and we celebrate Independence Day, we rightly set aside a little bit of time in the midst of family and community celebrations, parades, cookouts and fireworks to reflect upon who we are as a nation and to renew our connection with our roots.

That time of reflection may be even more important at this juncture in the life of our nation. It seems that at this moment we are really finding the values and virtues upon which our country was built challenged like perhaps they never have been before. We are questioning fundamental principles that are necessary for all the rest.

For instance, people are asking, does the belief in a Creator have any bearing upon our national compact? What is the basis of human rights, are they God-given or bestowed by the government upon whom the government wills? What does liberty and justice for all really mean? Is there a need for principles of mutually recognized dignity and respect? What about integrity and honesty? What about the common good? Am I indeed my brother's keeper or is it every everyone for him or herself? What about principles of limited government and subsidiarity? What is our responsibility toward creation and the incredible natural resources with which we have been blest? What makes possible true human flourishing?

These questions require our reflection and demand our commitment. If the only rule is what seems to advance my self-interest in a given moment in very short order our nation will suffer. Our Founders had the wisdom to look beyond self-interest and they had the courage to even put their lives on the line. As they said it in the Declaration of Independence, "We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." They knew there would be a cost to building a great nation. There is also a cost to maintaining a great nation.

Often when we think of those costs we think about the many who have laid down their lives in armed conflicts through the many wars our nation has fought. This is indeed an incomprehensibly great price we have paid and continue to pay. But our many brave soldiers would be the first to remind us that without our daily commitments to living according to these foundational values and virtues their sacrifice would mean nothing.

To put it simply, what would there be worth fighting for if our nation is not striving to be good?

Have a great Independence Day!

Bp. Mark

Reflexiones del Dia de la Independencia

Todos los años, a partir del 4 de julio, celebramos el Día de la Independencia, apartamos debidamente un poco de tiempo de entre las celebraciones familiares y de la comunidad, desfiles, cocteles y fuegos artificiales, para reflexionar sobre quiénes somos como nación y renovar nuestra conexión con nuestras raíces.

Esa época de reflexión puede ser aún más importante en esta coyuntura en la vida de nuestra nación. Realmente parece que en este momento estamos encontrando los valores y virtudes sobre lo que nuestro país fue construido, desafiados, quizás, como tal vez nunca lo han sido antes. Estamos cuestionando principios fundamentales, los cuales son necesarios para el resto.

Por ejemplo, la gente se está preguntando, ¿la creencia en un Creador tiene alguna relación con nuestro pacto nacional? ¿Cuál es la base de los derechos humanos, son dados por Dios o, otorgados por el gobierno y a quien el gobierno quiere? ¿Qué significa realmente la libertad y la justicia para todos? ¿Se necesitan principios de dignidad y respeto mutuamente reconocidos? ¿Qué pasa con la integridad y la honestidad? ¿Qué hay del bien común? ¿Soy el guardián de mi hermano o es cada uno para él o ella misma? ¿Qué pasa con los principios de gobierno limitado y subsidiariedad? ¿Cuál es nuestra responsabilidad hacia la creación y los increíbles recursos naturales con los que hemos sido bendecidos? ¿Qué hace posible el verdadero florecimiento humano?

Estas preguntas requieren nuestra reflexión y exigen nuestro compromiso. Si la única regla es lo que parece hacer avanzar mi propio interés, en un momento dado en muy poco tiempo, nuestra nación sufrirá. Nuestros Fundadores tenían la sabiduría de mirar más allá del interés propio y tenían el coraje de exponer sus vidas por la justicia. Como lo mencionaron en la Declaración de la Independencia, "Comprometemos mutuamente nuestras vidas, nuestras fortunas y nuestro sagrado honor". Ellos sabían que habría un gran costo para poder construir una gran nación. También hay un gran costo para mantener una gran nación.

A menudo cuando pensamos en esos costos, pensamos en los muchos que han dado su vida en conflictos armados a través de las muchas guerras que nuestra nación ha luchado. Este es un precio incomprensiblemente grande y que hemos pagado y seguimos pagando. Pero nuestros muchos valientes soldados serían los primeros en recordarnos que sin nuestro compromiso cotidiano de vivir de acuerdo con estos valores y virtudes fundamentales, su sacrificio no significaría nada.

En pocas palabras, ¿valdría realmente la pena luchar si nuestra nación no se esfuerza por ser buena?

¡Que Tengan Ustedes un gran Día de la Independencia!

Obispo Mark

Happy Birthday

Rev. Juan Antonio Gutierrez, OFM	**7-3**
Rev. Edilberto "Beto" Lopez	**7-10**
Rev. Saul De Jesus Uribe	**7-10**
Rev. Kennon Y. Ducre	**7-14**
Rev. Antonio Lasheras, OAR	**7-20**
Rev. Francisco Lopez, MNM	**7-27**
Rev. Manuel R. Martinez (Extern)	**7-30**
Rev. Fabian A. Marquez	**7-31**

Ordination Anniversaries

Rev. Angel M. Maldonado	**7-1**
Rev. Kennon Y. Ducre	**7-6**
Rev. Richard Weiss	**7-7**
Rev. Jose Luis Garayoa, OAR	**7-11**
Rev. Rafael Garcia, SJ	**7-17**
Rev. Andres Alava	**7-21**
Rev. Antonio Lasheras, OAR	**7-25**
Rev. Miguel Meneses	**7-30**
Rev. Andrew Martinez, OFM Conv.	**7-31**

the **RioGrande** *Catholic*

499 St. Matthews St.
El Paso, TX 79907
Phone: (915) 872-8414
Fax: (915) 872-8435
E Mail address:
riogrande@elpasodiocese.org

the **RioGrande** *Catholic* (ISSN#1079-9621) is published monthly for $12.00 per year by the Office of Communications, Diocese of El Paso, 499 St. Matthews St., El Paso, TX 79907. Phone (915) 872-8414, Fax (915) 872-8435. "PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT EL PASO TX." POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to *the* **RioGrande** *Catholic*, *499 St. Matthews St., El Paso, TX 79907.*

Publisher *- Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, D.D.*
Editor *- Nancy Ramos*
Spanish Translator *- Martha Marmolejo*
Photographer *- Joe Najera*
Advertising *- Nancy Ramos (915)872-8414*
Contributors *- Janet M. Crowe*
Fr. Wilson Cuevas

the RioGrande Catholic is a monthly newwspaper assisting the Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso by communicating the events and themes of the faith life of the local and universal church through news reports, features, columns and photograph. Articles and photographs become the property of the RioGrande Catholic. If photos are on loan to the newspaper, please enclosea stamped, self addressed envelope for their return. Advertising deadline is the last Friday of each month.
Printer *- PDX Printing.*

Rio Grande Catholic on the Web at
www.riograndecatholic.org
El Paso Diocese on the Web at
www.elpasodiocese.org

cpa

©2014 by
thee RioGrande *Catholic*
All rights reserved.

Special Collections

Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

The Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa was founded on the basic principles of Pope John Paul II's call to action in Ecclesia in Africa and the adoption of the statement A Call to Solidarity with Africa from the bishops of the United States.

Africa faces the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemic, severe poverty and political unrest. In spite of these challenges, the Church in Africa has almost tripled in size in the past 30 years. However, it is difficult for the church to sustain its growth and maintain essential pastoral outreach. The Fund provides grants to finance pastoral projects including outreach programs, schools, evangelization and the education of clergy and lay ministers.

The collection for the Church in Africa will be taken up on the weekend of July 22 and 23, 2017. Your support makes a real difference in the faith lives of the people in Africa. Please continue to pray for our African sisters and brothers.

El Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en el África

Este es un recordatorio de la Ofrenda Especial que se llevará a cabo el 22 y 23 de julio del 2017 para La Iglesia en África.

El Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en el África financia las labores pastorales de la Iglesia mediante donativos para proyectos tales como el cuidado pastoral de los enfermos y los talleres dedicados a edificar la paz. Para la Iglesia en el África es extremadamente difícil mantenerse a sí misma debido a los enormes desafíos que encuentra allí.

Hoy se nos pide apoyar al Fondo de Solidaridad para la Iglesia en el África, el cual financia proyectos pastorales básicos de la Iglesia como son la evangelización, la pastoral juvenil y la educación religiosa. Los pueblos del África, en medio de sus dificultades personales y comunitarias, necesitan de nuestra ayuda para poder apoyar a sus comunidades de fe.

El fin de semana del 22 y 23 de julio del 2017. Recuerden que gracias a su donativo, la Iglesia en el África podrá brindar cuidados pastorales básicos a aquellos que están pasando grandes necesidades. Gracias

Continued from Page 1

me of how important and how much of a blessing it is to have ordinations like this one.

During the ordination and knowing Pentecost Sunday was just around the corner I pictured our first priests, the group of apostles, hunkered down in a closed building afraid and uncertain. Thank God the Holy Spirit gave them strength and courage to continue on the mission of spreading the Good News and following Jesus' example even unto death. During the ordination the sight of so many of our priests standing there at the altar celebrating the Eucharist that night made me very proud of where the Holy Spirit has taken our Church since the first apostles received it. I thought of how the Holy Spirit is going to guide these three newly ordained apostles. That night I prayed like never before for our clergy, men and women religious and I thanked the Holy Spirit for giving them fortitude. I know now more than ever our Church leaders need the Holy Spirit.

Recently I reviewed findings from The Class of 2017: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood -A Report to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life &Vocations United States Conference of Catholic Bishops done by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Georgetown University Washington, DC.

I want to share one interesting finding that those of us that pray for more priests should be aware of:

• One-half of responding ordinands (48 percent) indicated that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. Most often, this person was a friend/ classmate or a family member (other than parents).

If half of our potential priests are being told "Don't Do It" by a primary influencer, no wonder it's hard to grow our

Deacon Victorino Loresca

seminarian base! The day before the big ordination night I shared with my husband the news that our youngest son asked to go to the ordination and I was taking him. His initial response was "I don't want him to be a priest". My husband fell into the half that tells our seminarians not to become priests. Like many fathers (biological) I am sure my husband pictures a future for all of our boys of the usual: athletes, doctors, lawyers and all with the ever so wonderful grandchildren. I simply smiled lovingly at my husband and let him know this may not be up to him to decide. His reaction made me realize how easy it is as a knee jerk reaction for us to respond this way.

Deacon German Alzate

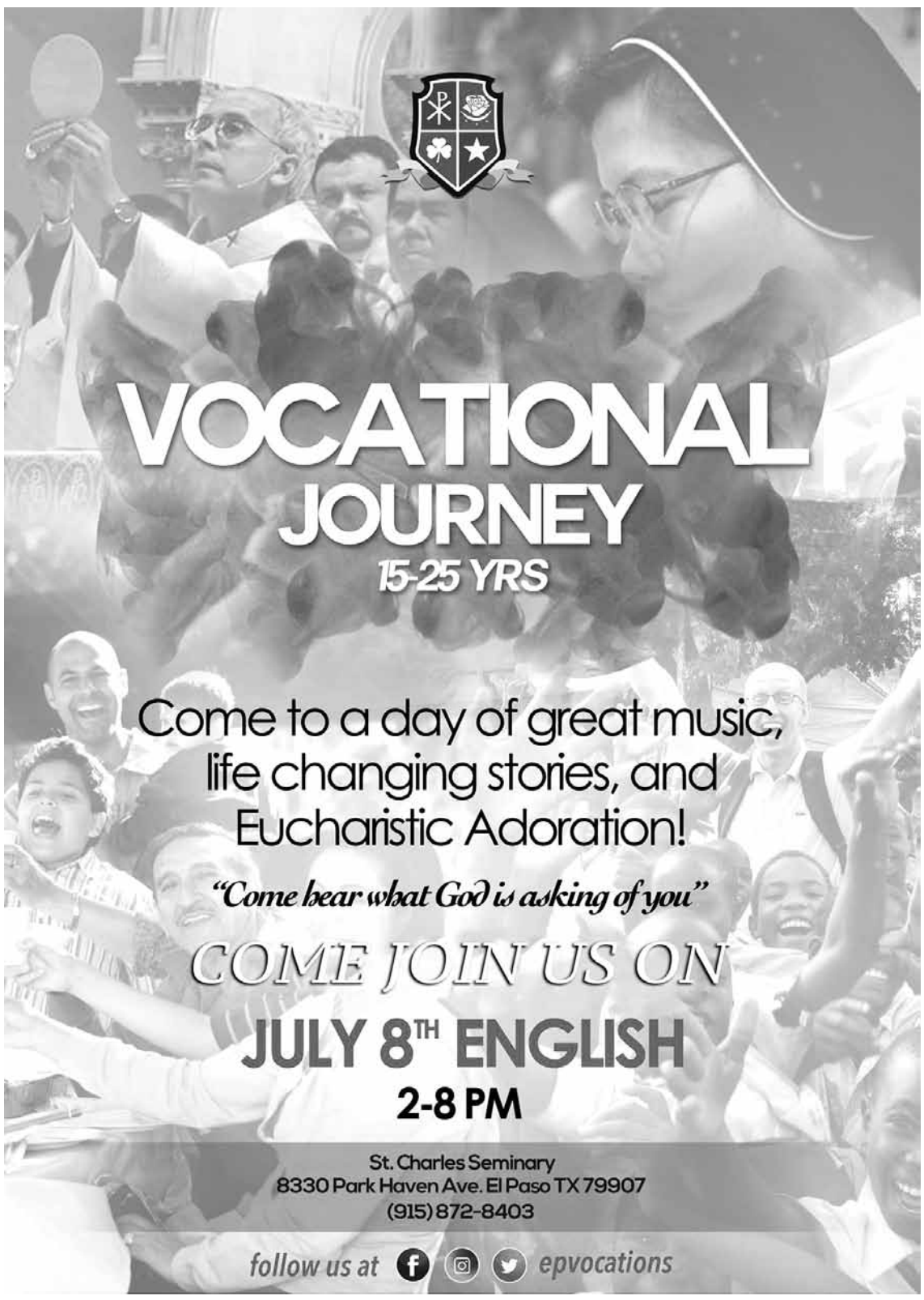
The ordination of now, Father Cong Vo, Deacon Victorino Loresca and Deacon German Alzate is a also a celebration of the work being done by so many individuals supporting our seminarians. The Seminarian Formation Program, St. Charles Seminary, receives funding from a wide variety of sources including the Bishop's Annual Appeal, managed by the Catholic Foundation, Catholic Extension, the Committee on the Home Missions, a Second Collection, other grants, a Diocesan Trust Subsidy, the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus, many generous individuals and organizations, and the Foundation's Seminarian Education Endowment Fund.

