

Celebrating San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado



A painting depicting the arrest and martyrdom of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado that hangs in the Church of Boca Del Río.
For More Coverage, See Page 4.

My Dynamic Duo of Two Mothers The Bridge-El Puente Turns One!



Sister Janet selfie with her two dynamic “mothers”: St Elizabeth Seton and Our Lady of Guadalupe taken outside their house in La Union, NM For more coverage, See Page 10.



The Bridge/El Puente Radio Programming Director Joe Garcia and Bishop Mark Seitz announce the launch of the Catholic radio station for the borderland one year ago. For more coverage, See Page 8.

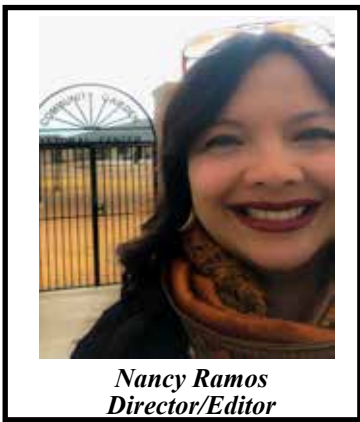
Growing Soon!

My mother, Mary, had the most amazing garden. I remember it well. Summer days were spent finding worms, playing with desert caterpillars and holding ladybugs in my hand. She would be gardening most mornings and as she gardened she would hand me bumblebees to hold in my hand. She would tell me, “Es un abejorro y no pica, hold it” and they never did sting me. I remember Miguelito along the rock walls, madreSelva on the fence and our favorite morning glory growing up and down and all around the house. Their scents would fill the summer night air that breezed into our rooms as we slept with the windows open. My sisters and I would wake to pull the wicks out of the honeysuckle vine and taste the morning nectar. My mom raised three girls and a traditional Mexican garden with all the herbs needed to season her menudo and plants to cure a stomach ache. Her time in the garden was therapeutic for her and that special time is one of the fondest memories I have of my

childhood. My mom inherited a home that my father purchased as a gift to his own mom with his GI bill benefits after coming home from the war (World War II). He promised his mom he would always take care of her and he never married until after she passed. I guess you could say my dad was the quintessential Mama’s boy--committed to care for his first love until her passing. That house raised many generations in my family and always had a thriving garden even to this day. In our home two gardens were grown, the first was my grandmother’s, the second my mother’s. My grandmother’s garden grew around a central rosemary bush. It was more like a tree than a bush because it was so large. El romero would overpower the scent of all the other herbs and flowers she grew. Toloaches grew along the side of the house and early on we were forewarned not to eat them or stick our fingers in our mouth after touching

them. The garden had plenty of different colored oleanders that decorated the surrounding area as well as a pear tree that lent us shade while providing the family fresh pears annually. For cooking purposes she grew epazote herb that grew rampant along with thyme and marjoram. She grew estafiate, annatto, squash, oregano, onions and lemon verbena. Her garden, of course, included the go-to medicinal herb for an upset stomach, the well known hierbabuena. I never met my paternal grandmother but growing up in her house and garden gave me the feeling that I knew her. My mom loved my grandmother’s garden and kept it growing while adding on to it. My mom loved chile, all kinds of chile, so she added to the garden her favorite varieties of chiles. My mom added pomegranate trees or as we called them “granadas”. As kids we loved to use the granadas as weapons. We would throw them at each other hard enough to leave strawberries

on our skin and break open so we could eat the inside. Who would have guessed there were so many health benefits growing in our own backyard arsenal. My mother also added, tomatillo plants, watermelons, lantana bushes and many, many rose bushes. She would spend hours with her roses. My dad, an avid Polaroid photographer, took pictures every year of my mom posing with her roses. For six years after she passed he placed roses from her garden in her bedroom almost daily. Soon after my mom’s death some of the flowers and plants she tended in her house started popping up around my home, the house I lived in at the time with my husband and kids. First to pop up were chile bushes and then toloaches. Huge lantana bushes and then desert lilies started to grow. I, being “too busy” to garden, would remove these plants from the roots and then a few weeks later there they were again. These plants from my mom’s garden that were invading



my house were invincible, almost super plants. They would not die or leave and they just kept coming back each time I had them removed. These plants even survived the severe winter freeze we had a few years ago. Nothing survived that freeze! Eventually it was useless so I stopped trying to kill them. We no longer own that house but as I look back now I think maybe she was trying to tell me something. It was as if she was trying to talk to me from the afterworld. I know now she was probably telling me to stop being too busy to garden. She was telling me to stop and smell the roses. Mom, this time I’m listening.

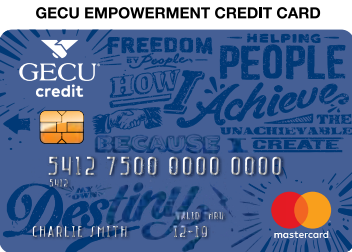
The Diocese of El Paso is building a community garden at the Pastoral Center in honor of Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si. We have decided a community garden is a perfect way to engage with our community in caring for our common home. It is also an opportunity for us to live out some of Jesus’ parables. God’s first act of creation was building a garden, The Garden of Eden. In our community garden we can experience the life and death of Jesus in the act of planting a seedling and watching it burst into life, a new creation. There exists so many wonderful and worshipful lessons we can learn and share. Our community garden can become another demonstration of God’s promise for our future.

Our community garden is in it’s infancy right now with just two canopies, cinder blocks and a beautifully crafted iron gate. But soon we’ll be building the first beds and come this March we will be hosting demonstrations with our friends the Master Gardeners. I invite you, our readers, and our surrounding communities to participate in the first planting by adopting a bed. Or you can just come out and help us plant. Join me in this new venture as we garden in a profound act of worship. It looks like this time, I am going to be *busy* gardening. Please join me as I pray for my ancestors’ green thumbs.

The Community Garden at The Pastoral Center is located at 8330 Park Haven Ave. 79907 For more information please email nramos@elpasodiocese.org or call 915.872.8414.



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We Have A Saint!

On a Thursday, January 25th, of 1918 a small group gathered in St. Patrick’s, the recently dedicated Cathedral of the newly formed Diocese of El Paso and our first bishop, Joseph Schuler, Ordained to the Priesthood a young man from Chihuahua, Mexico. His name was Pedro de Jesus Maldonado. He came to El Paso for his Ordination because his own bishop was being treated in Mexico City for an illness. Besides, public worship was a risky activity in Chihuahua in those days during the Mexican Revolution and prior to the Cristero War.

Pedro prostrated himself upon the floor of the Cathedral as the Litany of the Saints was invoked and the bishop added his petition that the Holy Spirit would consecrate this young man to priestly service. After the prayer Pedro approached the bishop who solemnly laid hands upon his head.

As Pedro knelt before him the bishop continued with the consecratory prayer asking

that God would renew within him the Spirit of holiness and that he might be a faithful steward of God’s Mysteries. Bishop Schuler prayed that through Pedro God’s people would be renewed in the waters of rebirth through Baptism, nourished at God’s altar through the Eucharist, reconciled through the Sacrament of Penance and that the sick might be raised up through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

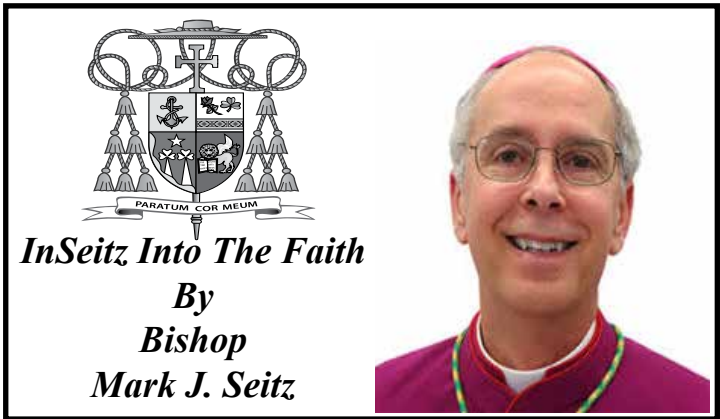
So began the priestly service of this young Chihuahuan. Presumably his first Mass would also have been celebrated in El Paso although the formal celebration took place in Chihuahua on February 11th of that year.

He served at the parish of San Nicolás de Carretas for a number of years. At the time of his arrival an epidemic was spreading among the people there and he served them without fear. Then in 1924 he was assigned to the parish of San Isabel, south of Chihuahua. He energetically set about teaching the faith sometimes using songs and

dramas to convey the message. He initiated Nocturnal Adoration in his Diocese and he established the first Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Although the Cristero War had ended great antipathy toward the Church continued in Chihuahua. In 1934 Fr. Maldonado was deported by the government to El Paso but he quickly returned to serve his people. Upon his return he began living in hiding in a small village outside of Santa Isabel named Boquilla del Río.

On Ash Wednesday, February 10th of 1937, after hearing Confessions, Fr. Pedro was captured by a group of police and others. He was marched barefoot into the city hall of San Isabel followed by faithful women of the parish. There he was brutally beaten by city officials. Struck in the head by a pistol he fell to the floor covered in blood. The pix filled with hosts he was carrying fell out and one of his attackers forced him to consume them before he lost consciousness. It was his last



Communion, Viaticum.

The next day, February 11, 1937, on the 19th Anniversary of his First Mass, Fr. Pedro de Jesus Maldonado died. His Faith, his courage and his dedication to the service of God’s people has never been forgotten. On May 21st, of 2000, Fr. Maldonado along with 24 other martyrs of the Cristero War was canonized as a Saint by Pope John Paul II.

It is with great pride that we in El Paso recall our significant role in San Pedro’s life! It was here in our Cathedral that he received the gift of the Spirit and his call to service as a priest was confirmed. I hope you

will join me as we gather at St. Patrick’s Cathedral along with the Archbishop of Chihuahua, members of his family and many others on Thursday, January 25th at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate the Centenary of his Ordination. Check the entire schedule of events which will take place that week.