We must pray for our priests and pray for our seminarians and continue to pray for more to hear the calling of vocation. If those ordained this May promise to pray the Liturgy of the Hours everyday for all of us in the Church then we too must pray for priests and the future of our Catholic Church just as persistently. We too share the responsibility to witness and to pray. We have seen great strides made at St. Charles Seminary and have grown our number of seminarians by 100% since 2008.

My son, Luka shared with me at the end of the ordination that he wants to know what he needs to do to become a bishop. He would like to just skip the priesthood and go right to becoming a bishop. He also informed me that he thinks he is special in some way to God. He said, "Mommy, this past Christmas I lost my tooth at the Posada, and that's a big day! And Easter was my birthday. Do you think that this means I am special in a holy way?" I told him, "Yes, Luka, you are special in a holy way." I will continue to pray that my son follows whatever the Holy Spirit inspires him to do and I too will continue to pray for priests.

Father Cong Vo

(Please visit www.pray4priest.org to see how you too can pray for priests)



FRANCISCAN SISTERS AT HOME ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

By: Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

When most cars were moving north across the international bridges from Mexico to El Paso in 2009 because of the increasing violence, the School Sisters of St. Francis (SSSF) headed south with their belongings to establish a house in the poorest section of a Juarez parish. The Sisters were launching a border ministry called Casa Alexia, named after the founder of the congregation, Mother Alexia Hoell. Six Sisters comprise the cross-border SSSF team whose mission is to "stand in solidarity with migrants, immigrants and victims of violence" in El Paso and Juarez.

School Sisters of St. Francis who form the Casa Alexia mission team (left to right) : Sisters Kathy Braun, Fran Hicks, Josefina López, Carol Jean Ory, Elsa Canán and Arlene Woelfel

The Franciscan Sisters have served in the El Paso diocese for fifty years in ministries of education, social services, health care and parish life. "We decided to locate our Casa Alexia project here because of the history of our congregation in the diocese and the great population and needs here," they explained. Three of the Sisters live in a house they rent across from Santa Lucia church in the Lower Valley. Sister Elsa Canán, originally from Guatemala, visits the elderly of the parish, offers bible study and helps with catechesis of unaccompanied minors at the Southwest Key detention centers. Sister Fran Hicks has established small libraries in the colonias near Horizon City in order to foster reading and language arts. She also serves as an English tutor and helps with marketing at the Centro Santa Catalina women's sewing cooperative in Juarez. Sister Kathy Braun is a local co-coordinator of Capacitar, an international program that promotes wellness, peace and healing in individuals and communities while also serving the frail elderly as a chaplain at Bienvivir. All three Sisters have volunteered to provide hospitality and transportation to refugees released in large numbers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement in El Paso during the past several years. Sister Elsa was an especially welcome presence for the many refugees from Guatemala. Other SSSF in Central America assist those who are deported back to their countries of origin.

In Juarez, the other three Sisters live and work within a sector of Jesús Obrero, one of the poorest parishes of the diocese. Sisters Carol Jean Ory and Josefina López minister in family catechesis, programing for the elderly and responding to the many immediate pastoral and physical needs of the people. With the assistance and generosity of individual donors and groups like the "Golden Age" community at Santa Lucia parish, the Sisters launched a project called "Across the Border Sharing" to provide basic food items to more than one hundred families every month during the past year.

Sister Arlene Woelfel, a clinical social worker, serves at the Human Rights Center Paso del Norte. She counsels victims of torture and accompanies families whose loved ones have "disappeared". This, sadly, is not an uncommon experience under the prevailing conditions of drug violence, corruption and impunity. "There is not a single family that hasn't experienced human rights violations", commented Sister Josefina. "It's not just the violence," added Sister Arlene. "It's the sense of not having any respect for human rights."

Early each Thursday morning Sisters Arlene, Carol Jean and Josefina cross from Juarez to El Paso to spend the day with Sisters Elsa, Fran and Kathy. "It's coming home to community, to others who share our passion and interests. During the years of the worst violence I actually breathed differently until I crossed the border," said Sister Carol Jean. "It's a relief to come here," responded Sister Arlene. "The way you act on either side is so different… you have to balance, to adjust your way of reacting" and to live and work with a level of stress and tension. "We're always thinking about them-sometimes worrying about them…" Sister Fran added.

The six Franciscan Sisters surmount the challenges of maintaining two separate houses, keeping lines of communication open and waiting hours at the ports of entry to give witness to the possibility of creating a cross-border, cross-cultural community. Use of the internet and cell phones has made it possible to stay in more regular contact. Getting donated food items over the border for the dispensas of the Sharing Project can be stressful. "We prefer monetary donations so that we can purchase the food on the other side," explained Sister Carol Jean. All the Sisters agreed that they feel blessed by the people who are so willing to help them become a bridge to brothers and sisters on the other side of the border. The blessings don't just flow in one direction. The Sisters and the immersion groups that they take across the border receive tremendous hospitality in the parish of Jesús Obrero and elsewhere. They also have the privilege of sharing the deep faith of people who live close to the heart of God. The Sisters receive the gift of the confianza (trust) of the people they are called to serve.

Franciscan Sisters aid victims of torture and families of the disappeared

Intercultural support and exchange is a topic of concern for the SSSF at an international level. "We are an example in our congregation of trying to live this priority," explained Sister Kathy. "It's a learning edge." The two words that describe the spirit of the School Sisters of St. Francis are presence and accompaniment. "The signs of the times are the will of God for us," she continued. So the Sisters pray and reflect together on the realities of life on both sides of the border and discern together how they can respond in order to "give, heal and defend life". As they move back and forth across the border these women religious share in each other's ministries as one community in the charism of St. Francis.

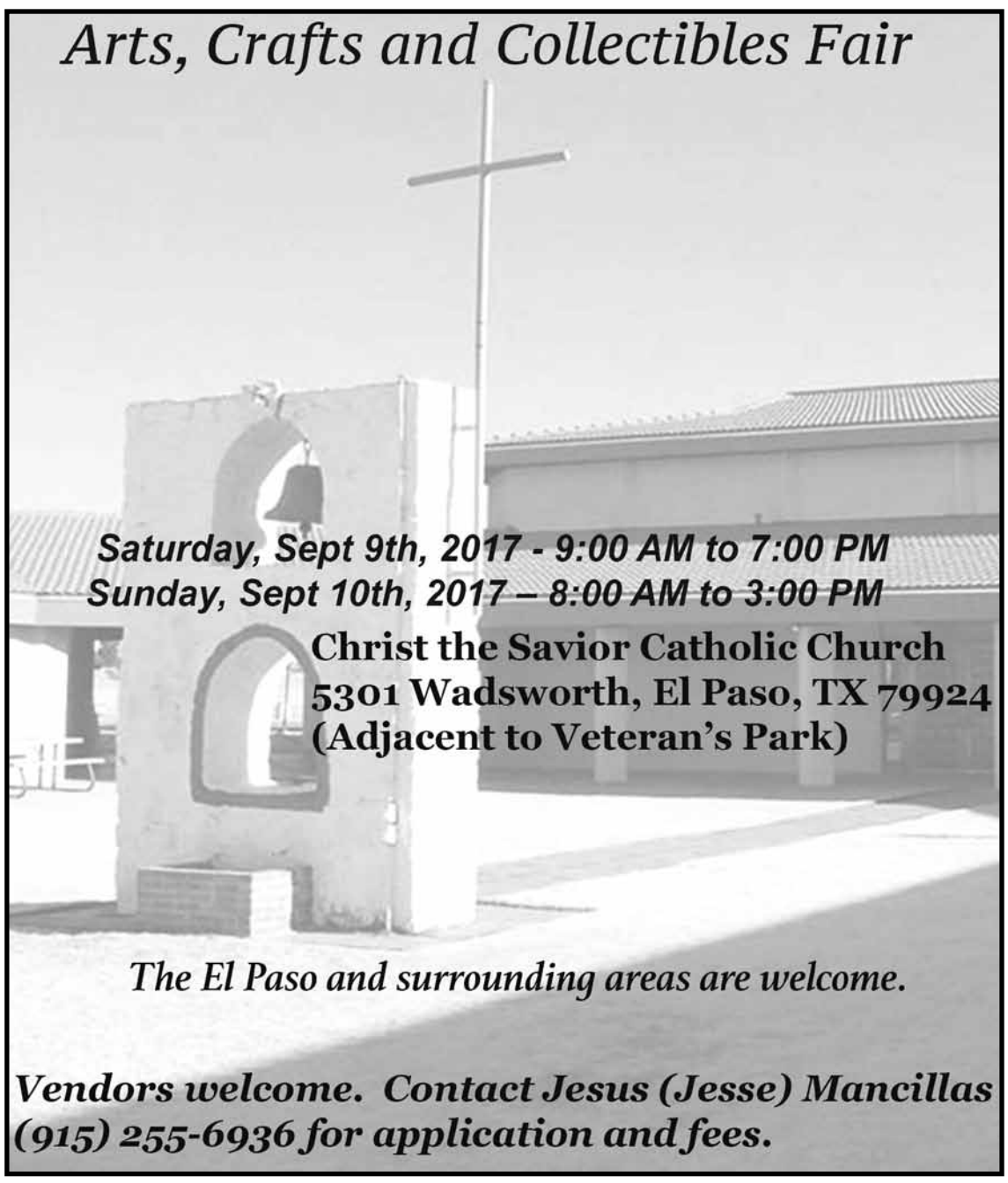
Diocese offers assistance for victims of sexual abuse

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 ví ctimas de abuso sexual

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz invita a cualquier persona que haya sido ví ctima de abuso sexualpor un sacerdote, diá cono, religioso o ministro de la iglesia, para que se comunique con la Coordinadora de Asistencia a Ví ctimas, Sra. Susan Martí nez, LCSW, al telé fono 872-8465 o con la Cancillerí a, 872-8407.

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



HERMANAS FRANCISCANAS EN CASA EN AMBOS LADOS DE LA FRONTERA

Por: Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

Franciscan Sisters enjoy a Thursday breakfast together at their home in the Lower Valley.

Hermanas Franciscanas en Casa en Ambos Lados de la Frontera

Cuando la mayoría de los automóviles se cuzan hacia el norte a través de los puentes internacionales de México a El Paso en 2009 debido a la creciente violencia, las Hermanas Escolares de San Francisco (SSSF) se dirigieron al sur con sus pertenencias para establecer una casa en la sección más pobre de una parroquia de Juárez . Las hermanas estaban lanzando un ministerio fronterizo llamado Casa Alexia, el nombre de la fundadora de la congregación, la Madre Alexia Hoell. Seis Hermanas integran el equipo transfronterizo de SSSF cuya misión es "estar en solidaridad con los migrantes, inmigrantes y víctimas de la violencia" en El Paso y Juárez.

Las Hermanas Franciscanas han servido en la diócesis de El Paso durante cincuenta años en los ministerios de educación, servicios sociales, salud y vida parroquial. "Decidimos ubicar nuestro proyecto Casa Alexia aquí debido a la historia de nuestra congregación en la diócesis ya la gran población y necesidades aquí", explicaron. Tres de las hermanas viven en una casa que alquilan frente a la iglesia de Santa Lucía en el Valle Bajo. La Hermana Elsa Canán, originaria de Guatemala, visita a los ancianos de la parroquia, ofrece estudios bíblicos y ayuda con la catequesis de menores no acompañados en los centros de detención de Southwest Key. La Hermana Fran Hicks ha establecido pequeñas bibliotecas en las colonias cerca de Horizon City para fomentar la lectura y las artes del lenguaje. También sirve como tutor de inglés y ayuda con la comercialización en la cooperativa de costura de mujeres del Centro Santa Catalina en Juárez. La Hermana Kathy Braun es coordinadora local de Capacitar, un programa internacional que promueve el bienestar, la paz y la sanación en individuos y comunidades mientras que también sirve a los ancianos frágiles como capellán en Bienvivir. Las tres hermanas se han ofrecido voluntariamente para proveer hospitalidad y transporte a los refugiados liberados en gran número por la Oficina de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas en El Paso durante los últimos años. Hermana Elsa fue una presencia especialmente bienvenida para los muchos refugiados de Guatemala. Otros SSSF en Centroamérica ayudan a los que son deportados de regreso a sus países de origen.

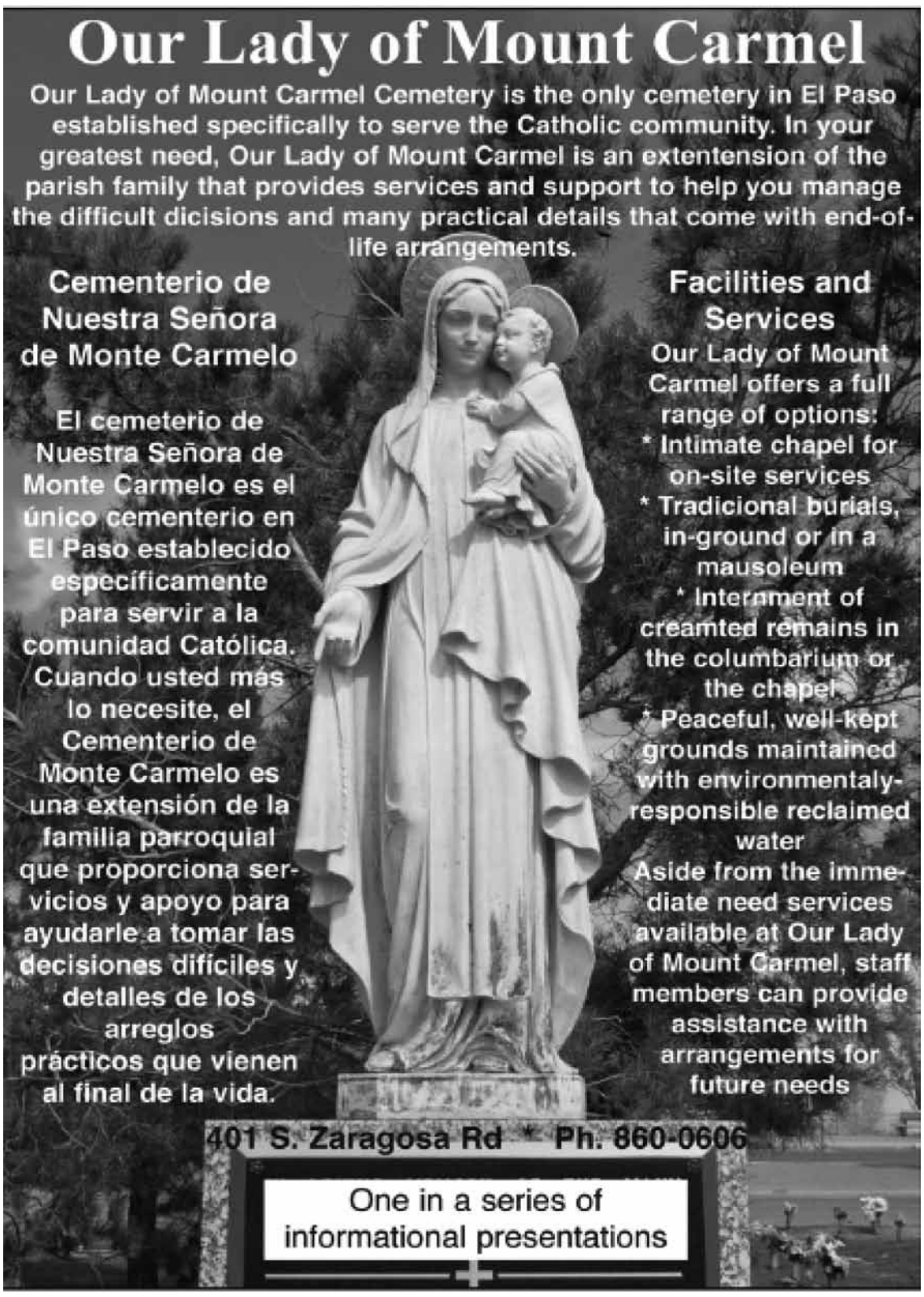
En Juárez, las otras tres hermanas viven y trabajan en un sector de Jesús Obrero, una de las parroquias más pobres de la diócesis. Las Hermanas Carol Jean Ory y Josefina López trabajan en la catequesis familiar, programando para los ancianos y respondiendo a las muchas necesidades pastorales y físicas inmediatas del pueblo. Con la ayuda y generosidad de donantes individuales y grupos como la comunidad de "Edad de Oro" en la parroquia de Santa Lucía, las hermanas lanzaron un proyecto llamado "Compartiendo a través de la Frontera" para proporcionar limentos básicos a más de un centenar de familias cada mes durante el año pasado.

La Hermana Arlene Woelfel, trabajadora social clínica, sirve en el Centro de Derechos Humanos Paso del Norte. Ella aconseja a las víctimas de la tortura y acompaña a las familias cuyos seres queridos han "desaparecido". Esto, por desgracia, no es una experiencia poco común en las condiciones imperantes de la violencia, la corrupción y la impunidad. "No hay una sola familia que no haya sufrido violaciones de derechos humanos", comentó la Hermana Josefina. "No es sólo la violencia", añadió la Hermana Arlene. "Es el sentido de no tener ningún respeto por los derechos humanos".

Temprano cada jueves por la mañana las Hermanas Arlene, Carol Jean y Josefina cruzan de Juárez a El Paso para pasar el día con las Hermanas Elsa, Fran y Kathy. "Es para regresar a la casa a la comunidad para compartir con otras que conocen nuestra pasión e intereses. Durante los años de la peor violencia que realmente respiré de manera diferente hasta que cruzé la frontera ", dijo la Hermana Carol Jean. "Es un alivio venir aquí" respondió la Hermana Arlene-. "La forma en que actúas a cada lado es tan diferente ... tienes que equilibrarte, ajustar tu forma de reaccionar" y vivir y trabajar con un nivel de estrés y tensión. "Siempre estamos pensando en ellas, a veces preocupados por ellas ..." agregó la Hermana Fran.

Las seis Hermanas Franciscanas superan los desafíos de mantener dos casas separadas, manteniendo las líneas de comunicación abiertas y esperando horas en los puentes para dar testimonio de la posibilidad de crear una comunidad transfronteriza, intercultural. El uso de Internet y teléfonos celulares ha hecho posible mantener un contacto más regular. Obteniendo alimentos donados a lo largo de la frontera para las dispensas puede ser estresante. "Preferimos donaciones monetarias para que podamos comprar la comida del otro lado", explicó la Hermana Carol Jean. Todas las hermanas coincidieron en sentirse bendecidas por las personas que están tan dispuestas a ayudarlas a convertirse en un puente con los hermanos y hermanas del otro lado de la frontera. Las bendiciones no sólo fluyen en una dirección. Las hermanas y los grupos de inmersión que cruzan la frontera reciben una tremenda hospitalidad en la parroquia de Jesús Obrero y en otros lugares. También tienen el privilegio de compartir la fe profunda de las personas que viven cerca del corazón de Dios. Las hermanas reciben el don de la confianza de las personas a quienes están llamados a servir.

El apoyo y el intercambio intercultural es un tema de preocupación para el SSSF a nivel internacional. "Somos un ejemplo en nuestra congregación de tratar de vivir esta prioridad", explicó la Hermana Kathy. "Es un límite de aprendizaje". Las dos palabras que describen el espíritu de las Hermanas Escolares de San Francisco son la presencia y el acompañamiento. "Los signos de los tiempos son la voluntad de Dios para nosotras", continuó. Así que las hermanas oran y reflexionan juntas sobre las realidades de la vida en ambos lados de la frontera y discernen juntos cómo pueden responder para "dar, sanar y defender la vida". A medida que se mueven hacia adelante y hacia atrás a través de la frontera, estas religiosas comparten los ministerios unos de otros como una comunidad en el carisma de San Francisco.



SANTO NINO DE ATOCHA BECOMES A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

By: Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator

What is Stewardship?

Returning to God a portion of one's time, talent and treasure in gratitude for the gifts He has given us.

Santo Niño de Atocha Parish is now a Stewardship Parish. In December 2016, Father John Telles, pastor of the parish, asked parishioners to commit to a life of prayer, service and financial giving. In response, more than 200 individuals signed up for the commitment. Since then, amazing things have happened in the parish. Parish ministries have grown and more families are engaged in the work of the church. For example, a parishioner who recently retired from IHOP volunteered to start the Kitchen Ministry at the parish and offer his talents to God every Sunday. In addition, the Sunday collections have increased and Father Telles has been able to begin paying for building repairs. More families are now attending spiritual services at the parish including Holy Hour and daily masses.

Father Telles could not do everything by himself so he created a Stewardship Ministry and asked Carmen Contreras, Oswaldo Contreras, Isela Solis and Josie Garcia - parishioners at Santo Niño de Atocha - to help promote a stewardship way of life at the parish.

The Stewardship Ministry received training from the Office of Stewardship for several months and currently is promoting stewardship through pulpit announcements, information tables and teaching parishioners the meaning of stewardship. The Ministry also continuously reminds parishioners to persevere in the commitment to God made this past December.

Stewardship is not about money, it is about our relationship with God. What can we give to God in return for all the blessings that He has given to us? "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1Pt 4:10)

If you would like to promote a stewardship way of life in your parish, please contact:

Karina Sandoval,
Stewardship Coordinator
Office of Stewardship
Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso
915-872-8412
ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org

SANTO NINO DE ATOCHA SE CONVIERTE EN UNA PARROQUIA CORRESPONSABLE

Por: Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad

Que es corresponsabilidad?

Es regresar a Dios una porción de nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro en gratitud por los bienes recibidos.

Sto. Niño de Atocha es ahora llamada una parroquia corresponsable desde principios de diciembre del 2016, cuando el Padre Telles, pastor de la parroquia pidió a los parroquianos a comprometerse a una vida de oración, servicio y donación. Mas de 200 individuos se enlistaron para el compromiso y rápidamente comenzaron a suceder milagros en la parroquia. Un parroquiano se ofreció a comenzar el ministerio de la cocina y a ofrecer sus talentos a Dios cada domingo, después de haber concluido su etapa laboral de la cadena de restaurantes IHOP. Las colectas dominicales también han incrementado y esto ha dado oportunidad al Padre Telles de pagar arreglos para el edificio parroquial. Mas personas están asistiendo a servicios espirituales tales como Hora Santa y misas diarias.

El P. Telles no pudo haber hecho todo el esfuerzo sin el Ministerio de Corresponsabilidad que es conformado por Carmen Contreras, Oswaldo Contreras, Isela Solis y Josie García, miembros de la parroquia de Sto. Nino de Atocha que han ayudado a promover un estilo de vida corresponsable.

El ministerio de corresponsabilidad recibió entrenamiento por parte de la Oficina de Corresponsabilidad por varios meses y actualmente se encuentran promoviendo un estilo de vida corresponsable por medio de presentaciones después de Misa. También continúan recordando a los parroquianos de su compromiso para que continúen perseverando en su relación con Dios.

La Corresponsabilidad no es solo sobre el dinero, es sobre una relación con Jesús, con el prójimo y con nosotros mismos. "Que cada cual ponga al servicio de los demás la gracia que ha recibido, como buenos administradores de las diversas gracias de Dios." (1 Pedro, 4: 10)

Si a usted le interesa promover un estilo de vida corresponsable en su parroquia, por favor contacte

Karina Sandoval,
Coordinadora de Corresponsabilidad
Oficina de Corresponsabilidad
Fundación para la Diócesis del Paso
915-872-8412
ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org

Sto. Nino De Atocha Chapel

The Shepherd's Corner

GIFTS & BOOKS

at St. Luke Catholic Church
930 E. Redd Road
El Paso, TX 79912

Hours of Operation
Sunday 10-3; Monday 9-12
Tues 9:15-11:00; Thurs-Sat 10-1

Phone: (915) 585-1771

CAN I DONATE MY BODY TO SCIENCE ?

Making Sense Out of Bioethics

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Some people may wish to "donate their body to science" after they die. Such a gift of themselves can be objectively good and praiseworthy provided that their body would contribute to meaningful research or study, and that it would not be used in a disrespectful or otherwise inappropriate manner.

There are number of potentially laudable projects that can benefit from a person's decision to donate his or her body to science. A human cadaver can be useful for anatomical studies, to help train medical students to save lives later. It can be of assistance in carrying out basic biomedical research or in developing new medical instruments. It can be used as a forensic tool to help solve crimes, such as studying advanced states of bodily decay. It can assist with the training of surgeons, and can even help with the development of various types of safety or protective gear, like helmets, automobile airbags or bulletproof vests.

In 1956, Pope Pius XII noted that consenting to "damage to the integrity of the corpse in the interest of those who are suffering, is no violation of the reverence due to the dead." St. John Paul II wrote in a 1995 encyclical that one way of nurturing a genuine culture of life "is the donation of organs, performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering a chance of health and even of life itself to the sick who sometimes have no other hope" (EV 86). The U.S. Catholic bishops have given similar guidance in their policy document called The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services: "Catholic health care institutions should encourage and provide the means whereby those who wish to do so may arrange for the donation of their organs and bodily tissue, for ethically legitimate purposes, so that they may be used for donation and research after death" (No. 63).

Although there are not any fundamental moral objections to donating our bodies to science, certain details of how the donation is carried out are important.

First, bodily remains should be properly interred in the earth at the conclusion of their use. The body should not be surrendered to researchers and then merely "left in limbo." Often a university or research institution will oversee and pay for the cremation of the body after the research is completed, so the family can then be given the ashes. This may be specified in the agreement signed by the individual ahead of time. Assuring appropriate respect and reverence for the body would thus include arranging for burial in consecrated ground afterwards.