We here in El Paso can make a claim few communities can make: we have a Saint! San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado, pray for us!
Bp. Mark

¡Tenemos un Santo!

El jueves 25 de Enero de 1918 un pequeño grupo se reunió en la Iglesia San Patricio, la recientemente dedicada Catedral de la recién formada Diócesis en El Paso y donde nuestro primer Obispo, Joseph Schuler, ordenó al Sacerdocio a un joven de Chihuahua, México. Su nombre era Pedro de Jesús Maldonado. El vino a El Paso para ordenarse como sacerdote porque su propio Obispo estaba siendo tratado en la Ciudad de México por una enfermedad. Además, el culto público era una actividad arriesgada en Chihuahua en esos días durante la Revolución Mexicana y antes de la Guerra Cristera.

Pedro se postró en el piso de la Catedral cuando se invocó la letanía de los santos y el obispo añadió su petición de que el Espíritu Santo consagrara a este joven al servicio sacerdotal. Después de la oración, Pedro se acercó al Obispo, quien solemnemente le puso las manos

en la cabeza.

Cuando Pedro se arrodilló ante él, el Obispo continuó con la oración consagrada pidiendo que Dios renovara en su interior el Espíritu de santidad y que pudiera ser un fiel administrador de los Misterios de Dios. El Obispo Schuler oró para que por medio de Pedro el pueblo de Dios fuese renovado en las aguas del renacimiento por el Bautismo, nutrido en el altar de Dios a través de la Eucaristía, reconciliado por el Sacramento de la Penitencia y que los enfermos pudieran ser resucitados por el Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos.

Así comenzó el servicio sacerdotal de este joven Chihuahuense. Es de suponer que su primera Misa también se habría celebrado en El Paso, aunque la celebración formal tuvo lugar en Chihuahua, el 11 de febrero de ese mismo año.

Presto sus servicios en la parroquia de San Nicolás

de Carretas durante varios años. En el momento de su llegada, una epidemia se estaba extendiendo entre la gente de allí y él les servía sin temor. Luego, en 1924, fue asignado a la parroquia de San Isabel, al sur de Chihuahua. Enérgicamente se dedicó a enseñar la fe, a veces usando canciones y dramas para transmitir el mensaje. Inició la Adoración Nocturna en su Diócesis y estableció el primer Consejo de los Caballeros de Colón.

Aunque la guerra de los Cristeros había terminado, continuaba una gran antipatía hacia la Iglesia en Chihuahua. En 1934 el Padre Maldonado fue deportado por el gobierno a El Paso, pero él se regresó rápidamente para servir a su pueblo. A su regreso, comenzó a vivir escondido en un pequeño pueblo a las afueras de Santa Isabel, llamada también Boquilla del Río.

El 10 de febrero de

1937, Miércoles de Ceniza, después de escuchar confesiones, el Padre Pedro fue capturado por un grupo de policías y otras personas. Lo llevaron descalzo al ayuntamiento de San Isabel seguido de mujeres fieles de la parroquia. Allí fue brutalmente golpeado por los funcionarios de la ciudad. Golpeado en la cabeza por una pistola, cayó al suelo cubierto de sangre. La copa llena de consagraciones que llevaba se cayó y uno de sus atacantes lo obligó a consumirlos antes de perder el conocimiento. Fue su última Comunión, el Viático (la Eucaristía otorgada a una persona cercana o en peligro de muerte).

Al día siguiente, el 11 de febrero de 1937, en el 19 ° aniversario de su primera Misa, el Padre Pedro de Jesús Maldonado murió. Su fe, su coraje y su dedicación al servicio del pueblo de Dios nunca han sido olvidados. El 21 de mayo del 2000, el Padre Maldonado, junto con otros 24 mártires de la Guerra de los

Cristeros, fue canonizado como Santo por el Papa Juan Pablo II.

¡Es con gran orgullo que en El Paso recordamos nuestro importante papel en la vida de San Pedro! Fue aquí en nuestra Catedral donde recibió el don del Espíritu y donde su llamado al servicio como sacerdote fue confirmado. Espero que nos acompañen cuando nos reunamos en la Catedral de San Patricio, junto con el Arzobispo de Chihuahua, miembros de su familia y muchas otras personas. El jueves 25 de enero, a las 7:00 p.m. para celebrar el Centenario de su Ordenación. Verifique el calendario completo de eventos que tendrá lugar esa misma semana.

Aquí en El Paso podemos hacer un reclamo que pocas comunidades pueden hacer: ¡tenemos un Santo! ¡San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, ruega por nosotros!

Obispo Mark



Celebrating San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado 20th Century Martyr and Saint

By Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

Can you ever imagine the Catholic Church being outlawed in Mexico? For over 70 years in Mexico the Catholic Church actually was outlawed which at one time meant the Church could not own property, have schools, monasteries and convents. For a period of time the Church in Mexico could only have a restricted number of priests and it could not defend itself publicly or in the court system. During the 1920's Mexicans were jailed for wearing religious items and worshipping in public was punishable by hanging or by firing squad. The Mexican government did everything in its power to barely allow the Catholic Church in Mexico to exist. This was an attack on the Catholic Church in Mexico and led to an internal battle known as the Cristero War.

The Cristero War also known as the Cristero Rebellion (La Cristiada) took place in Mexico from 1926-1929. With such severe restrictions being placed on Mexican Catholics, government confiscation of Catholic Church properties and the deportation, imprisonment and murder of clergy many churches decided to close and go underground. During this time many Catholic faithful took up arms to defend their right to religious freedom. Close to 50,000 people eventually made up the rebellion force with the rallying cry, "Viva Cristo Rey!"

The Cristero War not only impacted Mexico, it also impacted the United States with mass emigration or modern day exodus from primarily the west central region of Mexico into the Southwest and Midwest United States. Literally thousands of Mexican citizens, mostly Catholic, left their war torn country in droves. Believe it or not the Catholic Church was not

restored as a legal entity in Mexico until 1992! This painful history for Mexico is still relatively recent.

One remarkable priest who was martyred and eventually canonized as a saint, was Chihuahua city's very own St. Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero. Born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, on June 15, 1892, he entered seminary at age 17. He would say his purpose as a seminarian was: "I thought of having my heart always in heaven, in the tabernacle" which became the ideal of his life and source of all his priestly activity. Due to the beginning of what would become a very dire political situation in Mexico he came to El Paso in 1914 to study for the priesthood. He was ordained in 1918 by the first bishop in the Diocese of El Paso, Bishop Anthony Joseph Schuler in our very own St. Patrick Cathedral.

He returned to Chihuahua to serve in San Nicolás de Carretas knowing very well what the dangers were of being a Catholic priest in Mexico at the time. In 1924, he served as parish priest of Santa Isabel in Chihuahua. His enthusiasm with the children's Sunday school and Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament made him well known and liked by many parishioners.

In 1929, President Plutarco Elías Calles accepted agreements with Mexican bishops that churches could return to celebrating mass. Despite the agreements the

Mexican government continued persecuting priests and Catholics and violence against the Church continued to worsen.

In 1934, Father Maldonado was deported from Santa Isabel to El Paso, Texas. He returned to his parish in Mexico as soon as he could, staying in Boquilla del Río close to his Santa Isabel parish. On Feb. 10, 1937, Ash Wednesday, after hearing confessions, he was captured by a group of armed men and then beaten mercilessly. During the vicious attack in a most sarcastic gesture by one of his attackers, he was given the Eucharist to eat. He died the next morning on Thursday February 11.

This January 25th, 2018 marks the 100th year anniversary of St. Pedro de Jesús Maldonado's ordination to the priesthood. In a week long series of celebratory events from January 22 to January



Cañon de Namurachi makeshift altar where San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado once celebrated mass in hiding during the Cristeros era.



Remains of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado in the Catedral Metropolitana de Chihuahua

26 we will celebrate the life and death of this extraordinary saint from our region who stood up to his government for his God and Church.

Please join the Diocese of El Paso for the following events:

Monday, January 22nd Guest Speaker Fr. Gustavo Sanchez Prieto of the Archdiocese of Chihuahua speaks on the Martyrdom of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado at St. Patrick Cathedral at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 23rd San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Musical Performed by Tepeyac Institute at Bowie High School Auditorium at 7pm

Wednesday, January 24th Panel Discussion of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado by survivors of the Cristero Movement, family and friends of the saint at St. Patrick Cathedral at 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 25th Centennial Anniversary Mass of the Ordination of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado at St. Patrick Cathedral at 7:00 pm

Friday, December 26th Holy Hour led by Fr. Fernando Zapata Maldonado, Priest of the Archdiocese of Chihuahua and Grandnephew of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado at St. Patrick Cathedral at 7:00 pm.

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Celebrando a San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Mártir y Santo del siglo XX

Por Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

¿Alguna vez te has imaginado que la Iglesia Católica estuviese fuera de la ley, en México? Por más de 70 años, en México, la Iglesia Católica, fue proscrita, lo que en un tiempo significó que la Iglesia no podía poseer propiedades, tener escuelas, monasterios y conventos. Durante un período de tiempo, la Iglesia en México solo podía tener un número restringido de sacerdotes y no podía defenderse públicamente o en el sistema judicial. Durante la década de 1920, los mexicanos fueron encarcelados por llevar objetos religiosos y hacer adoración en público se castigaba con ahorcamiento o fusilamiento. El gobierno mexicano hizo todo lo que estaba en su mano para no permitir que existiera

interna conocida como la Guerra Cristera.

La Guerra Cristero también conocida como la Rebelión Cristera (La Cristiada) tuvo lugar en México desde 1926-1929. Debido a las severas restricciones impuestas a los católicos mexicanos, la confiscación gubernamental de propiedades de la Iglesia Católica y la deportación, encarcelamiento y asesinato del clero, muchas iglesias decidieron cerrar y pasar a la clandestinidad. Durante este tiempo, muchos fieles católicos tomaron las armas para defender su derecho a la libertad religiosa. Cerca de 50,000 personas finalmente formaron la fuerza de la rebelión con el grito de guerra, “¡Viva Cristo Rey!”