A second consideration of importance for Catholics involves the offering of prayers, and particularly the sacrifice of the Mass, on behalf of the deceased. Rev. Edward McNamara, a well-known writer and liturgy professor in Rome, offers some practical guidance in this regard: "Since it is usually impossible to have a funeral with the remains shortly after death, as this would render the body unsuitable for research purposes, a memorial Mass without the body can be celebrated so as to entrust the soul of the deceased to God and offer the family the opportunity of mourning together. When the remains are released to the family, another Mass may be offered."

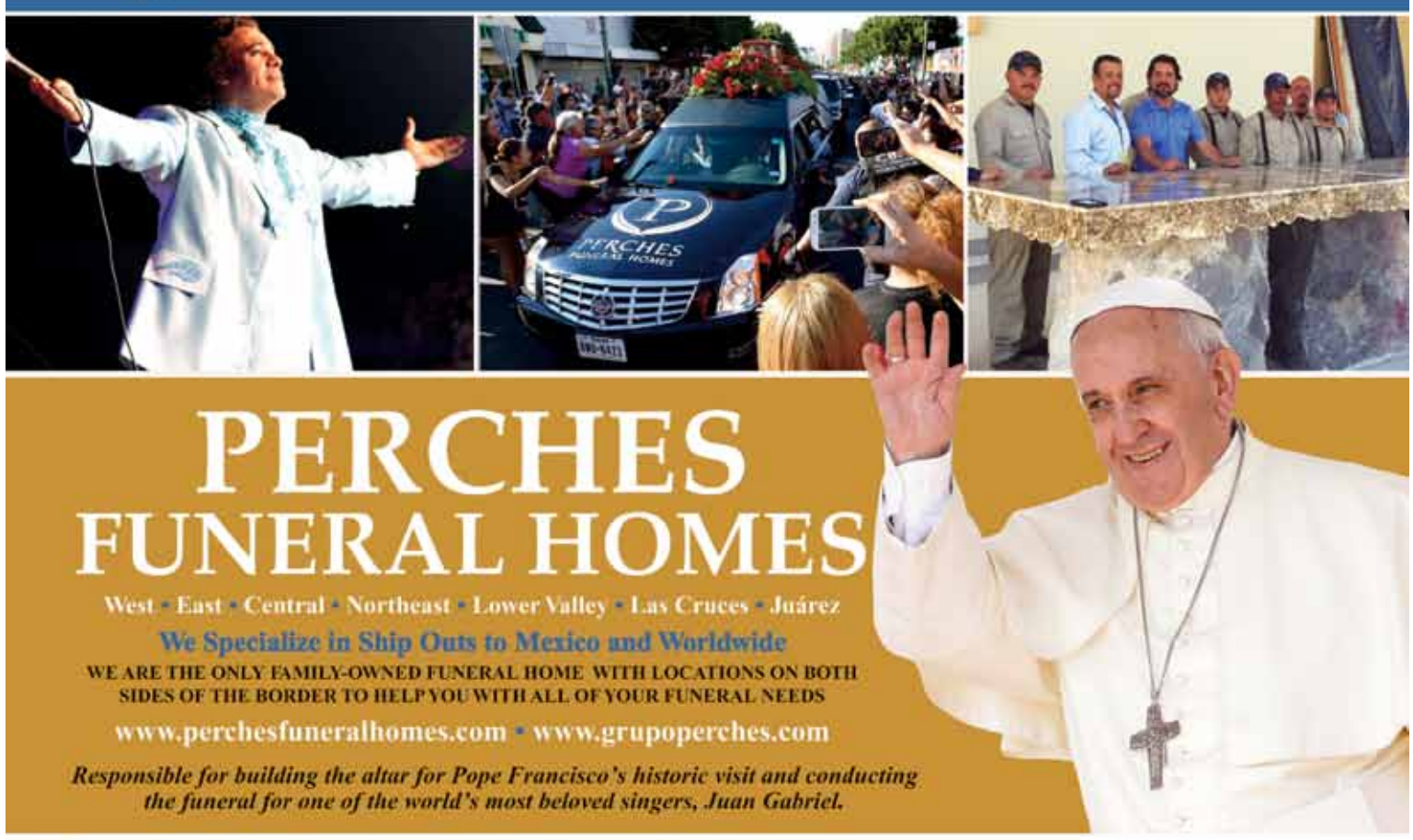
A third potential area of concern involves the possibility that certain cells or tissues derived from the human body may be inappropriately used in research. To consider one instance, it is possible to harvest sex cells, or their progenitor cells, from corpses even up to a few hours following death. Some researchers might be tempted to use these cells, for example, to create human embryos in the laboratory for biomedical research. Although such practices are uncommon, if an individual believed that his or her cells were likely to be used in this unethical way by a research institution, they should not agree to donate their bodies after death.

Those contemplating the possibility of donating their bodies to science should weigh a fourth consideration as well, namely, whether others in their family are open to their body being utilized in this way. They should find out whether their spouse, children, or others close to them would have any objections or concerns. At the end of the day, there may be some family members who, in the words of one commentator, can't quite get past the idea, "that you will be dissected over a period of months in anatomy class, or cut up and divided among different programs (brain to an Alzheimer's study, joints to an orthopedic surgery training)." Careful vetting of the details ahead of time helps avoid resentment, pain and surprises after a loved one passes on.

With these caveats and considerations in mind, donating a body to science can indeed allow someone to "give back" or "contribute to society" after death.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

Affordable Funerals & Cremations



PERCHES
FUNERAL HOMES

West • East • Central • Northeast • Lower Valley • Las Cruces • Juárez

We Specialize in Ship Outs to Mexico and Worldwide

WE ARE THE ONLY FAMILY-OWNED FUNERAL HOME WITH LOCATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER TO HELP YOU WITH ALL OF YOUR FUNERAL NEEDS

www.perchesfuneralhomes.com • www.grupoperches.com

Responsible for building the altar for Pope Francisco's historic visit and conducting the funeral for one of the world's most beloved singers, Juan Gabriel.

- Offering the Most Comprehensive Funeral Services and Product Selection
- Preferred Pricing for Veterans and Hospice Patients
- We Accept All Funeral Plans From Other Funeral Homes & Will Refund the Difference in Policy Amount Versus Actual Cost
- Substantial Savings at Time of Need or When You Preplan Your Funeral

Call Us At
915-532-2101

For Service in Juárez, call
01152 (656) 6-13-21-31
For Service in Las Cruces, call
575.526.6891

PERCHES
FUNERAL HOMES
Since 1958

$250 PrePlanning Discount
Traditional Burial or Traditional Cremation Service
Must Present This Coupon or Ad When Preplanning to Receive Discount
Cannot be Combined with Other Offers/Promotions
Offer Expires 7/1/2018

$695
Direct Cremation Service
Must Present This Coupon or Ad When Arranging to Receive Discount
Cannot be Combined with Other Offers/Promotions
Offer Expires 7/1/2018

Salvador Perches — Recipient of the 2016 Small Business Administration El Paso District Entrepreneurial Success Award / American Funeral Director of the Year

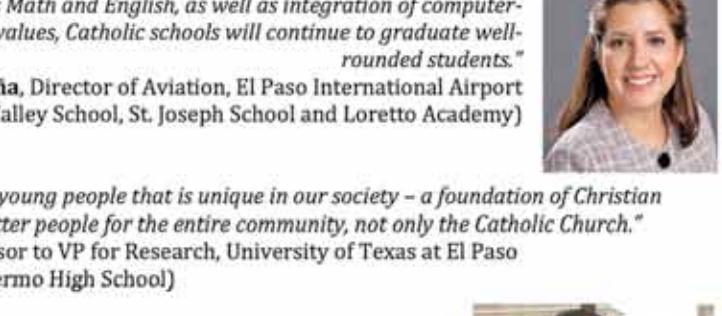
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Raul Burciaga

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 andaround the world. To nominate an El Paso Catholic School graduate, please contact Pifas Silva at psilva@elpasodiocese.org or (915)872-8126

Name:
Raúl Enrique Burciaga
E-mail:
wolfcounselor@yahoo.com
Current Occupation/Job Title:
Director (and attorney)
Company/Organization/School:
New Mexico Legislative Council Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Interest, Activities, Clubs, and Professional Organizations:
Staff Chair, National Conference of State Legislatures; member of the New Mexico State Bar; member of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association.
Greatest Professional Accomplishment: Becoming only the fourth director of the NM Legislative Council Service in its 60-year history.
What Catholic school(s) did you attend?
St. Patrick's Grade School (1969 grad); Cathedral High School (CHS) (1973 grad)
What was the most valuable lesson – inside or outside the classroom – you learned while attending Catholic school(s)?
My siblings and I attended Catholic schools while living in an apartment at Congregation B'nai Zion where our father worked. We learned not only about our Catholic faith but about Judaism. It instilled in us a tolerance and respect for people of all faiths and beliefs, a dual education like no other.
What teacher/staff member/classmate most influence you?
Brother Amedy Long at CHS, English and Religion teacher. He instilled a strong appreciation and command of the English language through reading and writing.
How did your Catholic School Education prepare you for what you are doing today?
In my position as the director of a legislative agency with statutory duties to be non-partisan and maintain confidentiality, I work with legislators from both major political parties and the entire spectrum of political ideology. It is our job to ensure that we respect the wishes of each legislator and provide the best bill drafting and legal research possible. As previously stated, the tolerance and respect for others I learned in Catholic schools prepared me well for this position.
Why do you think Catholic Education is so important?
I can best answer this question by stating what a rabbi told my father: "The best thing you can give your children is a religious education." As a result my parents sacrificed and sent all of us to St. Patrick's, my sisters to Loretto Academy and my brothers and me to Cathedral. The rabbi was right.
How are Catholic Schools shaping the future?
The demands of a Catholic school are significantly greater and more challenging than what is found at most public schools. As a result, Catholic schools better prepare students for college and careers.
What advice do you have for current students?
Above all, enjoy your time in school and take every opportunity to learn. Respect your teachers. However demanding you think school is now, you will look back and appreciate the education and preparation you received.
What was your favorite Catholic School experience/moment?
The love and pride I saw in my parents when I graduated from Cathedral – the youngest of six children, all of whom had attended St. Patrick's and Cathedral or Loretto. My parents – José Cruz Burciaga and Maria Guadalupe Fernández Burciaga, both Mexican immigrants – had fulfilled their dreams of giving their children strong religious educations; the rest was up to us.

EL PASO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
FAITH • KNOWLEDGE • EXCELLENCE • SERVICE

Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.
Providing Catholic Education to our Youth for over 135 years.



"With a focus and emphasis on traditional education courses, such as Math and English, as well as integration of computer-based courses, coupled with the reinforcement of Christian-based values, Catholic schools will continue to graduate well-rounded students."
Monica Lombraña, Director of Aviation, El Paso International Airport
(Attended Our Lady of the Valley School, St. Joseph School and Loretto Academy)

"A Catholic education offers something to our young people that is unique in our society – a foundation of Christian faith for the whole of their lives and makes better people for the entire community, not only the Catholic Church."
Dr. Josefina Villamil Tinajero, Special Advisor to VP for Research, University of Texas at El Paso
(Attended Sacred Heart School and Father Yermo High School)

"Catholic education forms the next generation of citizens with a core of traditions inculcating a sense of traditional values and ethics to lead the city, country, and world in which they will live."
Dr. Jose Manuel de la Rosa, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center El Paso
(Attended St. Joseph School and Cathedral High School)

Faith Formation · Excellent Academics · Extracurricular Activities
College Preparation · Financial Aid Available · Safe Family Atmosphere

REGISTER NOW!

Visit with representatives from any of our schools to learn why a Catholic school is the right choice.

Cathedral High School (All Boys) 9th – 12th · **915-532-3238** · cathedral-elpaso.org
Father Yermo Schools 4K – 12th · **915-532-6875** · fatheryermoschools.com
Loretto Academy (Co-ed) 3K – 5th; (All Girls) 6th – 12th · **915-566-8400** · loretto.org
Most Holy Trinity School 4K – 8th · **915-751-2566** · mhtcrusaders.org
Our Lady of the Valley School 4K – 8th · **915-859-6448** · olvschoolep.org
St. Joseph School 4K – 8th · **915-566-1661** · stjoseph-school.org
St. Matthew Catholic School 4K – 8th · **915-581-8801** · stmatthewelpaso.org
St. Patrick Cathedral School 3K – 8th · **915-532-4142** · stpatrickelpaso.org
St. Pius X School 4K – 8th · **915-772-6598** · elpasostpiusx.org
St. Raphael School 4K – 8th · **915-598-2241** · straphaelelpaso.org

All of our schools are fully accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Accreditation Commission and AdvancED (formerly Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on Accreditation and School Improvement).

For more information: Call **El Paso Catholic Schools** · **915-872-8426** · elpasocatholicschools.org

CALL TO CANDIDACY

By: Deacon Jesus Cardenas, Tepeyac Institute

On Friday June 23rd, day of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, eighteen men were called by Bishop Mark J. Seitz to become candidates for the Holy Orders. Those men will continue four years of academic and pastoral formation until they receive a Masters Degree in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) or a Certification in Theology by the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

The mass was a great opportunity to get together as Church to welcome these men, their wives and families in a journey of faith that will prepare them to effectively serve the Diocese of El Paso.

The candidates for the Permanent Diaconate are:
Daniel Bejarano from St. Raphael Church
Luis Alberto Buena from St. Mark Church
Julio Cesar Diaz from San Judas Tadeo
Ruben Flores Jr. from Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Ruben Jasso Gomez from St. John Apostle in Monahans, Texas
Dagoberto Gonzalez from St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Jose Marcos Gonzalez from San Antonio de Padua
Wade Stevens Horsch from Our Lady of the Assumption
Oscar Marruffo Machuca from Santa Rosa de Lima in Pecos, Texas
Arturo Rolando Medina from Cristo Rey Parish
Victor Adolfo Rubio from Queen of Peace Parish
Andres Ruvalcaba from St. Patrick's Cathedral
Lucio Alfonso Sandoval from St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Luis Angel Santos from St. Matthew Church
Alfredo Lorenzo Solano from St. Raphael Parish
Karl Twichell from St. Luke Church
Carlos Omar Viesca from St. Luke Church
Rudy Ochoa Villegas from Santa Rosa de Lima in Pecos, Texas

The celebration mass led by Bishop Mark J. Seitz was moving as the men who walked into the Cathedral as Aspirants came out as Candidates for the Holy Orders. In one year, after completing their first year of academics courses and pastoral assignments, they will be installed by Bishop as Lectors. After the second year they will be installed Acolytes, and after two years of community service they will be ordained Permanent Deacons in the year 2021. After the mass, communities and friends

celebrated the joy of this call to candidacy in the gym of Cathedral School and shared bread and friendship.

LLAMADO A CANDIDATURA

Por: Diacono Jesus Cardenas, Tepeyac Institute

El viernes 23 de junio, el día de la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, dieciocho hombres fueron llamados por el Obispo Mark J. Seitz para convertirse en candidatos a las Ordenes Sagradas. Estos hombres continuaran por cuatro años su formación académica y pastoral hasta que reciban su Maestría en Estudios Pastorales (MAPS) o la Certificación en Teología por las Universidad de Santo Tomas de Houston.

La misa fue una gran oportunidad para reunirnos como Iglesia para darles la bienvenida a estos hombres, sus esposas y familias que inician un viaje de fe que los preparara para server efectivamente a la Diócesis de El Paso.

Los candidatos para el Diaconado Permanente son:
Daniel Bejarano de la Iglesia de San Rafael
Luis Alberto Buena de la Iglesia de San Marcos
Julio Cesar Díaz de San Judas Tadeo
Rubén Flores Jr. De Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo
Rubén Jasso Gomez de San Juan Apóstol en Monahans, Texas
Dagoberto Gonzalez de St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Jose Marcos Gonzalez de San Antonio de Padua
Wade Stevens Horsch de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción
Oscar Marruffo Machuca de Santa Rosa de Lima en Pecos, Texas
Arturo Rolando Medina de la Parroquia de Cristo Rey
Víctor Adolfo Rubio de la Parroquia de la Reina de la Paz
Andrés Ruvalcaba de la Catedral de San. Patricio
Lucio Alfonso Sandoval de la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís
Luis Ángel Santos de la Iglesia de San Mateo
Alfredo Lorenzo Solano de la Parroquia de San Rafael
Karl Twichell de la Iglesia de San Lucas
Carlos Omar Viesca de la Iglesia de San Lucas
Rudy Ochoa Villegas de Santa Rosa de Lima en Pecos, Texas

La celebración de misa presidida por el Obispo Mark J. Seitz fue conmovedora, y los hombres quienes entraron a la Catedral como aspirantes, salieron como Candidatos para las Ordenes Sagradas. En un año, después de completar su primer año de clases académicas y actividades pastorales, serán instalados como Lectores por el Obispo. Después del Segundo año serán instalados Acólitos, y después de dos años de servicio a la comunidad serán ordenados Diáconos Permanentes en el año 2021.

Al terminar la misa, las comunidades y amigos celebraron la alegría de esta llamado a la candidatura en el gimnasio de la Escuela Catedral donde compartieron el pan y la amistad.

DUBLIN, IRELAND
WORLD MEETING of FAMILIES
22-26 AUGUST 2018

Ireland

August 18-27, 2018

DUBLIN

$4,299

Visit Shannon, the Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Knock, Belfast, Armagh and Dublin
AND, attend the World Meeting of Families.

Price includes round trip air from El Paso, taxes and fuel surcharges, hotels, breakfast, dinners, guide, deluxe motor coach, driver and registration to the World Meeting of Families.

The Holy Father is expected to celebrate the closing Mass as he has in the past.

Space is limited!

DISCOVER CUBA!

NOTE!

This trip complies with the new requirements for travel to Cuba.

Information meeting July 10
Call for details

NOV. 3 - 10, 2017

PRICES FROM
$1,998
CRUISE ONLY

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

LIMITED SPACE!

7 Day Cruise from Montego Bay

Visit Havana, Cienfuegos, Santiago de Cuba,
2 Catholic Churches where we meet with local Priest, and much more!

HOSTED BY:
Fr. Trini Fuentez

Travel With Kerry

PRICES ARE BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KERRY MCCULLOUGH AT: 915-591-4246 (TALK OR TEXT) OR EMAIL: KERRY@TRAVELWK.COM

Travel With Kerry

SUNLAND PARK

ALFA ROMEO

4C Spider

GIULIA

NOW AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT SUNLAND PARK ALFA ROMEO

SUNLANDPARKALFAROMEO.COM

Former St. Pius Teacher Honored by U.S. Bishops before Professing Vows

By: Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

Sister Tracey Horan, a novice with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary of the Woods, Indiana, received the 2017 Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award from the United States Catholic Bishops at their Spring General Assembly June 14-15. The award is sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and "recognizes the leadership, energy and diverse skills that young people bring to the anti-poverty work of low-income projects and Catholic parishes. The Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award highlights the gifts of young leaders and their Gospel commitment to the poor."

Sister Tracey is a community organizer for ICAN: the Indianapolis Congregation Action Network and the Justice for Immigrants campaign for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. ICAN is part of the PICO network of faith-based nonpartisan community organizing efforts. Prior to entering the Sisters of Providence in 2014, "Miss Horan" taught seventh and eighth grade math for two years at St. Pius X Catholic School in El Paso while living with the Sisters of Charity at Casa de Caridad in Anthony, New Mexico.

After leaving the classroom she served as an intern at the White Violet Ecological Center at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. That year of service offered an opportunity for ongoing vocational discernment. "I felt I needed some time away from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to understand what was moving in me," she said. "I had been discerning with the Sisters of Charity throughout my internship year, and a visit with those Sisters helped to clarify what I was feeling. They were able to see in me the spark, the energy and passion I had about the mission and charism of the Sisters of Providence. Their support and affirmation helped open my eyes to the call of Providence."

Sister Tracey professed her first vows as a Sister of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods on Sunday June 25.

Sister Tracey Horan

La Previa Maestra de San Pio X Honrada por los Obispos de los Estados Unidos antes de Profesar Votos

Por: Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

La Hermana Tracey Horan, una novicia de las Hermanas de la Providencia de Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, recibió el Premio de Nuevo Liderazgo Cardenal Bernardin de 2017 de los Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos en su Asamblea General de Primavera del 14 al 15 de junio. El premio es patrocinado por la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano y "reconoce el liderazgo, la energía y las diversas habilidades que los jóvenes quienes aportan el trabajo contra la pobreza de los proyectos de bajos ingresos y las parroquias católicas. El Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award destaca los dones de los jóvenes líderes y su compromiso con los pobres."

La Hermana Tracey es una organizadora comunitaria del ICAN: la Red de Acción de las Congregaciónes de Indianápolis y la campaña de Justicia para los Inmigrantes en la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis. ICAN es parte de la red PICO que apoya los esfuerzos de organización comunitaria no partidista basada en la fe. Antes de ingresar a las Hermanas de la Providencia en 2014, "Miss Horan" enseñó matemáticas de séptimo y octavo año escolar durante dos años en la Escuela Católica St. Pio X en El Paso mientras vivía con las Hermanas de la Caridad en la Casa de Caridad en Anthony, Nuevo México.

Después de salir del salón escolar, se desempeñó como pasante en el Centro Ecológico de Violeta Blanca en St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Ese año de servicio ofreció una oportunidad para el discernimiento vocacional continuo. "Sentí que necesitaba un tiempo lejos de St. Mary-of-the-Woods para entender lo que se movía en mí", dijo. "Yo había estado discerniendo con las Hermanas de la Caridad a lo largo de mi año de prácticas, y una visita con esas Hermanas ayudó a aclarar lo que estaba sintiendo. Fueron capaces de ver en mí una luz de energía y de pasión que tenía sobre la misión y el carisma de las Hermanas de la Providencia. Su apoyo y afirmación ayudaron a abrir los ojos al llamado de la Providencia."

La Hermana Tracey profesó sus primeros votos como una Hermana de la Providencia en St. Mary-of-the-Woods el domingo 25 de junio.

Sister Tracey Horan is shown chanting during a plenary session at the U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements in February in Modesto, California. A Sister of Providence of St.-Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., she will receive the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award from the U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development June 14 in Indianapolis for her work as a community organizer. - CNS photo | Dennis Sadowski

Diocese of El Paso 19th Annual Slam Jam

Get Ready for SLAM JAM

All high school students and young adults are invited!

Team Signup @ 6:00pm
Games begin @ 6:30pm every
Wednesday, July 5, 12, 19, 26

Slam Jam Registration

NO Registration fee this year

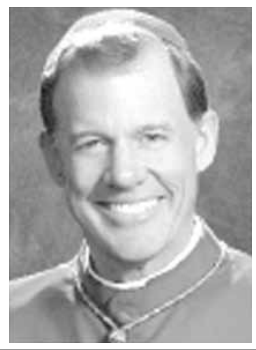
registration forms due *before* June 29th

All required forms for each team player must be signed and submitted to the Youth Ministry Office at time of registration

For more details call the Youth Ministry Office 872-8438

LAWS ARE MEANT TO PROTECT HUMAN BEINGS, NOT BREAK THEM

By Archbishop John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe
People of God Magazine
May 2017



As an archbishop, one of my key responsibilities is to promote unity in our local Church of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. With this in mind, I could not help but be saddened to learn that a statement I recently issued regarding immigration in light of recent presidential executive orders was seen, in the minds of some, as being divisive. A few wrote to me to say, among other things, that they are dismayed at my apparent lack of respect for our immigration laws. Even though this is a complex topic and not one easily addressed in the space of this article, I thought it might be helpful to point to some of the areas I see as pertinent to this discussion, hoping that even a brief exposition may promote a greater understanding and lead to greater unity.

Many times I hear people say, "What don't you understand about illegal?" The presumption seems to be that supporting undocumented immigrants means that I must not respect the law. I maintain, however, that it is possible to both support the law and defend those who are in our country without legal status. One reason for this is that our immigration system of laws is broken and completely inadequate to deal with the immigration reality we face in our country and in our world. For years and years, the Catholic bishops of the United States have been advocating for immigration reform precisely because we see the need for effective, comprehensive and sound laws that both promote the common good in our country and welcome the stranger in our midst. Good laws promote and connote respect for the law. Sadly, our elected officials have failed us in their inability to enact comprehensive immigration reform. They have come close, especially in June of 2007, but partisan politics and ideological myopia have prevented our representatives from crafting the necessary legislation.

Given this reality, I maintain that it is important to do what we can to respect the law to the extent that we are able without violating our consciences. What do I mean by this?

I often hear some people refer to undocumented immigrants as "those illegals." What does that mean? Is someone speeding on I-25 an illegal human being? Are those who cheat on their income taxes "illegals"? First, it is important to establish that no human being is "illegal". How we refer to one another makes a difference. Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Holocaust survivor stated, "You who are so-called illegal aliens must know that no human being is illegal. That is a contradiction in terms. Human beings can be beautiful or more beautiful, they can be fat or skinny, they can be right or wrong, but illegal? How can a human being be illegal?" The word illegal is not a noun. It only refers to a person's actions. Labeling people "illegals" who are here without proper documentation dehumanizes immigrants. It also assigns guilt to persons involved in complex legal circumstances that are, in part, created by a broken immigration system.

In our judicial system, the word "legal" or "illegal" means many things because there are many systems of laws and many levels of laws within those systems. There is divine law, natural law, statutory law, regulatory (administrative) law and common law, to name a few. Some laws are classified as criminal and other as civil. And within those categories we differentiate between felonies, misdemeanors and infractions. In reality, we all live under many systems of laws and we are called to respect these laws if we wish to be "law abiding". But what if there are conflicts between these systems? How do I decide which laws to obey when, say, civil law quarrels with divine law? Even if I have to pay a penalty under a law that I have broken (not reporting for army duty) I may have a moral obligation to disobey that civil law in order to obey a higher law (God's law) if my conscience dictates such civil disobedience.

In other words, and to my point here, I respect immigration laws in principle, even though they are terribly flawed just now. However, at the same time, I am obliged by my conscience to welcome the strangers in our midst, particularly if they are fleeing economic, political or religious persecution or if they are sure to become victims of violent and organized crime. Pope St. John XXIII, in Pacem in Terris wrote eloquently about the right of all human beings to migrate as well as not to migrate. Pope St. John Paul II added to this teaching when he wrote, in his address to the New World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Immigrants in 1985, "When there are just reasons in favor of it, [a migrant] must be permitted to migrate to other countries and to take up residence there. The fact that he is a citizen of a particular state does not deprive him of membership to the human family, nor of citizenship in the universal society, the common, world-wide fellowship of men." Naturally, the United States has the right to protect and defend its borders, even an obligation to do so for the safety of all of us. But this is not an absolute right. We are a country that is greatly blessed. We have an obligation to welcome our brothers and sisters, especially those suffering from persecution of any kind. As Pope Francis said when he went to Lampedusa early in his pontificate to mourn the tragic loss of refugees who had drowned seeking freedom from oppression and suffering, "…we have lost the sense of fraternal responsibility." Elsewhere he lamented that we have accepted as normal the culture of indifference.