La Guerra de los Cristeros no solo afectó a México, sino que también afectó a los Estados Unidos con la emigración masiva o el éxodo moderno de la región centro oeste de México hacia el suroeste y el medio oeste de los Estados Unidos. Literalmente, bandadas de ciudadanos mexicanos, en su mayoría católicos, abandonaron su país devastado por la guerra en masa. Créalo o no, ¡la Iglesia Católica no fue restaurada como entidad legal en México hasta 1992! Esta es una dolorosa historia para México y es relativamente reciente.

Un notable sacerdote quien fuese martirizado y finalmente canonizado como un santo, fue el mismísimo San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero, de la ciudad de Chihuahua. Nacido en Chihuahua, Chihuahua, el 15 de junio de 1892, ingresó en el seminario a los 17 años. Diría que su propósito como

seminarista era: “Pensé en tener mi corazón siempre en el cielo, en el tabernáculo”, lo cual se convirtió en el ideal de su vida y fuente de toda su actividad sacerdotal. Debido al comienzo de lo que se convertiría en una situación política muy grave en México, él vino a El Paso en 1914 para estudiar para el sacerdocio. Fue ordenado en 1918 por el primer obispo de la Diócesis de El Paso, el obispo Anthony Joseph Schuler, en nuestra propia Catedral San Patricio.

Regresó a Chihuahua para servir en San Nicolás de Carretas, sabiendo muy bien cuáles eran los peligros de ser un sacerdote católico en México, en ese momento. En 1924, se desempeñó como párroco de Santa Isabel en Chihuahua. Su entusiasmo con la escuela dominical de niños y Adoraciones del Santísimo Sacramento lo hizo conocido y querido por muchos feligreses.

En 1929, el presidente Plutarco Elías Calles aceptó acuerdos con los obispos mexicanos para que las iglesias pudieran regresar a celebrar la misa. A pesar de los acuerdos, el gobierno mexicano continuó persiguiendo a sacerdotes y católicos y la violencia contra la Iglesia continuó empeorando.

En 1934, el padre Maldonado fue deportado de Santa Isabel a El Paso, Texas. Regresó a su parroquia en México tan pronto como pudo, quedándose en Boquilla del Río, cerca de su parroquia de Santa Isabel. El 10 de febrero de 1937, miércoles de ceniza, después de escuchar confesiones, fue capturado por un grupo de hombres armados y luego golpeado sin piedad. Durante el cruel ataque en un gesto muy sarcástico por uno de sus atacantes, se le dio la Eucaristía para comer. El murió a la mañana siguiente, jueves 11 de febrero de 1937.



San Pedro Maldonado concelebrating mass with then Bishop of Chihuahua at the Catedral Metropolitana de Chihuahua

Por favor, Únase a la Diócesis de El Paso para los siguientes eventos:

Lunes, 22 de enero, Orador invitado; Gustavo Sánchez Prieto de la Arquidiócesis de Chihuahua, hablará sobre el Martirio de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado en la Catedral de San Patricio a las 7:00 p.m.

Martes 23 de enero, Musical de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, realizado por el Instituto Tepeyac en el auditorio de la Escuela Preparatoria Bowie, a las 7 p.m.

Miércoles, 24 de enero Panel de discusión sobre San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, por sobrevivientes del Movimiento

Cristero, familiares y amigos del santo en la Catedral San Patricio, a las 7:00 p.m.

Jueves, 25 de enero, Centenario, Misa de la Ordenación de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado en la Catedral San Patricio, a las 7:00 p.m.

Viernes 26 de diciembre, Hora Santa dirigida por el Padre Fernando Zapata Maldonado, Sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Chihuahua y Sobrino nieto de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, en la Catedral San Patricio a las 7:00 p.m.



La Medalla Milagrosa de San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado held by his grand niece Maria Guadalupe Maldonado

la Iglesia Católica en México. Esto origino un fuerte ataque a la Iglesia Católica, en México, lo cual condujo a una batalla

Happy Birthday

Fr. Federico Franco, OFM
Fr. Trinidad Fuentez
Most Reverend Bishop Mark J. Seitz
Miguel M. Flores, OSM
Fr. Rafael Garcia , SJ
Fr. Hector Chicas
Fr. Angel M Maldonado

January 6
January 10
January 10
January 17
January 18
January 20
Janaury 22

Ordination Annivesary

Fr. Stephen Peters
Fr. Jose Alcocer

January 10
January 23

A Saturday Night with The Sisters

By Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

What do Sisters do in El Paso on a Saturday night in December? Sisters connect! Those who were not busy about God’s work in parishes and other community services came together at the Loretto Convent for Prayer and a Potluck on the 37th anniversary of the death of four churchwomen in El Salvador on December 2, 1980. Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, along with Maryknoll lay missionary Jean Donovan and Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel were murdered by government forces because of their ministries to poor Salvadoran people during one of the civil wars that wracked Central America at the time. These were the same forces that had assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero in March of the same year. So the Sisters gathered to honor the memory of the sacrifice of the lives of the four churchwomen and to share good food and sisterhood.

Thirty women religious representing ten congregations as well as six lay women of the border brought a nice variety of food to share as they mixed and matched to get to know each other. For some Sisters the border is “home” and others have been missioned here in long-standing institutions like the Loretto

Academy. Sisters have begun new ministries when institutions have transitioned or closed, such as the Daughters of Charity at Hotel Dieu who now sponsor Centro San Vicente for health care in underserved areas of the city and county. Other Sisters are sprinkled around our diocese as well as Juarez and Las Cruces in ministries where they serve the most marginalized people in our community. Introducing themselves, naming their congregations and their ministry sites, the Sisters and their lay counterparts realized with genuine appreciation the opportunities to meet and serve Christ in persons who are poor. Without these dedicated women of faith, how many persons in detention or in prison would not be visited? How many women and children would live on the streets? How many refugees would not receive welcome?

Of course, in the mix of Sisters and lay women was realized the complementarity of their callings as they respond to the invitation of Jesus to share in the work of bringing about the reign of God. So when after the meal they gathered to pray, hearing



Sisters and women of the border gathered in prayer



Beth Riehle who volunteered with Franciscan Mission Service in El Salvador leads the prayer

the inspiring words of the four churchwomen who gave their lives in El Salvador, they also remembered the countless others who died because of their accompaniment of the people of God as catechists, advocates of peace and justice, prophetic voices that threatened the powers of the status quo. Several of the Sisters knew the women martyrs personally and shared their recollections. Others reflected upon the impact of the witness of those lives on their own discernment of the call to religious life and their paths of ministry over the intervening years. The Beatitudes came to life as the Sisters sang together, “Blessed are they, who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. Blessed are you who

suffer hate, all because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom! Shine for all to see!” (Blest Are They, David Haas)

So in their prayer and in their gatherings as women of faith called to serve here at the border, Sisters create connections among their congregations, around the world and across the generations. One sweet symbol of the way Sisters support and encourage each other came in the form of a tray of deviled eggs for the potluck brought by Sister Bea Donnellan from Casa Vides, one of the Annunciation House shelters for immigrants. The day before the gathering a call from the Corpus Christi Monastery of the Adoratrices Perpetuas del Santísimo

Sacramento announced the availability of a donation of eggs, rice and bread that was more than the nuns could use. The goods were distributed to Casa Vides, Annunciation House and Villa Maria Home for Women. Thence came the delicious contribution to the Sisters’ Potluck: from a generous anonymous donor and the equally generous contemplative nuns, via the shelter for refugees who then had a superabundance of eggs and an industrious Sister of the Holy Spirit who thought to prepare and bring them to the gathering! Sisters connect in service, prayer, and generosity!

Un sábado por la Noche con Las Hermanas

Por: Hermana Janet Gildea, SC, Enlace Para Mujeres Religiosas

¿Qué hacen las Hermanas en El Paso un sábado por la noche en diciembre? ¡Las hermanas se conectan! Las que no estaban ocupadas sobre el trabajo de Dios en las parroquias y otros servicios comunitarios se reunieron en el Convento de Loretto para la oración y una convivencia en el 37 ° aniversario de la muerte de cuatro mujeres en El Salvador el 2 de diciembre de 1980. Hermanas Maryknoll Maura Clarke e Ita Ford, junto con el misionero laico Maryknoll Jean Donovan y la Hermana Ursulina Dorothy Kazel, fueron asesinados por las fuerzas gubernamentales debido a sus ministerios al pueblo salvadoreño pobre durante una de las guerras civiles que asolaron América Central en ese momento. Estas fueron las mismas fuerzas que asesinaron al Arzobispo Oscar Romero en marzo del mismo año. Entonces las Hermanas se reúnen para honrar y recordar del sacrificio de las vidas de las cuatro mujeres de la iglesia y para compartir buena comida y hermandad.

Treinta mujeres religiosas que representan a diez congregaciones y seis mujeres laicas de la frontera trajeron una buena variedad de alimentos para compartir mientras se mezclaban y se

emparejaban para conocerse. Para algunas Hermanas, la frontera es “hogar” y otras han sido enviadas aquí en instituciones de larga data como la Academia Loretto. Las hermanas han comenzado nuevos ministerios cuando las instituciones han cambiado o cerrado, como las Hijas de la Caridad en el Hotel Dieu, que ahora patrocinan el Centro San Vicente para la atención de la salud en áreas marginadas de la ciudad y el condado. Otras hermanas se rocían alrededor de nuestra diócesis, así como Juárez y Las Cruces en ministerios donde sirven a las personas más marginadas de nuestra comunidad. Al presentarse a sí mismos, al nombrar sus congregaciones y sus sitios de ministerio, las Hermanas y sus colegas laicos se dieron cuenta con genuina apreciación de las oportunidades para conocer y servir a Cristo en personas que son pobres. Sin estas mujeres dedicadas de fe, ¿cuántas personas detenidas o en prisión no serían visitadas? ¿Cuántas mujeres y niños vivirían en las calles? ¿Cuántos refugiados no recibirían la bienvenida?