It is worth noting that from a moral perspective, intentionality and consequences are critical in determining the morality of an action. Immigrants are motivated by providing a life for their families, becoming loyal citizens one day, and, as I have said, to flee danger and in many cases, death. Furthermore, they make a genuine contribution to our society by enriching our culture, providing needed labor, enlarging tax revenues, forging enduring relationships and sharing their dreams and visions for a better tomorrow. To simply call some of them "illegals" does not do justice to the ethical and human reality of their situation. There is so much more that could be said but I hope these few paragraphs open up for some of us another way of looking at our immigration laws and those who try, but find it impossible to abide by them. Laws are meant to protect human beings, not break them. Sadly, our immigration laws are doing just that.

We are told we should fear the immigrant. The facts do not support such an assertion. Study after study has shown that immigrants are hardworking and God-fearing newcomers who contribute to the well-being of our country on a variety of levels. Indeed, if we are to fear anything, it should be those policies that rip apart the fabric of our country, policies that divide us, that demonize immigrants or any other group of people and that distract us from the real dangers to our safety and lives. The greater concern should be about the policies that isolate ourselves from the world community, that fail to enact common sense gun safety, that weaken our respect for the sanctity of human life through abortion or assisted suicide, and cause divisions in our democracy so great that dialogue and compromise are no longer possible. These are the real threats we face, along with failing to enact comprehensive immigration reform. Hopefully, we will achieve this elusive goal someday but it seems to always elude our grasp, administration after administration.

In the meantime, I urge us all not to be taken in by political soundbites or rhetoric that instills fear. Rather, let us take the time to hear the stories of those immigrants coming to our shores and borders. What don't I understand about "illegal"? Well, there is a lot I don't understand about it. We are speaking of human beings who have inherent worth and dignity. And I truly don't understand why we cannot build on the rich legacy of our great country and welcome the stranger in our midst whenever we are able. As Bishop Robert McElroy said in his excellent article in America (February 6, 2017), "'Who are the people in the United States? All of us." And from my perspective, that includes the undocumented immigrant who is my brother or sister, a fact that is more compelling to me than his or her legal status and one that I truly believe carries more weight. If it is the law that is flawed, then let's fix the law so that immigrants don't have to break it, and it no longer breaks them.

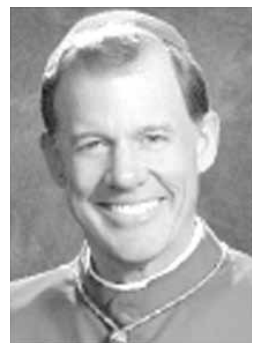
PRINTING PDX
YOUR PRINTER ON INTERSTATE 10
PDX Printing proud printer of the Rio Grande Catholic
PDX Printing is a full service commercial print shop.
In addition to newspapers, we print and bind books, programs, brochures, carbonless forms, flyers, posters, letterhead, envelopes, business cards and much more.
Call us and allow us to bid on your printing needs.
100 Porfirio Diaz El Paso, Tx 79902 • 915.544.6688

Peregrinación Tierra Santa e Italia
Escala breve Estambul
Del 20 de nov. al 01 de dic. 2017
Visitando:
Nazareth, Caná, Jerusalem, Estambul, Roma asistiendo a audiencia papal.
Extensión optativa previa a Egipto visitando El Cairo, pirámides y mas

Cupo limitado
Guía espiritual padre José Solís
Informes: Blanca Rios 001 (915) 867-62-19

LAS LEYES ESTAN DESTINADAS A PROTEGER A LA GENTE, NO A PERJUDICARLA

Por Archbishop John C. Wester Archbishop of Santa Fe
People of God Magazine May 2017



Como obispo, una de mis principales responsabilidades es promover la unidad en la Iglesia local de nuestra Arquidiócesis de Santa Fe. Considerando esto, no puedo dejar de sentir tristeza al saber que, a raíz de las recientes órdenes ejecutivas presidenciales, una declaración sobre la inmigración que hice recientemente, haya sido vista por algunos, como divisiva. Algunas personas me escribieron para decir que están consternadas por mi aparente falta de respeto por nuestras leyes de inmigración. Si bien este es un tema complicado y no es fácil abordarlo en el espacio de este artículo, pienso que sería útil señalar algunos puntos que considero pertinentes para este diálogo, esperando que incluso una breve explicación pueda promover una mayor comprensión y conducir a una mayor unidad.

Muchas veces escucho a la gente decir: "¿Qué es lo que él no entiende acerca de ilegal?" Parece ser que ofrecer apoyo a los inmigrantes indocumentados significa que seguramente no respeto la ley. Sin embargo, insisto que es posible apoyar tanto la ley como defender a los que están en nuestro país sin un estatus legal. Una razón para afirmar esto es que nuestro sistema de leyes de inmigración está roto y es completamente inadecuado para hacer frente a la realidad migratoria en nuestro país y en nuestro mundo. Por años, los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos hemos promovido la reforma migratoria precisamente porque vemos la necesidad de contar con leyes efectivas, íntegras y sólidas que promuevan el bien común en nuestro país y que acojan al extranjero entre nosotros. Las buenas leyes promueven y llevan al respeto de las mismas. Lamentablemente, los funcionarios electos nos han fallado en su incapacidad para promulgar una reforma migratoria integral. Han llegado muy cerca, sobre todo en junio del 2007, pero la política partidista y la miopía ideológica han impedido a nuestros representantes elaborar la legislación necesaria.

Ante esta realidad, sostengo que es importante hacer todo lo que esté a nuestro alcance por respetar la ley sin desobedecer a nuestras conciencias. ¿Qué quiero decir con esto?

A menudo oigo a algunas personas referirse a los inmigrantes indocumentados como "esos ilegales". ¿Qué quiere decir eso? ¿Es acaso un ser humano ilegal alguien que excede los límites de velocidad en la carretera I-25? ¿Acaso son "ilegales" quienes mienten en sus declaraciones de impuestos? Es importante establecer que ningún ser humano es "ilegal". La manera en que nos referimos a los demás hace una gran diferencia. Elie Wiesel, ganador del Premio Nobel de la Paz y sobreviviente del Holocausto, declaró: "Ustedes que son llamados ilegales deben saber que ningún ser humano es ilegal. Eso es una contradicción en términos. Los seres humanos pueden ser hermosos o más hermosos, pueden ser gordos o flacos, pueden ser correctos o incorrectos, pero ¿ilegales? ¿Cómo puede un ser humano ser ilegal?" La palabra ilegal no es un sustantivo. Es una palabra que se refiere a las acciones de una persona. Etiquetar como "ilegales" a las personas que están aquí sin documentación adecuada deshumaniza a los inmigrantes. También culpa a personas atrapadas en complejas circunstancias legales, creadas en parte por un sistema de inmigración que está roto.

En nuestro sistema judicial, la palabra "legal" o "ilegal" significa muchas cosas pues existen diversos sistemas y fuentes del Derecho. Existe el Derecho divino, Derecho natural, Derecho constitucional y el Derecho común (Common Law), por nombrar algunos. Algunas leyes se clasifican como criminales y otras como civiles. Y dentro de esas categorías diferenciamos entre delitos graves, delitos menores e infracciones. En realidad, todos vivimos bajo diversos sistemas de leyes y estamos llamados a respetar estas leyes si queremos ser ciudadanos "respetuosos de la ley". Pero, ¿qué si hay conflictos entre estos sistemas? ¿Cómo decido qué leyes obedecer cuando, por ejemplo, la ley civil está en desacuerdo con la ley divina? Aunque tenga que pagar una sanción bajo una ley que he infringido (ejem: no presentarme para cumplir los deberes del ejército) puede ser que tenga una obligación moral para desobedecer esa ley civil para obedecer una ley más alta (la ley de Dios) si mi conciencia dicta tal desobediencia civil.

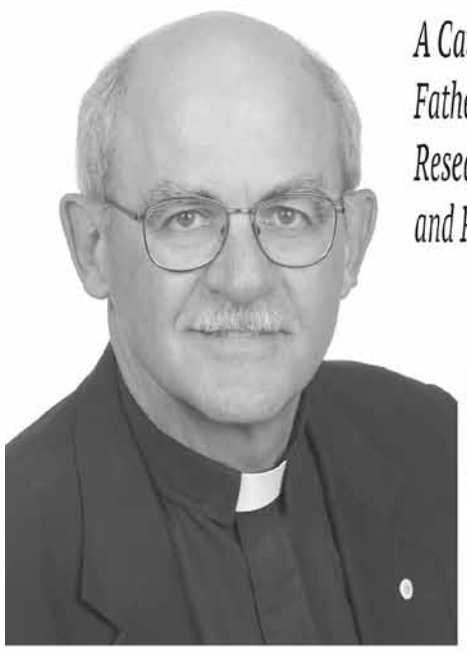
En otras palabras, respeto las leyes de inmigración en principio, a pesar de que tengan terribles defectos en este momento. Sin embargo, al mismo tiempo, mi conciencia me obliga a acoger a los extranjeros entre nosotros, sobre todo si ellos están huyendo de la persecución económica, política o religiosa, o si seguramente se convertirían en víctimas del crimen violento y organizado. El Papa San Juan XXIII, en Pacem in Terris, escribió elocuentemente sobre el derecho de todo ser humano a la libertad de circulación y de residencia. El Papa San Juan Pablo II agregó a esta enseñanza cuando escribió, en su discurso al Nuevo Congreso Mundial sobre la Pastoral de los Inmigrantes en 1985, "Cuando hay razones justas a favor de ello, se debe permitir que [migrante] emigre a otros países y establezca su residencia allí. El hecho de ser ciudadano de un estado particular no le priva de pertenecer a la familia humana, ni a la ciudadanía en la sociedad universal, la comunión universal de la humanidad ". Lógicamente, los Estados Unidos tienen el derecho de proteger y defender sus fronteras, incluso tienen la obligación de hacerlo por la seguridad de todos nosotros. Pero esto no es un derecho indiscutible. Somos un país que ha sido grandemente bendecido. Tenemos la obligación de dar la bienvenida a nuestros hermanos y hermanas, especialmente a quienes sufren persecución de cualquier tipo. Como dijo el Papa Francisco, cuando fue a Lampedusa (Italia) a principios de su pontificado para llorar la trágica muerte de refugiados que se ahogaron buscando liberarse de la opresión y el sufrimiento, "... hemos perdido el sentido de la responsabilidad fraternal". El Papa también lamentó el hecho de que hemos aceptado como normal la cultura de la indiferencia.

Vale la pena señalar que, desde una perspectiva moral, la intención y las consecuencias son críticas para determinar la moralidad de una acción. Los inmigrantes son motivados por el deseo de ofrecer una mejor vida a sus familias, convertirse un día en fieles ciudadanos, y, como he dicho, huir del peligro y en muchos casos, la muerte. Además, ellos contribuyen auténticamente a nuestra sociedad, enriqueciendo nuestra cultura, proporcionando la mano de obra necesaria, aumentando los ingresos fiscales, forjando relaciones duraderas y compartiendo sus sueños y visión para un mejor mañana. El simplemente llamar a algunos de ellos "ilegales" no hace justicia a la realidad ética y humana de su situación. Hay mucho más que se podría decir, pero espero que estos pocos párrafos abran para algunos de nosotros otra manera de ver a nuestras leyes de inmigración y a quienes intentan, pero les resulta imposible, cumplir con estas leyes. Las leyes están destinadas a proteger a la gente, no a perjudicarla. Lamentablemente, nuestras leyes de inmigración están haciendo precisamente eso.

Se nos dice que debemos temer al inmigrante. Los hechos no apoyan tal creencia. Estudios han demostrado que los recién llegados inmigrantes son trabajadores, temen a Dios y contribuyen al bienestar de nuestro país en una variedad de niveles. De hecho, si tenemos que temer a algo, debería ser a las políticas que desgarran a nuestro país, las políticas que nos dividen, que demonizan a los inmigrantes o a cualquier otro grupo de personas y que nos distraen de los peligros reales para nuestra seguridad y nuestras vidas. Las mayores preocupaciones deberían ser las políticas que nos aíslan de la comunidad mundial, que no pueden establecer provisiones para la seguridad de armas, que debilitan nuestro respeto por la santidad de la vida humana a través del aborto o el suicidio asistido y causan divisiones tan grandes en nuestra democracia que el diálogo y la cooperación ya no son posibles. Estas son las verdaderas amenazas a las que nos enfrentamos, además de no promulgar una reforma migratoria integral. Espero que algún día alcancemos este elusivo objetivo, aunque tal parece que ese objetivo elude nuestra comprensión, administración tras administración.

Mientras tanto, exhorto a todos a no dejarse seducir por los mitos políticos o la retórica que engendra miedo. En lugar de eso, tomemos el tiempo para escuchar las historias de los inmigrantes que llegan a nuestras costas y fronteras. ¿Qué es lo que no entiendo sobre "ilegal"? Bueno, hay muchas cosas que no entiendo. Estamos hablando de seres humanos que tienen un valor y dignidad propios. Y realmente no entiendo por qué no podemos construir sobre el rico legado de nuestro gran país y dar, siempre que podamos, la bienvenida al extranjero entre nosotros. Como dijo el Obispo Robert McElroy en su excelente artículo en la revista America (6 de febrero de 2017), "'¿Quién es el pueblo' en los Estados Unidos? Todos nosotros". Y desde mi perspectiva, eso incluye al inmigrante indocumentado que es mi hermano o hermana, un hecho que es más convincente para mí que su estatus legal y que yo realmente creo que lleva más peso. Si es la ley la que está mal diseñada, entonces modifiquemos esta ley para que los inmigrantes ya no tengan que infringirla, y esta no los perjudique a ellos.

How today's immigration crisis challenges people of Faith



A Catholic Social Teaching Seminar with Father Fred Kammer,S.J. Director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute [JSRI] at Loyola University New Orleans and Renowned Author.

The greatest among you will be your servant. Mark 23:11

Come and Learn how to make a difference.

Thursday, August 3 at Santa Lucia parish hall
518 Gallagher El Paso, Tx 79907
Time: 7:00p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Donations Welcomed

A PRIEST: A FAMILY MEMBER, NOT A FUNCTIONARY

By: Fr. Mariano Lopez, Director-Vocation Office

As I learned from Fr. Rick Matty, my first mentor in the priesthood, I was attentive to many of the things he would advise me, but even more attentive to what he would say and do in his pastoral ministry in general. At one moment someone asked him, "Father, we found out that you really have a couple of titles that you have a right to use, but you never go by them. Why is that?" His response was, "There is nothing greater that I can be called other than 'Father'." There are so many ways to interpret his response, but it does shed light on a primary characteristic of the priesthood: to be oriented towards the family of God. Pope Francis has repeatedly mentioned that the priest is not a functionary. He cannot fall into seeing his ministry as a career and as seeing the people of God as a reward, punishment or project. The people of God are the family of God and, within this family, the priest has a privilege of often being referred to as "Father." It is not his official title or role. Technically, the official title of a priest is "Reverend" and his role is that of "Presbyter" (which comes from the name for 'elder' since in the early Church the presbyters were part of an advisory council of the Bishop). "Father" expresses endearment and relationship. While for many Catholics it is customary to refer to the priest as "Father," in order for this term to be used authentically in the Church the priest must seek a relationship with others at the level of the heart.

This past May, our seminarians who study for the Diocese of El Paso gathered for a convocation week. After working and studying with great dedication to their classes and formation activities in their different seminaries in El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, Conception (Missouri), Milwaukee, and Chicago, they gathered for a week of fraternity. As they prepare to become priests, an important thing is to understand that they must not only accomplish goals in a mechanical and professional way, they must learn to be brothers to one another and to the broader diocese. During the convocation week, seminarians visited important historical, cultural and geographical sites in El Paso, in order to further understand the story of their people. They also had a chance to encounter the people they will serve at the End of Year Mass with the Friends of Saint Charles with over one-hundred people attending at Saint Charles Chapel. In addition, they received a blessing in the midst of the community of Saint Patrick Cathedral in which the family of God prayed for their perseverance in their vocation. These moments expressed that the priesthood they prepare for is a life of service, but also of relationship and family life.

Seminarians and Father Mariano Lopez at the seminarian convocation at the Dominican Sisters retreat House.

The Saint Charles Seminary Class of 2017 receives a blessing at their End of Year Mass with the Friends of Saint Charles at the Saint Charles Chapel.

On June 17th, another clear sign of priesthood as fatherhood in the family of God was the ordination of Rev. Thomas Moore (Rudy Barba) O.P. A parishioner of Saint Patrick Cathedral since birth, Rudy discerned a vocation to the priesthood at an early age and upon entering young adulthood, he further discerned a calling to become a Dominican Priest. His ordination happens in the context of family, as his entire family grew up with faithful dedication to the Church. He was blessed with the companionship of not only his biological family at his ordination in Houston, but also his family of God from the Dominican order and several individuals from the Diocese of El Paso also traveled to Houston to celebrate that he would now be a "Father" in the family of God.

We thank God that as several continue their journey to the priesthood in different ways we are surrounded not only by presiders of sacraments and preachers, but rather with men of family. They continue to work hard and to let their hearts be shaped into hearts of caring and selfless fathers who seek to be about the growth and joy of the family.

SACERDOTE: MIENBRO DE UNA FAMILIA, Y NONCIONARIO

Por: Padre Mariano Lopez, Director-Oficina de Vocaciones

Siempre fui atento a los consejos que me dio mi primer mentor, el Padre Rick Matty, pero fui más atento aun a su manera de relacionarse y de hablar con los demás. En una ocasión alguien le pregunto, "Padre, descubrimos que usted tiene un par de títulos, pero que no acostumbra usarlos. ¿Porqué?" Su respuesta fue, "No hay cosa más grande que ser llamado 'Padre'." Hay muchas maneras de interpretar esta respuesta, pero es importante reconocer que da a conocer una característica fundamental del sacerdocio: el estar orientado hacia la familia de Dios. El Papa Francisco ha mencionado repetidas veces que el sacerdote no es un funcionario. Él no puede caer en la tentación de ver su ministerio como una carrera, ni ver al pueblo de Dios como una recompensa, un castigo o un proyecto. El pueblo de Dios es la familia de Dios y, dentro de esta familia, el sacerdote tiene el privilegio de ser llamado "Padre." No es su título oficial ni su papel. Técnicamente, el título oficial del sacerdote es "Reverendo" y su papel es de "Presbítero" (que viene de la palabra que significa 'anciano' ya que en la iglesia primitiva los presbíteros eran el consejo del Obispo). "Padre" expresa cariño y relación. Para muchos católicos es costumbre decirle al sacerdote "Padre," y para que este nombre sea autentico en la iglesia el sacerdote debe relacionarse hacia los demás por medio del corazón.

Seminarians gather at the tramway in Northeast El Paso for an informative tour.

Este pasado mayo, nuestros seminaristas que estudian para la Diócesis de El Paso se reunieron para una semana de convocatoria. Después de trabajar y estudiar con gran dedicación en sus cursos y actividades de formación en sus distinto seminarios en El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, Conception (Missouri), Milwaukee, y Chicago, se reunieron para una semana de fraternidad. Al prepararse para ser sacerdotes, es importante comprender que no solo deben cumplir con metas de una manera mecánica o profesional, ellos deben aprender a ser hermanos los unos con otros y con la diócesis en general. Durante la semana de convocatoria, los seminaristas visitaron lugares históricos, culturales y geográficos de El Paso, para entender más a fondo la historia de su gente. En la Misa de Fin de Año con los Amigos de San Carlos tuvieron la oportunidad de reunirse con personas a quien servirán en su ministerio (asistieron más de cien personas a la misa en la capilla del seminario). Más aun, recibieron una bendición especial, por su perseverancia, en medio de la comunidad de la Catedral de San Patricio. Estos momentos expresan que el sacerdocio para el cual se preparan es una vida de servicio, pero también de convivencia y familia.

El 17 de junio, otra señal clara del sacerdocio como paternidad en la familia de Dios fue la ordenación del Rev. Tomas Moro (Rudy Barba) O.P. Siendo feligrés del a Catedral de San Patricio desde su nacimiento, Rudy discernió su vocación al sacerdocio desde una edad temprana y como adulto joven, discernió más a fondo el llamado a ser Sacerdote Dominico. Su ordenación sucede en un contexto de familia, ya que su familia entera creció con dedicación a la Iglesia. Tuvo la bendición de contar no solo con su familia biológica en la ordenación en Houston, más aún su familia de Dios de la Orden Dominica, y varios individuos de la Diócesis de El Paso viajaron a Houston para celebrar que ahora sería un "Padre" en la familia de Dios.

The newly ordained Father Thomas Moore (Rudy Barba) gives Monsignor David Fierro, who baptized him in El Paso, a blessing after his ordination mass.

Le damos gracias a Dios que varios continúan su jornada hacia el sacerdocio de diferentes maneras y que estamos rodeados no solo por personas que presiden en los sacramentos y predicadores, pero más bien con hombres de familia. Ellos siguen trabajando con fuerzas y siguen dejando que sus corazones sean formados en corazones cariñosos y entregados de padres que buscan ocuparse con el crecimiento y la alegría de la familia.

Seminarian Summer Assignments

Clinical Pastoral Training (Summer Hospital Training):
Ivan Montelongo, Michael Lewis, Christus Alapini, Victorino Loresca, Miguel Perez, German Alzate and Angel Valdez.

Summer Spirituality Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha Nebraska:
Sergio Legarreta, Cesar Garcia, Wilbert Colas, Peter Venegas and Alfonso Coronado

Parish Assignments:
Francisco Enriquez- Corpus Christi Parish
Edroud Jean-West Texas Catholic Communities
Jose William Arevalo- West Texas Catholic Communities
Martin Munoz-Catechetical Center (Residence at Saint Patrick Cathedral)
Angel Tarango- Saint Paul Parish
Luis Rodarte- Saint Patrick Cathedral
Sam Anchondo- San Antonio Parish
Aldo Camacho- Vocation Office and San Juan Diego Parish

LOS CAMINOS DE LA VIDA

Vida del Espiritu
por el Padre Wilson Cuevas

En todo lo que hacemos buscamos siempre la propia felicidad! sin embargo: Podemos tener dinero en abundancia, lujosa mansión. Altos cargos políticos, una profesión que va dando muchas satisfacciones. Podemos viajar por todo el mundo, conocer los lugares más hermosos, las ruinas más antiguas. Podemos comer los más ricos platillos, paladear los vinos más finos. Podemos viajar en el más lujoso avión y hospedarnos en el mejor hotel del mundo. Podemos tener como amigos los hombres más destacados o famosos en el arte, en el deporte, en la política, negocios o ciencia. Podemos tener a todo el mundo a nuestros pies como fieles súbditos, mas la felicidad que anhelamos no la alcanzaremos si no tenemos una conciencia tranquila, una conciencia que no nos reproche el estar actuando en contra de la ley divina y humana...

La mayor parte de los seres humanos nos declaramos creyentes. Buscamos a Dios de diversa manera, pensamos distinto, sentimos diferente, anhelamos cosas diferentes. La religión que es vinculo que nos une con Dios, debería unirnos a los seres humanos, no sepáranos y menos sea por ser1312 motivo de división y de terrorismo. Por el contrario vivir como creyentes en Dios, es más, esto exige una práctica para cumplir las grandes responsabilidades. El hombre sin temor de Dios es capaz de cualquier cosa! Pero es peor aun cometer actos crueles en nombre de Dios!

Cuando el extinto presidente de los Estados Unidos, John F. Kennedy visito México, se encamino a la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y se arrodillo devotamente ante la imagen milagrosa de la Virgen. Cuando celebre mi primera misa en mi ciudad, me encontré con la novedad que un viejo amigo era el Gobernador del Estado y al verme en pleno centro se bajo de su automóvil para darme un abrazo, después me beso las manos mientras me decía: "Como amigo te abrazo pero como sacerdote beso tus manos consagradas". El 23 de Febrero de 1936, murió en Argentina Manuel A. Rodríguez quien fuera ministro de guerra. En su carpeta de trabajo se encontraron estas máximas: " Silenciosamente cumplir con el propio deber. Silenciosamente aceptar la voluntad de Dios en todo. Silenciosamente alegrarse con los demás. Silenciosamente callar los defectos ajenos. Silenciosamente hacer todo el bien que podemos. Silenciosamente desear y aspirar en silencio. Silenciosamente abrazar la cruz de Jesús. Silenciosamente sacrificarse y renunciar. Silenciosamente mirar hacia la patria celestial" Todos los cargos y ocupaciones son caminos que pueden conducir a Dios!

Hay en el hombre tres grandes pasiones que lo llevan a excederse en el uso de las cosas terrenas y al final lo conducen a su infelicidad y a su ruina: EL ORGULLO, LA LUJURIA Y LA AVARICIA, que en nuestro tiempo se esconde bajo el nombre de la propia seguridad. Pero también hay tres fuerzas que cautivan la atención del ser humano en su caminar por esta tierra: EL PODER, LA FAMA Y EL POSEER. Son tres fuerzas que bien orientadas hacer del hombre un portador de luz y mal manejadas lo convierten en el demonio. Aprender a vivir es contar con la sabiduría divina, de modo que el PODER se use para SERVIR, la FAMA para llegar a MUCHOS y el POSEER para COMPARTIR. Saber vivir es actuar con rectitud de intensión. Así el poder no es para dominar, la fama no es para humillar y el poseer no nos mueve a acumular con una ambición desmedida. El mejor camino para lograrlo lo señalo Jesús con su ejemplo y enseñanza al centrar LA VIDA EN EL SERVICIO, sus palabras deben resonar en nuestro espíritu: "El que quiera llegar a ser grande entre ustedes, que se haga servidor de los demás; y el que quiera ser el primero que se haga esclavo de todos. Así como el Hijo del Hombre no vino a ser servido sino a servir y dar la vida como rescate por muchos" (Mt. 20,26-28).