Por supuesto, en la mezcla de Hermanas y mujeres laicas se dio cuenta de la complementariedad de sus llamamientos, ya que

responden a la invitación de Jesús para compartir en la obra de provocar el reino de Dios. Así que cuando después de la comida se reunieron para orar, al escuchar las palabras inspiradoras de las cuatro mujeres que dieron su vida en El Salvador, también recordaron a las innumerables personas que murieron por su acompañamiento del pueblo de Dios como catequistas, defensores de la paz y justicia, voces proféticas que amenazaban los poderes del status quo. Varias de las hermanas conocían personalmente a las mujeres mártires y compartieron sus recuerdos. Otros reflexionaron sobre el impacto del testimonio de esas vidas en su propio discernimiento del llamado a la vida religiosa y sus caminos de ministerio a lo largo de los años. Las Bienaventuranzas cobraron vida cuando las Hermanas cantaron juntas: “Bienaventurados los que sufren en la fe; la gloria de Dios es de ellos. Bienaventurados los que sufren odio, todo por Mi culpa. ¡Alégrate y alégrate, tuyo es el reino! ¡Brilla para que todos lo vean! “(Blest Are They, David Haas)

Entonces, en su oración y en sus reuniones como mujeres de fe llamadas a servir aquí en la frontera, las hermanas crean

conexiones entre sus congregaciones, en todo el mundo y a través de las generaciones. Un dulce símbolo de la forma en que las Hermanas se apoyan y se animan mutuamente vino en forma de una bandeja de huevos rellenos para la comida que trajo la Hermana Bea Donnellan de Casa Vides, uno de los refugios de la Casa de la Anunciación para inmigrantes. El día anterior a la reunión, un llamado del Monasterio de Corpus Christi de las Adoratrices Perpetuas del Santísimo Sacramento anunció la disponibilidad de una donación de huevos, arroz y pan que era más de lo que las monjas podían usar. Los productos se distribuyeron a Casa Vides, Annunciation House y Villa Maria Home for Women. De allí salió la deliciosa contribución a la



The four Churchwomen who gave their lives in El Salvador Dec. 2, 1980

comida de las Hermanas: ¡de un generoso donante anónimo y de las igualmente generosas monjas contemplativas, a través del albergue para los refugiados que luego tenían una superabundancia de huevos y una laboriosa Hermana del Espíritu Santo que pensó en prepararlos y traerlos a la reunión! ¡Las hermanas se conectan en el servicio, la oración y la generosidad!

The “Bitter Pill” of False Liberation

A major study published on December 7 in the New England Journal of Medicine concludes that hormonal contraception increases the risk of breast cancer for women. The research used all of Denmark as its sample, following nearly 1.8 million Danish women of childbearing age for over a decade. The study, as described by the New York Times, “upends widely held assumptions about modern contraceptives for younger generations of women,” especially the view that “newer hormonal contraceptives are much safer than those taken by their mothers or grandmothers.” It also establishes that the risk to women increases with longer periods of use. Major media outlets have done their best to minimize the implications of the study and “soften the blow” for the millions who, for decades, have faithfully embraced a “contraceptive mentality.”

This mentality has promoted contraception, especially the Pill, as a path for women to move toward equality with men by enabling them to reap the “benefits” of the sexual revolution.

But Mary Rice Hasson, J.D., director of the Catholic Women’s Forum at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. notes that the reality for women is very different,

and “our lived experience has shown that this is a false promise.” Countless women, she emphasizes, have ended up being vulnerable to, and harmed by, the sexual revolution and its promotion of contraception as “the solution.” They have been given a “bitter pill” in the form of the Pill.

In a remarkably prescient passage dating back to July, 1968, Pope Paul VI already foresaw this in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, the momentous and beautiful document explaining not only the moral problems with contraception, but also its devastating effects on men, families and women in particular.

Contraception, he writes, opens a wide and easy road “towards conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality. Not much experience is needed in order to know human weakness, and to understand that men--especially the young, who are so vulnerable on this point--have need of encouragement to be faithful to the moral law, so that they must not be offered some easy means of eluding its observance. It is also to be feared that the man, growing used to the employment of anti-conceptive practices, may finally lose respect for the woman and, no longer caring for her physical and psychological equilibrium,

may come to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment, and no longer as his respected and beloved companion.”

Paul VI offers a profound, but unpopular, observation — that contraception is harmful to women, and is, in fact, anti-woman. The widespread adoption of the “contraceptive mentality” has led inexorably to a new perspective on women, namely, that they should be more like men, and therefore they should, like men, become impregnable, through the ongoing practice of contraception. Very young women, sometimes just entering puberty, are now placed onto regimens of hormonal contraception that can continue for years or even decades. From this perspective, their ability to conceive life becomes tantamount to a malady needing to be remedied, a “defect” that renders them “unequal” to men. Strikingly, though, ever greater numbers of women are discovering an authentic and liberating form of feminism as they come to the awareness that, in the words of Hasson, “we don’t have a design flaw. Being a woman is good... and it’s a wonderful thing.”

Wonderful, too, is that confident feminism and liberating sense of self-control that enables a

Making Sense Out of Bioethics

By
Fr. Tad
Pacholczyk



woman to choose abstinence before marriage, rather than contraception, and, once married, to choose periodic abstinence in agreement with her husband if their circumstances indicate they ought to avoid a pregnancy.

H o r m o n a l contraceptives, meanwhile, throw a wrench into the works on a number of different levels. Beyond setting up a woman to be “used” by men, the Pill (and hormone-releasing IUD’s) cause significant alterations in her delicately-balanced physiology. These include restricting her ability to ovulate, altering her cycles and secretions, and modifying her uterine lining — in effect, forcing her body into a pseudo-pregnant state to exclude the possibility of a real pregnancy. Whenever a woman takes these kinds of steps to disrupt her natural fertility, it should come as little surprise that her body rebels in one fashion or another, including possible weight gain, headaches, depression, and the heightened

and well-documented risk of thrombotic stroke, myocardial infarction (heart attack), and — as confirmed by the recent study — breast cancer. A woman’s body doesn’t stand in need of being “fixed” by these powerful drugs that wreak havoc on her biology.

The Church’s ageless but countercultural teaching on contraception respects and uplifts women. It supports them in an authentic feminism that affirms their uniquely important maternal role in family and society, and esteems their fruitfulness in marriage not as a defect, but as a real gift.

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

Restorative Justive Ministry Reentry Seminar

The Diocesan Peace and Justice Ministry will sponsor a bilingual reentry seminar on Saturday, January 27, from 10 am to 4 pm, in the Maud Sullivan Room of the El Paso Public Library, Downtown Branch, 501 N. Oregon.

Anyone who is interested in working with ex-offenders returning to our community after incarceration is encouraged to attend.

We will have presentations by federal, state and local agencies,

testimonies, a panel discussion, and sharings about how to form parish teams.

Please call 740-3962 or email phdelgado@hotmail.com to register. We encourage every parish to send representatives

to learn about this important ministry of presence, compassion and healing.



Special Collection Month of January

Special Collection for the Church in Latin America

This Special Offering will be held on Saturday, January 27, and Sunday, January 28, 2018.

For the past fifty

years, the Church in the United States has been actively assisting the Church in Latin America. With the aid of this collection, and in cooperation

with the bishops of the United States and Latin America, grants are made to support the vast needs of the local Churches in Latin America

and the Caribbean, especially in the areas of evangelization, pastoral programs, and formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as

youth ministry and catechesis.

On the weekend of January 27 and 28, please be as generous as possible. Thank you for your support.

Ofrenda Especial Para el mes de enero

Colecta Especial para La Iglesia en América Latina

La Ofrenda Especial Anual se llevará a cabo el sábado 27 y el domingo 28 de enero del 2018 para la Iglesia en América Latina.

Durante los últimos cincuenta años, la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos ayuda

activamente a la Iglesia en América Latina. Con la ayuda de esta ofrenda, y en cooperación con los obispos de los Estados Unidos y en América Latina, se obtienen concesiones para sostener las necesidades tan vastas

de las Iglesias locales en América Latina y en el Caribe, especialmente en las áreas de evangelización, de los programas pastorales, y de la formación de los laicos, las religiosas y los seminaristas, al igual que el ministerio de

jóvenes y el catequesis.

El fin de semana del 27 y 28 de enero del 2018, por favor se tan generoso como le sea posible. Gracias por su apoyo.



The Bridge-El Puente 1150am Turns One!

By Joe Garcia, Radio Program Director

Can you believe it has been one year? One year ago on January 8th 2017, Bishop Seitz and the Catholic Diocese of El Paso launched an over the air broadcast evangelization effort for the greater El Paso and Ciudad Juárez area. The Bridge-El Puente became the only Catholic radio station in El Paso and this endeavor was close to the heart of Bishop Seitz and mine. The accomplishments over this past year have been amazing!

Let me give you some insight regarding the naming of The Bridge. Bishop Seitz and I went back and forth on several names, names I don't mind sharing with you for this special one-year column. In the bullpen were The Fish, The Rio, Star Radio and even an old El Paso favorite "Pass Radio" was under consideration. (The Pass was once an El Paso soft rock radio station many moons ago)

For quite some time we mulled over idea after idea, as we wanted the name to be special



The Bridge's-El Puente's Joe Garcia and Fr. Fabian Marquez for the first Inauguration Mass live broadcast at St. Patrick



Marcel Gomez, and Edgar Jimenez from ESNE Network came to broadcast in January of last year.



and relevant to our region. One day Bishop came into the office and recapped the visit from our heavenly father, Pope Francis. Bishop reiterated Pope Francis' message about not building walls and to instead "build bridges". In that moment Bishop Mark and I instantly agreed that The Bridge-El Puente was the name for our new radio station. We quickly got to work on designing a logo. We then collaborated on specialty items like bumper stickers and T-shirts. It was a labor of love.

I can honestly tell you though starting a radio station and programming from scratch is almost always challenging. My favorite and the best part for me was diving in and "tightening of the screws" as the wheel kept turning. I can remember when I initially was offered the opportunity to launch the only Catholic radio station in El Paso as part of my ministry, I quickly felt like a deer in headlights. But at the same time, I was so motivated to help people learn about the Word of God as well as let people know about the services provided by our Diocese.

I knew I felt strongly about programming the station in a bilingual format. It's how I felt people speak en el hogar in El Paso. I knew programming the music would be a challenge

too. I want to say thanks to Peter Kolar, our amazing Diocesan Choir Director, for letting me in on some great talent and publishing companies. He led me to the music I needed to get started! I found artists like Matt Moore, Steve Angresiano, Sarah Hart, Fr. Rob Galea and so many more that we now play on The Bridge-El Puente 1150

Our search began to find network radio programming that was appealing to Catholics in El Paso. I was certain we needed a combination of networks to broadcast in English and in Spanish. We approached El Sembrador ESNE Network and they jumped at the opportunity. ESNE broadcasting is from Los Angeles and it's founder has an amazing migrant story. (I recommend to all readers to research his wonderful story. The founder's name is Noel Diaz.) ESNE provided radio programs and music in Spanish. They were the network to air our very first live mass broadcast that launched The Bridge/ El Puente radio station. We broadcasted live from St. Patrick Cathedral and aired it worldwide on the network!

Later Ave Maria Radio came up on the grid for us because of its excellent programming and shows you can hear on the EWTN radio network. Thanks to Ave Maria we are now part of this network and have begun to

build our local programming even more!

We have weekly local shows highlighting different ministries in our diocese like Catholic Counseling Executive Director, Jose Castellon's *Mind, Body and Spirit* and Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services' Attorney, Melissa Lopez's *Amor Por El Migrante*. We now also have great shows with some of our most endearing priests like our vocations show, *Tira La Red*, hosted by Vocations Director and Pastor at San Juan Diego Church Fr. Rolando Fonseca, our youth ministry show, *Bridge Kids*, hosted by Fr. Fabian Marquez, our Youth Ministry Director and Pastor at El Buen Pastor Church plus radio legend Fr. Raul Trigueros with *Catequesis y Liturgia*. We also have Bridge favorite, Bishop's *InSeitz into the Faith* every Wednesday at 10am.

You can stream The Bridge/El Puente live and check out our radio-programming schedule with who and what is on the air everyday by visiting www.elpasodiocese.org. Remember, you can also listen to The Bridge-El Puente on MyParish app.

This year we did some great things with live broadcasts that included the Border Mass, Alabanza Concert and Cong Vo's ordination mass. We brought great Catholic programming to El Paso like Catholic Answers every weekday afternoon from 4p-6p. We supported our El Paso Catholic Schools and many parish efforts. We promoted advocacy efforts in Austin and

most recently in Washington with live call ins from our Chancellor Patricia Fierro and Holy Spirit Church Pastor Jose Morales in Washington for The Dreamers Rally. We also have great things in store for 2018 like a live broadcast of the Centennial Ordination Anniversary Mass for our Santo Pedro de Jesus Maldonado coming up later this month on January 25th. If you have not tuned in to our radio station yet, please do.

My vision for The Bridge/ El Puente is to bring Jesus closer to you and especially closer to our youth. I want to evangelize our community on air and offer our ministry services through engaging talk shows. I want to offer Catholic music and EWTN and ESNE Network Catholic programming.

I ask that you spread the word! Please let people know that you now have Catholic Radio for The Borderland in The Bridge/ El Puente 1150am. We are online at www.elpasodiocese.org, MyParish app via your smart phones and on air at 1150 am. Happy Birthday The Bridge-El Puente and here's looking forward to many more!

Thank you to all that put a little bit of love into this special endeavor for the Diocese especially our clergy. Thank you to YOU, those who placed that bumper sticker on their car, put the T-shirt on their back and tuned in to listen to their favorite show.

Thank you and God Bless us all as we continue to build Bridges!!



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



La Diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abuso sexual

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



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Future Deacons Enjoy a Diaconate Retreat

By Deacon Jesus Cardenas, Permanent Diaconate Director

The Permanent Diaconate Office of the Diocese of El Paso organized a spiritual retreat, as part of the spiritual dimension of the formation program, for the 18 candidates and their wives. The retreat took place at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Saragosa, Texas. We were warmly received by their community and the experience was outstanding for all participants. The retreat began with evening prayer on Friday November 10th and a night of watching the shinning stars in the Fall sky.

On Saturday, we

continued the prayer and workshop with Fr. Fabian Marquez as Retreat Master. In the afternoon, we attended mass and prayed at Pecos, where the communities of Santa Rita and Saint Catherine welcomed us warmly. Their hospitality was such that the candidates were asking how can we help these communities in the future.

To close the day, we had an encounter with comradeship and God’s creation, as we spent time burning marshmallows sitting next to the fire in a beautifully poetic night.

Sunday was the last day of the retreat, and to close this experience, we travelled to Balmorhea where we spent some time in prayer at Christ the King Parish. We left behind our best wishes and blessings to those West Texas communities. This experience left a significant memory in our hearts. I know for certain that the candidates to the Permanent Diaconate Program will never



see the map of the Diocese the same way. They have put faces and names to the brothers and sisters of those communities and that can never be erased.

Los Futuros Diáconos Disfrutan de un Retiro

Por Diacono Jesus Cardenas, Director de Diaconado Permanente

La Oficina del Diaconado Permanente de la Diócesis de El Paso organizó un retiro espiritual, como parte de la dimensión espiritual del programa de formación, para los 18 candidatos junto con sus esposas. El retiro se llevó a cabo en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Saragosa, Texas. Fuimos recibidos calurosamente por esa comunidad, y la experiencia fue increíble para todos los participantes. El retiro inicio con la oración de la tarde el viernes 10 de noviembre, y tuvimos tiempo de disfrutar contemplando las brillantes estrellas en el firmamento en la

noche. El sábado, continuamos el tiempo de oración y aprendizaje, teniendo al Padre Fabian Marquez como conductor del retiro. En la tarde tuvimos la oportunidad de ir a misa y a orar a Pecos, donde las comunidades de Santa Rita y Santa Catalina nos recibieron calurosamente. Su hospitalidad fue tal, que los candidatos preguntaban cómo podríamos ayudar a estas comunidades en el futuro. Para cerrar el día, tuvimos un encuentro con la camaradería y la creación de Dios, al pasar un tiempo asando bombones sentados junto al fuego en una

hermosa noche poética. El domingo fue nuestro último día del retiro, y para concluir la experiencia viajamos a Balmorhea donde pasamos cierto tiempo en oración en la Parroquia de Cristo Rey. Dejamos tras nosotros nuestros mejores deseos y bendiciones para aquellas comunidades del oeste de Texas, y esta experiencia dejó una profunda marca en nuestros corazones. Definitivamente, sé que los candidatos en el Programa



del Diaconado Permanente nunca verán el mapa de la Diócesis de la misma manera, ya que han puesto rostros y nombres a los hermanos y hermanas de aquellas comunidades, y eso no se podrá borrar nunca.

My Dynamic Duo of Mothers

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

It might seem quite a stretch of the imagination to connect Our Lady of Guadalupe with St. Elizabeth Seton. Elizabeth Seton, the first native-born citizen of the United States to be canonized a saint, lived more than two hundred years after the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego on Tepeyac. She was born in New York just before the Declaration of Independence. Because I have lived under-the-influence of these two spiritual mothers, I have wondered if Elizabeth and Maria de Guadalupe put their heads and hearts together, dreaming and scheming to provide for God’s children here in the Borderlands. This idea has occupied my thoughts for more than twenty-five years as the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, founded by St. Elizabeth, came to this diocese in response to God’s call. Here is how I imagine this might have happened...

First some background on Elizabeth Seton. She was a woman of high society, educated and sophisticated. She married well and had five children with her husband William. His shipping business and his health failed while the children were still small. When she was 29 years old her husband died and Elizabeth struggled to support her family as a teacher. She experienced extreme religious prejudice

because she and her children converted to the Catholic faith despite strong opposition from her family, friends and the parents of her students. Eventually the first bishop of the United States recruited her to teach Catholic youth and care for orphans that were everywhere in the immigrant Church. Elizabeth is credited with establishing the parochial school system in our country. God had even more surprises in store for the young convert. Bishop John Carroll asked her to begin a congregation of Sisters based on the rule of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in France but adapted to the needs of the American reality. And she did!

The Sisters and Daughters of Charity grew and spread across the growing United States and into the desert southwest bringing health care as well as education, social and pastoral services. How did this happen? I like to imagine that Elizabeth Seton had a mystical meeting with Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. This time, instead of a mountain in Mexico, my mind conjures up one of our sandstorms that envelopes Elizabeth wandering in the desert. Lost in the swirling dust it is the singing Guadalupe who draws her to the safety of a tiny adobe kitchen. There I think the two mothers would have shared champurrado and tamales while

they cooked up ministerial plans to be unfolded over centuries. These dreams they have whispered in the hearts of Elizabeth’s religious daughters. So inspired, the Sisters and Daughters of Charity came west in the covered wagons and on foot. They rode the trains and floated down the Rio Grande. Under the influence of Our Lady, they learned to love the cultures they encountered. Elizabeth’s practical ingenuity urged them to develop effective ways to serve the most marginalized of God’s children.

This product of my imagination has helped me to understand how a girl from Indiana has become a Guadalupeana in heart, mind and soul. I was drawn to the border in 1991 along with two other Sisters of Charity and when we felt called to start a clinic in the desert colonias there was no doubt that it would be named La Clinica Guadalupeana. What we didn’t know at the time (among many other things!) was that Elizabeth Seton had a large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the first Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity in 1809. Nuestra Señora apparently has had her eyes on the Sisters of Charity for a long time. She adopted us as her own and showed us the way of Juan Diego: learning from those we came to serve, sharing her healing message and recognizing her maternal care in miracles that



St. Elizabeth Seton Mural

have never ceased to amaze us. We opened the clinic on January 4, 1995, the feast of St. Elizabeth Seton. For thirteen years the dynamic duo of Elizabeth and Guadalupe guided our efforts to create a home of healing and wellness in the colonias.