Lo que cuenta en la vida no es lo que hemos adquirido sino lo que hemos hecho! Nadie lo sabe y puede todo, solo Dios. Decía San Agustín: "Cuando el hombre se arrodilla ante Dios, Dios lo corona". Debemos hincarnos ante Jesús Sacramentado y orar para tener la sabiduría y la gracia de confiar en que Dios nos ama mucho más de lo que nosotros nos amamos, para estar seguros que El, siempre está a nuestro lado, listo para hacer lo que sea mejor para nosotros. Señor, ayúdanos a vernos como realmente somos. Sobre todo ayúdanos a ver lo que cuenta cuando estemos al final de la vida en este mundo, que no es la riqueza que adquirimos durante la vida, sino las personas que nos hicimos en el proceso de vivir... Que camino has escogido seguir? A donde quieres ir con las cosas que estás haciendo? Que es lo más importante para ti? Confía en Dios y sigue adelante!

DO WE REALLY KNOW? OF COURSE WE DO!

Sidewalk Jesus
by
Janet M. Crowe

Summer plans? My summer project started several weeks ago when my son gave me flowers for Mother's Day. However, the flowers were a "from scratch" bouquet – a ten-foot carpet-like mesh embedded with a variety of seeds.

Despite diligent twice daily waterings, I could see no growth for two weeks and reported to my son that he had given me an interesting mud bouquet. Later, tiny green flecks appeared on top of the mud, some still wearing seed-shell caps. Soon after, leaves appeared and some even managed to grow stems to support the leaves. There might possibly be some blossoms or buds by the time summer ends but the hodgepodge of assorted green sprouts doesn't much resemble a floral bouquet just yet.

A friend asked what flower each diverse leaf arrangement would become. I had to confess my botanical ignorance and admit that, at least, the plants know what they are supposed to look like. Luckily, I simply need to provide adequate water and dirt while letting the plants' genetic makeup do the rest. Although I may not recognize the differences, some are already daisies and others are clover. Likewise, the Mexican Hats will neither mutate into wearable caps nor will the Candytufts convert into chocolate sweets. Each seed's genetic material is already present for the development of the proper leaves and blossoms, as long as I continue to provide the nutrition and safe environment.

In the same way, at the very moment of human conception, sperm and egg unite to form a unique human being. It won't make a difference when an older sister requests a puppy instead of a baby brother. It doesn't matter that ignorant minds claim they don't know when human life begins. And random tissue doesn't instantly transform after nine months into human life. The human genetic framework and instructions were already there from the very beginning. A human child is alive and growing from the very first moment of conception through the nine months within his mother's womb and continuing throughout his life until his natural death, hopefully, many years later.

My tiny sprigs of green don't yet resemble flowers. At the beginning of life, the preborn child doesn't yet resemble a newborn infant. However, teenagers don't look the same as they did on the day of their birth, nor do many ninety-year-old women have the same appearance as they did in their prime.

As my mother always told me, "Beauty is only skin deep; it's what's on the inside that counts." Fetus, newborn, toddler, adolescent, teenager, adult, and elderly are simply labels for stages in our human life. However, on the inside, the genetic substance of a person remains the same at every one of those stages.

Test the DNA of a preborn baby and compare those test results throughout the years of that person's life. DNA remains the same from the beginning of life at conception to the end. If a preborn baby has human DNA, he is a person – not a glob of tissue, not a product of conception, not a choice. All he needs for the first nine months are nutrition and a safe environment to continue living the life he has already begun.

Does anyone really know when life begins? Maybe cavemen in ancient times did not, but civilization has brought medical advances with scientific proof that life begins at the moment of conception. Only those who choose to remain blind to reality can claim they do not know, and that is their choice. However, ignorance does not transform a child into a choice.

Look inside at what counts. Can we see the truth or do we choose to believe the lies?

FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

PRAY. SERVE. GIVE.

Progress
BISHOP'S MINISTRY APPEAL | 2017

Congratulations to the following Churches that have reached their Pledge Goal

Felicidades a las siguientes Iglesias que han logrado ya su Meta en Promesas

Christ the King – Balmorhea
Guardian Angel
Our Lady of Assumption
Our Lady of Guadalupe – Saragosa
Our Lady of Miracles - Sierra Blanca
Queen of Peace
Roger Bacon Seminary
Sacred Heart – Valentine
San Antonio de Padua
San Isidro - Dell City
San Lorenzo – Clint
St. Ignatius
St. Joseph
St. Mary – Marfa
St. Patrick Cathedral

Almost there everyone!

We just need a little more help and Progress will reach goal!

If you have not made your pledge to the Bishop's 2017 Ministry Appeal, please do so today. We rely on the generosity of parishioners to meet our goal of $2,300,000 and 12,000 donors. Thanks to the generosity of nearly 9,000 donors, we only need $500,000 to reach our goal this year. Be 1 of the 12,000 donors and help us continue to support the 17 diocesan ministries. The work of the ministries is not possible without your donations and prayers.

Your Gift Will Help Fund
Tuition for the Diocese's seminarians
Counseling services for troubled individuals
Training for a new class of deacon candidates
Programs that strengthen Catholic marriages and families
Ongoing formation of parish catechists
Faith based activities for children, youth and young adults
Outreach Programs in Rural West Texas

That we may recognize our need to give of what we have to help others through the Bishop's Annual Appeal...WE PRAY TO THE LORD.
Make your donation today to Progress. THANK YOU For All the Encouraging Words, Prayers of Faith, and Donations!
Donations can be made by calling the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso at 915-872-8412 or by visiting progress2017.org or by mailing your donation to P.O Box 17993, El Paso, Texas 79917.
Like us on Facebook and follow us on twitter.

Hola a Todos, ¡Ya Casi lo Logramos!

Sólo necesitamos un poco más de ayuda y Progreso lograra la meta.

Si usted no ha hecho ya su promesa para La Campaña Anual de Progreso 2017, por favor, hágalo hoy. Confiamos en la generosidad de los feligreses para alcanzar nuestra meta de $2,300,000 y 12,000 donantes. Gracias a la generosidad de casi 9,000 donantes, sólo necesitamos $500,000 dólares para alcanzar nuestro objetivo de este año. Sea uno de los 12,000 donantes y ayúdenos a seguir apoyando a los 17 ministerios diocesanos. El trabajo de los ministerios no es posible sin sus oraciones y donaciones.

Su donativo ayudará a financiar
Matrícula para los seminaristas de la Diócesis
Servicios de consejería y asesoramiento profesional para personas con problemas
Capacitación para una nueva clase de candidatos al diaconado
Programas que fortalecen a los matrimonios católicos y sus familias
Formación permanente para los catequistas de las parroquias
Actividades basadas en la fe para niños, jóvenes y jóvenes adultos
Programas de Alcance en la Fe para las Áreas Rurales en West Texas

Que podamos reconocer la necesidad de dar de lo que tenemos para ayudar a otros, a través de la Campaña Anual del Señor Obispo...ORAMOS AL SEÑOR.
Haga su donativo hoy a Progreso. GRACIAS por sus Palabras de Aliento, Oraciones de Fe y Donaciones
Los donativos se pueden hacer llamando al: 872-8412, visitándonos en: progess2017.org. También puede mandarlos a: P.O Box 17993, El Paso, Texas 79917.
"Like us" en Facebook y síganos en "twitter".

17 Ministries Supported by Progress
Ministerios Diocesanos Sostenidos Financieramente por Progreso

Seminarian and Diaconate Formation
Formación de Seminaristas y Diaconado
Major Seminarians Office

Permanent Diaconate Ministry
St. Charles Seminary
Vocations Ministry

Education and Formation
Educación y Formación
Office of Education (Catholic Schools)
Religious Formation Ministry
Tepeyac Institute

Pastoral Outreach
Alcance Pastoral
Catholic Campus Ministry
Catholic Counseling Services
Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services
Marriage and Family Life Ministry
Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Evangelization
Evangelización
Communications Ministry
Peace and Justice Ministry
Tigua Native American Ministry
West Texas Ministry
Office of Worship

3rd Annual Dei Gratia Award Winners Announced

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

Rudy & Elvia Miles will be honored as the recipients of the Dei Gratia Award during the 11th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner: Journey to Faith on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the El Paso Convention Center.

The Dei Gratia Award, Latin for "By the Grace of God", recognizes an individual, couple, or organization for their servant leadership, outstanding contribution to the Diocese of El Paso and our Catholic community, and their dedication to being good stewards of God's grace.

Rudolph "Rudy" Miles was born in El Paso on April 29, 1920 and passed away on June 23, 2016. Elvia was born on September 4, 1922 in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico and turns 95 this year. Rudy and Elvia were married on November 6, 1944 at La Iglesia de Sagrado Corazón in Juárez and had been married for 71 years at the time Rudy's passing. They brought ten children into the world and have 24 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

Elvia and Rudy Miles Wedding

Elvia and Rudy Miles

Rudy was a founding board member of the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, established in 2001, and held many leadership positions, including President and Lifetime Member of the Optimist Club and President of the Customs Brokers Association from 1978-1984. He also served on the Board of Directors for First City National Bank, El Paso Downtown Rotary Club (President), El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Regional Export Council, El Paso Cancer Treatment Center, El Paso Country Club, Father Yermo Schools, Stanton Medical Building, and Hospice of El Paso.

Rudy and Elvia gave a gift to help establish the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, set up named endowed funds for St. Patrick Historic Preservation for St. Patrick Cathedral and the Retired Priest Appreciation Fund, and quietly and generously gave of their time and resources to the El Paso community for decades. They were passionate about supporting our priests, men who offer their lives without expectation of financial gain beyond that which they need to sustain themselves. Their children have fond memories of priests at the house for dinner and during the holidays. In recent years, they contributed to the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund to help train and educate future priests. Rudy and Elvia were dedicated parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral.

Rudy believed that through hard work, determination, and a strong faith in God, anyone could accomplish their desired goals in life. Rudy and Elvia were inseparable, united by faith, and completely devoted to their family and the Church. They leave an indelible mark on our diocese and through their children leave a great legacy of faith.

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

Miles Family Picture

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.

Rudy and Elvia

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso will also host An Intimate Evening with Tom Leopold on Wednesday, September 20 at 6pm at a private home. Sponsorships of $2,500 and up provide you with invitations to attend this special event, which includes dinner, wine, and one-on-one time with our keynote speaker.

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.

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.

Bowling for Seminarians is BACK!

Back by popular demand... BOWLING FOR SEMINARIANS is set for Friday, August 4, 2017 at Oasis Lanes on Zaragoza from 6-9 p.m. at Oasis Lanes (1660 N. Zaragoz). Bishop Mark Seitz, priests, seminarians, sisters, brothers, and teams from all over the El Paso community are going to bowl for a cause, turning an evening of bowling into a blessing. 100% of the proceeds benefit the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund.

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso invites you to bowl for a GREAT cause: OUR SEMINARIAN. Our new vicar general, Fr. Ben Flores, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament, says he is confident that his teams can take on the 2015 champions from St. Raphael Parish. Come out and see who wins!

Teams of 5 must raise a minimum of $500 per team. All bowlers get the free use of bowling shoes and an event t-shirt. Spectators are free. Donations in any amount are welcome. Don't have a team but want to play? We will connect you with other bowlers. 100% of the proceeds, including 20% of the food and beverage sales, benefit the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund.

The cost to educate and train one seminarian, including tuition, health insurance, and room and board at a major seminary, can cost as much as $40,000 per year and averages $35,000 annually. The Seminarian Formation Program—St. Charles Seminary—receives funding from a wide variety of sources including the Bishop's Annual Appeal, managed by the Catholic Foundation, Catholic Extension, the Committee on the Home Missions, a Second Collection, other grants, a Diocesan Trust Subsidy, the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus, many generous individuals and organizations, and the Foundation's Seminarian Education Endowment Fund.

To give to the Seminarian Education Endowment Fund or for more information about our seminarians and upcoming events, like Bowling for Seminarians on Friday, August 4, visit pray4priests.org. To learn more about seminarian education and vocations to the priesthood, contact Fr. Mariano H. López, Rector of St. Charles Seminary at the Vocations Office at 915.872.8460 or mlopez@elpasodiocese.org. www.pray4priests.org

HOLY TRINITY RETREAT CENTER

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

14548 SIMPSON * EL PASO TX 79938

WWW.HTRCEP.COM

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

HOLYTRINITYREGISTRY@GMAIL.COM

ASCENSION C. MENA, M.D. - 915-373-8100
SERGIO SOTO, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS - 915-355-0978
ARTURO MENA JR., MANAGER - 480-370-3997

HOLY TRINITY RETREAT CENTER
HOLY TRINITY RETREAT CENTER
WWW.HTRCEP.COM
ELPASO, TEXAS

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

UPCOMING RETREATS

JUL 6 - ACTS - ST MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH (MENS/SPANISH) 915-857-2955
JUL 7 - FAITH SHARING GROUP
JUL 13 - ACTS - SAN ANTONIO CATHOLIC CHURCH (TEEN) 915-598-1457
JUL 20 - ACTS - ST. PIUX X CHURCH (MEN/SPANISH) 915-772-3226
JUL 27 - ACTS - CRISTO REY CATHOLIC CHURCH (MENS/SPANISH) 915-591-0688
AUG 3 - ACTS - SAINT MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH (WOMEN) 915-857-2955
AUG 4 - WOMEN OF THE WELL
AUG 10 - ACTS - ST RAPHAEL CHURCH (WOMEN/ENGLISH) 915-598-3431
SEP 1 - PRIVATE FUNCTION
SEP 7 - ACTS - ST RAPHAEL CHURCH - (MENS/ENGLISH) 915-598-3431
SEP 14 - ACTS - ST MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH - (WOMENS/SPANISH) 915-857-2955
SEP 28 - ACTS - ST PETER & PAUL - (WOMENS/SPANISH) 915-859-3758