Simultaneously they began to unroll another part of their scheme: a center for children with special needs in a colonia on the other side of the border that is called Proyecto Santo Niño. Of course our first special child, who we consider to be the founder of the project, was named Juan Diego. There is no way to explain how all this happened or how we gringa Sisters of Charity find ourselves crossing back and forth across the border many times each week except to know that St. Elizabeth Seton has taken us by the hand and Our Lady has covered us with her mantle. These two dynamic dreamers of God continue to light up our path and inspire others to make the journey with us.

Between Heaven and The Tabernacle

By Deacon Jesus Cardenas, Tepeyac Institute

To celebrate One Hundred Years of the Ordination of Saint Pedro de Jesus Maldonado, the Tepeyac Institute wanted share with our community his life and martyrdom. To avoid having a presentation where his life could just become a presentation of suffering and evil, we contacted Catholic singer and writer Sandra Salas from Chile. Salas has written several musical dramas about spiritual themes. The result has been impressive: A Chilean has written a beautiful musical about the Cristeros’

War in Mexico that, without emphasizing the negative actions of the government against the Catholic Church, she was able to convey and focus on the feelings and dreams of the saint during those difficult times.

We are eagerly awaiting her arrival and preparing the rehearsals for when Sandra arrives to El Paso. The musical will have live music, actors and singers. We are ready to give life to Porfirio Diaz, Plutarco Elias Calles, Father Jose Morales, the parents of the saint and many

other characters.

Our event will include a presentation by the Classical Ballet of the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez. They will present their “Mexican Gala” with live mariachi music and colorful cultural dances.

This musical event is part of the many celebrations for the One Hundred Year Anniversary of the Ordination of Saint Father Maldonado at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The musical will be presented one day only, on Tuesday January 23rd, 2018

at the Bowie High School Arts and Performance Theater located at 801 S San Marcial St, El Paso, TX 79905.

There will be general admission and we are requesting a \$10 donation.



Entre el Cielo y el Sagrario

Por Diacono Jesus Cardenas, Instituto de Tepeyac

Para celebrar los Cien Años de la Ordenación de San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado, el Instituto Tepeyac tomó la tarea de presentar a la comunidad su vida y martirio. Para evitar que su vida se resumiera en una presentación de sufrimiento y llena de maldad, nos pusimos en contacto con la canta autora católica Sandra Salas de Chile, quien ha escrito varias obras musicales sobre temas espirituales. El resultado ha sido impresionante: una chilena nos ha escrito un

hermoso musical sobre la guerra de los Cristeros en México, que, sin enfatizar las acciones nefastas del gobierno contra la Iglesia Católica, se dedicó a explorar los sentimientos y sueños del santo ante la situación que vivía el país en sus tiempos.

Llenos de alegría nos preparamos para los ensayos para que cuando Sandra venga a El Paso, estemos listos con la música en vivo y los actores y cantantes que darán vida a Porfirio Díaz, al Plutarco Elías

Calles, al Padre Jose Morales, a los padres del santo y a muchos otros personajes.

Nuestro evento será realizado con la presentación del Ballet Clásico de la Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, quienes, con mariachi en vivo, presentaran algunos cuadros culturales muy coloridos en su “Gala Mexicana”.

El evento se llevará a cabo como parte de las celebraciones por un Siglo de la Ordenación del Santo Padre Maldonado en la

Catedral de San Patricio. El musical se presentará solo por un día, el Martes 23 de Enero del 2108 en el Teatro de la Escuela Bowie en el 801 S San Marcial St, El Paso, TX 79905.

La entrada será general y solicitamos una donación de \$10.



Mi Dúo Dinámico de Madres

Por: Hermana Janet Gildea, SC, Enlace Para Mujeres Religiosas

Puede parecer un tramo de la imaginación conectar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con Santa Elisabeth Seton. Elizabeth Seton, la primera ciudadana nativa de los Estados Unidos en ser canonizada como una santa, vivió más de doscientos años después de la aparición de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a Juan Diego en Tepeyac. Ella nació en Nueva York justo antes de la Declaración de Independencia. Debido a que yo he vivido bajo la influencia de estas dos madres espirituales, me he preguntado si Elizabeth y María de Guadalupe unieron sus cabezas y corazones, soñando e intrigando para mantener a los hijos de Dios aquí en las Tierras Fronterizas. Esta idea ha ocupado mis pensamientos por más de veinticinco años cuando las Hermanas de la Caridad de Cincinnati, fundadas por Santa Elisabeth, vinieron a esta diócesis en respuesta al llamado de Dios. Así es como me imagino que esto podría haber pasado ...

Primero algunos antecedentes sobre Elizabeth Seton. Ella era una mujer de la alta sociedad, educada y sofisticada. Se casó bien y tuvo cinco hijos con su esposo William. El negocio de marítimo y la salud fracasaron de William durante el tiempo que sus niños eran pequeños. Cuando tenía 29 años, su esposo murió y Elizabeth luchó por mantener a su familia como maestra. Ella experimentó prejuicios religiosos

extremos porque ella y sus hijos se convirtieron a la fe católica, a pesar de la fuerte oposición de su familia, amigos y los padres de sus alumnos. Eventualmente, el primer obispo de los Estados Unidos la reclutó para enseñar a los jóvenes católicos y a cuidar a los huérfanos que estaban en todas partes en la Iglesia inmigrante. A Elizabeth se le atribuye el establecimiento del sistema escolar parroquial en nuestro país. Dios tenía aún más sorpresas reservadas para la joven convertida. El Obispo John Carroll le pidió que comenzara una congregación de Hermanas basada en el estilo de vida de las Hijas de la Caridad de San Vicente de Paúl en Francia, pero se adaptó a las necesidades de la realidad estadounidense. ¡Y ella lo hizo!

Las Hermanas e Hijas de la Caridad crecieron y se extendieron a través de los Estados Unidos en crecimiento y hacia el desierto del sudoeste, trayendo atención médica, así como servicios educativos, sociales y pastorales. ¿Cómo pasó esto? Me gusta imaginar que Elizabeth Seton tuvo una reunión mística con Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Esta vez, en lugar de un monte en México, mi mente evoca una de nuestras tormentas de arena que envuelve a Elizabeth vagando por el desierto. Perdida en el remolino de polvo, es el cantante Guadalupe quien la lleva

a la seguridad de una pequeña cocina de adobe. Creo que las dos madres habrían compartido un champurrado y unos tamales mientras preparaban sus planes ministeriales para desarrollarse en siglos futuros. Estos sueños se han susurrado en los corazones de las hijas religiosas de Elizabeth. Tan inspiradas, las hermanas y las hijas de Caridad llegaron al oeste en las carretas cubiertas y de pie. Utilizaban los trenes y flotaron en el Rio Bravo. Bajo la influencia de Nuestra Señora, aprendieron a amar las culturas que encontraron. El ingenio práctico de Elizabeth las instó a desarrollar formas efectivas de servir a los más marginados de los hijos de Dios.

Este producto de mi imaginación me ha ayudado a comprender cómo una jovencita de Indiana se ha convertido en una Guadalupeana en corazón, mente y alma. Me atrajeron la frontera en 1991 junto con otras dos Hermanas de la Caridad y cuando nos sentimos llamados a comenzar una clínica en las colonias del desierto, no había duda de que se llamaría La Clínica Guadalupeana. Lo que no sabíamos en ese momento (¡entre muchas otras cosas!) era que Elizabeth Seton tenía una gran imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la primera Casa Madre de las Hermanas de la Caridad en 1809. Nuestra Señora aparentemente ha puesto sus ojos en el Hermanas de la Caridad durante mucho tiempo.

Nos adoptó como suyas y nos mostró el camino de Juan Diego: aprendiendo de aquellos a quienes fuimos a servir, compartiendo su mensaje sanador y reconociendo su cuidado materno en milagros que nunca han dejado de sorprendernos. Abrimos la clínica el 4 de enero de 1995, la fiesta de Santa Elisabeth Seton. Durante trece años, el dinámico dúo de Elizabeth y Guadalupe ha guiado nuestros esfuerzos para crear un hogar de sanación y bienestar en las colonias.

Simultáneamente, comenzaron a desenrollar otra parte de su plan: un centro para niños con necesidades especiales en una colonia al otro lado de la frontera que se llama Proyecto Santo Niño. Por supuesto, nuestro primer hijo especial, a quien consideramos el fundador del proyecto, se llamaba Juan Diego. No hay forma de explicar cómo sucedió todo esto o cómo las



Our Lady of Guadalupe Mural

Gringas Hermanas de la Caridad cruzamos la frontera varias veces a la semana, excepto para saber que Santa Elisabeth Setón nos tomó de la mano y que Nuestra Señora nos cubrió con su manta. Estas dos dinámicas soñadores de Dios continúan iluminando nuestro camino e inspirando a otros a hacer el viaje con nosotras.

Relight the Candle to Share God’s Light

My candle burns low. Flickering, the wick struggles to burn brightly enough to dispel the dark from even one small corner. So much needs to be done but the gauge on my fuel tank flutters near empty. How can I keep going when I feel hollow inside?

Such are the feelings that sometimes invade my heart when I consider that this month will mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision to legalize abortion in our nation forty-five years ago. Forty-five years! Why do we even try? Are we really making a difference? Let’s think about that. Consider if we knew that something tragic was going to happen at a school. There was a small chance that we could do something to save at least a few of the children, but maybe only three or possibly eight. Should we even try? Would it make a difference?

To those three or eight children and their families, it would make a world of difference. And just as important, we might save ourselves because we would know that we tried, we did our best – rather than sitting back and letting it happen – even

if we saved only one of those who were threatened.

Mother Teresa said, “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” Mother Teresa’s philosophy became a visible reality recently in the borderland. Maybe not fed, but lives were saved, one by one.

On the eleventh day of the 40 Days for Life campaign when pro-life people prayerfully and peacefully lined the sidewalks near two of the local abortion clinics, a woman from Juarez parked her car and, with a huge smile, joyfully announced to the people praying along the sidewalk that she was returning to the clinic, not for her abortion appointment but to get a refund of the money she had paid in advance. She had changed her mind. When the sidewalk advocates joyfully said they would pray for her, she hugged them, placed her hand on her stomach and happily asked them to pray for her and her baby as well. The physical presence and prayers of the witnesses for life rescued one baby’s life and saved a mother from a lifetime of regret. And hers was not the only success

story.

On Day 25 of the campaign, a couple stopped before entering the abortion facility and listened to one of the sidewalk counselors. The counselor briefly shared with the couple her own trauma and regret from her past abortion, but they entered the clinic anyway. Less than half an hour later, the door opened again as the couple left the building, before the abortionist arrived, because they had decided to choose life for their baby. One more baby saved, one more mother rescued from regret.

On Day 34, the final Monday of the 40 Days for Life campaign, a young woman paused on her way toward the abortion facility and listened intently to the peaceful and loving prayers being said for her from those on the sidewalk. Moments passed and she decided that she would not go through with the abortion. After speaking to the man she was with, they returned to their car and drove away without stepping foot into the building. One more precious baby’s life saved from death, one more mother spared

from grief.

Eight babies are known to have been rescued from death at the hands of local abortionists during the 40 Days for Life campaign. Are eight children and eight mothers worth all the sacrifices made by people who stood outside in the heat and cold, day after day, gathering to pray and peacefully witness to the precious gift of life? Ask any of the people who volunteered their time, and the answer will be a unanimous “Yes!”

If even one life was saved, it would have been worth it. And only God knows how many more women quietly turned away from abortion, choosing to give life instead of death to the already-living children in their wombs because of the physical and prayerful presence of the angels lining the sidewalk where their babies would have been killed. Jesus was definitely there on that sidewalk, praying and offering compassionate, non-judgmental help to those who needed Him most.



Sidewalk Jesus by Janet M. Crowe

We can make a difference even if we are only helping one mother and rescuing one baby at a time. After forty-five years, it is not time to give up but to surrender ourselves to God and allow Him to use us, our time, our talents, and our love, in the many ways He can use us to help Him rescue His children.

This year, relight your candle of faith and fill your tank with hope. Make a difference. Rescue a life. Be the Sidewalk Jesus who holds out a hand to help, cherish and protect a precious life that God has given to each of His children and only He should be allowed to take away.

Contact these life-affirming organizations today to save a life:

Southwest Coalition for Life at 575-313-2277, or at website Southwest.Life

Guiding Star 915-544-9600, GuidingStarElPaso.org

Volver a Encender la Vela para Compartir la Luz de Dios

Mi vela arde muy lentamente. Parpadeante, la mecha lucha para quemar lo suficiente como para disipar la oscuridad desde un pequeño rincón. Hay mucho por hacer, pero el indicador del tanque de combustible se agita casi vacío. ¿Cómo puedo seguir, cuando me siento tan vacía por dentro?

Tales son los sentimientos que a veces invaden mi corazón cuando recuerdo que este mes marcará el aniversario de la decisión de Roe V. Wade de legalizar el aborto en nuestra

nación hace ya cuarenta y cinco años. ¡Cuarenta y cinco años! ¿Para qué lo intentamos, siquiera? ¿Estamos realmente haciendo una diferencia?

Pensemos en eso. Piense en que si sabíamos que algo trágico iba a suceder en una escuela, habría habido siquiera una pequeña posibilidad de que pudiésemos hacer algo para salvar al menos a algunos de los niños, pero tal vez solo tres o posiblemente ocho. ¿Deberíamos intentarlo? ¿Habría alguna diferencia?

Para esos tres u ocho niños y sus familias, sería una gran diferencia. Y lo que es igual de importante, podríamos salvarnos a nosotros mismos, porque sabríamos que lo intentamos, hicimos lo mejor que pudimos, en lugar de retroceder y dejar que sucediera, incluso si salvamos solo a uno de los amenazados.

La madre Teresa dijo: “Si no puedes alimentar a cien personas, alimenta solo a una”. La filosofía de la Madre Teresa se convirtió en una realidad visible recientemente en la zona fronteriza. Tal vez no se alimentaron, pero las vidas se salvaron, una por una.

En el undécimo día de la campaña de 40 Días por la Vida, cuando personas pro-vida se alinearon pacíficamente en las aceras, cerca de dos de las clínicas locales de aborto, una mujer de Juárez estacionó su auto y con una gran sonrisa anunció alegremente a la gente rezando a lo largo de la acera que ella estaba volviendo a la clínica, no para su cita de aborto, sino para obtener un reembolso del dinero que ella había pagado por adelantado. Ella había cambiado de opinión. Cuando los defensores en la acera alegremente dijeron que rezarían por ella, los abrazó, colocó su mano sobre su estómago y felizmente les pidió que rezaran por ella y por su bebé. La presencia física y las oraciones de los testigos de por vida rescataron la vida de un bebé y salvó a una madre de toda una vida de arrepentimiento. Y la suya no fue la única historia de éxito.

El día 25 de la campaña,

una pareja se detuvo antes de ingresar a la instalación de aborto y escuchó a uno de los consejeros de la acera. La consejera compartió brevemente con la pareja su propio trauma y su pesar por su aborto anterior, pero de todos modos ingresaron a la clínica. Menos de media hora después, la puerta se abrió de nuevo y salió la pareja del edificio, antes de que llegara el abortista, porque habían decidido elegir la vida para su bebé. Un bebé más, salvado, una madre más, rescatada del arrepentimiento.

El día 34, el último lunes de la campaña de 40 días por la vida, una joven se detuvo en su camino hacia la instalación de aborto y escuchó atentamente las oraciones pacíficas y amorosas que se le dijeron por los que estaban en la acera. Pasaron los momentos y ella decidió que no continuaría con el aborto. Después de hablar con el hombre con el que estaba, volvieron a su automóvil y se marcharon sin pisar el edificio. Una vida más preciosa de un bebé salvada de la muerte, una madre más salvada de la pena.

Se sabe que ocho bebés fueron rescatados de la muerte a manos de abortistas locales durante la campaña de 40 días por la vida. ¿Son ocho los niños y las ocho madres quienes valen la pena todos los sacrificios hechos por personas que permanecían afuera en el calor y el frío, día tras día, reuniéndose para orar y dar testimonio pacífico del precioso regalo de la vida? Pregúntale a cualquiera de las personas que ofrecieron voluntariamente su

tiempo y la respuesta será un “Sí” unánime.

Si se hubiera salvado solo una vida, habría valido la pena. Y solo Dios sabe cuántas mujeres más silenciosamente rechazaron el aborto, eligiendo dar vida en lugar de muerte a los niños que ya viven en sus vientres debido a la presencia física y orante de los ángeles que flanquean la acera, donde sus bebés habrían sido asesinados. Jesús definitivamente estaba allí en la acera, orando y ofreciendo ayuda compasiva y sin prejuicios a aquellos que más lo necesitaban. Podemos hacer la diferencia, incluso si solo estamos ayudando a una madre y rescatando a un bebé a la vez. Después de cuarenta y cinco años, no es el momento de rendirse, sino de rendirnos a Dios y permitir que Él nos use, nuestro tiempo, nuestros talentos y nuestro amor, en las muchas formas en que puede usarnos para ayudarlo a rescatar a Sus hijos. . Este año, vuelva a encender tu vela de fe y llena tu tanque de esperanza. Haz la diferencia. Rescata una vida. Sé la acera Jesús, la cual tiende una mano para ayudar, apreciar y proteger una vida preciosa que Dios le ha dado a cada uno de Sus hijos y que solo Él debería poder quitar.

Póngase en contacto con estas organizaciones que afirman la vida hoy para salvar una vida:

Southwest Coalition for Life at 575-313-2277, o ingrese a: Southwest.Life

Llame a: Guiding Star 915-544-9600, o ingrese a: GuidingStarElPaso.org

Commemorate Reverence for Life

Jan. 21 - 23, 2018

Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception. Christ is with you: be not afraid!

Sunday, Jan. 21
“BABY BOTTLES FOR JESUS”
Baby bottles filled with change for local STAR organization

Monday, Jan. 22
“REVERENCE FOR LIFE PRESENTATION”
Parish Community Center 6:30 PM

Tuesday, Jan. 23
MARCH FOR LIFE
Walk down Diana Drive praying 14 Stations of the Cross at 5:30 PM

Office: 913.755.7638
www.blessedsacrament.org
Catholic Diocese of El Paso

Fr. Benjamin Flores, Pastor
Blessed Sacrament Church
5025 Diana Dr.
El Paso, TX 79904

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Disciples Answering The Call

Nuevos Comienzos

Un nuevo año supone para cada uno de nosotros una nueva posibilidad de perfección, de mejoramiento, de superación. No te contentes con ser este nuevo año, como fuisteis el año pasado. No te digo que el año pasado fuiste malo; pero es verdad que en este año tienes que ser mejor. Es la ley del progreso, que es ley propia de todo ser viviente. Así como vas adelantando en todo, en edad, conocimientos, en experiencias, etc. también debes ir creciendo en tu pensamiento y en tu espíritu.

Dijo Mahatma Gandhi, que el hombre no es más que el resultado de sus pensamientos; lo que él piensa, es lo que llega a ser. De ahí la importancia de cultivar buenos pensamientos; que tu vayas formando tu conciencia día a día. De lo que eres tú en la vida y lo que la vida debe ser para ti. Cultivar en ti pensamientos serios, nobles, rectos, plenos de bondad, ha de ser tu principal cuidado. Encontré una hermosa oración, que había deseado por mucho tiempo: “Señor, enséñame la dulzura de pensar bien”. En nuestras conversaciones agrada mas hablar mal que bien. Pensar bien de alguien sin ningún “pero”, no es común. Sin embargo que dulzura por descubrir! Nuestro interior se convierte en un bello lago de montaña, tranquilo y en

paz. Para animarnos a adquirir esta constante benevolencia, pensemos en lo agradable que será vivir junto a nosotros!!!

Tenemos cierta limpieza que realizar en nuestro medio ambiente, nuestro planeta está muy sucio y esto es una noticia aterradora. Tenemos que hacer algo de limpieza antes que sea tarde. Pero hay otra área importante que también necesita con urgencia cierta atención especial. Sucede que esta área se encuentra en medio de tus orejas. No estoy hablando de tu cara. Hablo de tu mente y de la polución que absorbe. Todos los días estas expuesto al sexo, a la violencia en la televisión y en internet y posiblemente al lenguaje vulgar en el trabajo o en la escuela. El peligro aterrador es la manera en la que estos estímulos negativos afectan tus pensamientos, actitudes, metas y acciones. NOS CONVERTIMOS EN LO QUE PENSAMOS y pensamos en lo que es puesto en nuestras mentes por nosotros mismos o por otras personas.

Si tienes amigos positivos y te alimentas de información apropiada, estarás garantizando que tu vida vaya en alza. William James dijo: “El más grande descubrimiento de mi generación es que los seres humanos puedan modificar sus vidas al cambiar la actitud de sus

mentes”. Espero que nos unamos en la limpieza de la contaminación de la mente, porque si lo hacemos, seremos dichosos, saludables y felices como nunca antes!!! Es la mente la que hace el bien o el mal, la que hace mísero o feliz, rico o pobre. Cada uno puede elegir lo que piensa, aunque le cueste sudor esta elección. La paz mental comienza con nuestros propios pensamientos y de ahí se extiende hacia el exterior.

En todos los tiempos hablamos mucho del estado del mundo y el nuestro no es diferente. El mundo es un desorden. Experimentamos este desorden de cien maneras todos los días. Se habla mucho de cambiar al mundo. Hoy en día la mayoría de las personas no creen que el mundo pueda cambiar realmente. Pero si se puede!!! Cómo? El cambio no viene de gobiernos, tienen sus proyectos pero no se pueden legislar la bondad, la virtud y la moralidad. El cambio no vendrá de la economía ni de las multinacionales. Estos tienen su meta y no hay evidencia que más dinero o un estándar de vida lleve a un mundo mejor, más justo y más unido. El cambio no vendrá de la ciencia, su enfoque esta más en observar y analizar. No existe un grupo con mejores posibilidades para cambiar al mundo que los cristianos. Si los cristianos no cambiar al mundo,

el mundo no
c a m b i a r a .
Y la manera
de cambiar
al mundo
es simple
y sencilla:

Pensar y vivir como cristianos. Somos dos billones de cristianos en el planeta; cualquier cosa que hagamos juntos tendrá una influencia enorme. Si los cristianos nos comportamos como cristianos, el mundo sería un lugar diferente en unas semanas y los grandes y pequeños problemas que sufrimos se resolverían más pronto que tarde.

Pero todos hemos fallado en llevar el mensaje porque el mundo no se cambia con discursos y sermones, sino con ladrillos de buen ejemplo, puestos día a día. Hemos escuchado decir que el ejemplo es el mejor maestro. Benjamín Franklin, creía en ese viejo axioma. El creía que Filadelfia necesitaba alumbrado público, pero sabía que el ejemplo era más persuasivo que un argumento. Ideo un método particular para convencer a sus vecinos de que Filadelfia necesitaba alumbrado público. Colgó una hermosa lámpara de un largo soporte afuera de su propia puerta. Mantuvo la lámpara de vidrio maravillosamente limpia y al pabito cuidadosamente ajustado. Al poco tiempo los



Vida del
Espiritu
por el Padre
Wilson Cuevas

vecinos de Franklin empezaron a colocar lámparas afuera de sus puertas. Pronto los ciudadanos de Filadelfia estuvieron listos para alumbrar sus calles. Ni los discursos más elocuentes de Benjamín Franklin, convencieron a la gente sino el poder persuasivo de su ejemplo. Como intentas influenciar a las personas? Intimidándolas? Forzándolas a ver las cosas a tu manera?

Estoy de acuerdo con Edgar A. Guest, quien decía: “ Prefiero que me den ejemplo a escuchar un gran discurso o un gran sermón”. Para asumirlo, hacer y mostrar son más poderosos que las palabras. Estar en la presencia de Dios nos llena de sabiduría y bondad para hacer el bien. Estos son los nuevos comienzos que todos debemos considerar practicar este nuevo año, sino el mundo seguirá igual o poquito peor. De ti y de mi depende que esto comience a cambiar para bien de todos. Únete a esta noble causa y deja las huellas de tus buenos ejemplos. Bendiciones!

New Beginnings

A new year supposes that each one of us has a new possibility for perfection and for improvement. Do not be content with being the same this New Year, as you were last year. I am not saying that you were bad last year; but it is true that this year you have to be better. It is the law of progress, which is the law of every living being. As you progress in everything, in age, knowledge, experiences, etc. you must also grow in your thinking and in your spirit.

Mahatma Gandhi said that man is nothing more than the result of his thoughts; what he thinks, is what he becomes. Hence the importance of cultivating good thoughts and that you are forming your consciousness day by day... what you are in life and what life should be for you. To cultivate in you serious thoughts, noble, righteous, full of goodness, must be your main concern. I found a beautiful prayer, for which I had looked for a long time: “Lord, teach me the sweetness of thinking well”. In our conversations sometimes we prefer to talk badly than kindly. Thinking well of someone without any “but” is not common. How sweet it is to discover that our interior can become a beautiful mountain lake, quiet and peaceful. To encourage us to acquire this constant benevolence, let’s think about how pleasant it

will be to live with each other!

We have some cleaning to do in our environment, our planet is very dirty and this is frightening news. We have to act before it’s too late. But there is another important area that also urgently needs some special attention. It happens that this area is in the middle of your ears. I’m not talking about your face. I speak of your mind and of the pollution that it absorbs. Every day you are exposed to sex, to violence on television and on the internet and possibly to vulgar language at work or at school. The frightening danger is the way in which these negative stimuli affect your thoughts, attitudes, goals and actions. WE CONVERT TO WHAT WE THINK about, and think about what is put into our minds by ourselves or by other people.

If you have positive friends and you feed on appropriate information, you will be guaranteeing that your life will be elevated. William James said: “The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can change their lives by changing the attitude of their minds.” I hope we unite in cleaning the mind pollution, because if we do, we will be blessed, happy and healthy as never before! It is the mind that does good or evil, that makes us miserable or happy, rich or poor. Each one can choose what

he thinks, even if this selection will cost him sweat. Mental peace begins with our own thoughts and then spreads outwards.

Nowadays everyone talks about the state of the world, and our own world is no different. The world is in disarray! All of us experience this disorder in many ways every single day of our lives. There is a lot of talk about changing the world for the better, but in reality most people do not believe it can happen. But it is indeed possible!! How?

This change will not come about from any government. All governments have their own agendas but they do not legislate human kindness, virtue or morality. Change will not come from multinational economies. Governments have their own objectives and desired results and there is no evidence that more wealth or a better standard of living will improve our world to make it a more just and unified place. This change will not come from the scientific community either because its focus is on researching and analyzing.

There is no one group with a greater possibility for change in our world than Christians! If Christians don’t or won’t try to change the world, it will remain such as it is. And the way to effect this change is very simple. Think and Live as Christians! There are two

billion Christians on our planet. Whatever we do as a group will have great impact. If we as Christians would act more Christ-like our world would be a much better one in just a short time, and our problems, great or small, would be resolved sooner than later.

But we have all failed in delivering the message of peace. Things do not change with long discourses or sermons, but rather by building bricks of good examples displayed daily. We have all heard that teaching by example is the best learning method. Benjamin Franklin believed in this axiom. He believed that Philadelphia needed public lighting throughout the city, but he knew that an example of this would be more convincing than an argument. He thought of a way to convince his neighbors of the need for public lighting. He hung a beautiful lamp with a long support outside his own front door. He kept it perfectly clean and bright and carefully adjusted. Before long, his neighbors started to place lamps outside their front doors as well. Soon, the citizens of Philadelphia were ready to light up the streets. Not even the most eloquent argument could convince the people of his innovation, but rather his own example.

How do you propose

to influence other people? By intimidation? By forcing them to see things your way?

I am in total agreement with Edgar A. Guest who once said “I would rather be given an example than listen to lengthy discourses or sermons.” To summarize the thought, Actions speak louder than Words.

Being in the presence of God fills us with wisdom and goodness and the desire to do well. This should be the new beginning that we strive to practice in the coming New Year. If not, our world will remain the same, or worse, deteriorate even more. It is up to each one of us to try this new beginning for the betterment of all mankind. Let us all unite in this noble and worthy cause, and leave our footprints of good examples for others to follow! Blessings!



Download Today

March for Life Happens January 21, 2018

El Paso’s biggest annual pro-life event is getting BIGGER! The El Paso March for Life is partnering with the Southwest Coalition for Life to expand into the SOUTHWEST March for Life!!!

Join thousands of pro-life youth and families from across the borderland region to march for LIFE on this tragic 45th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, which legalized the premeditated destruction of 60 million children in the womb, including at least three children every single day just in El Paso!

Hear from special guest speaker Dr. Monique Ruberu, who is one of the nation’s leading pro-life Ob/Gyn physicians trained in

NaProTechnology and a prominent pro-life activist!
11:00 AM - Rally (San Jacinto Plaza)
12:00 PM - March for Life
1:00 PM - Mass

Dr. Monique is a daughter of God, a wife to an amazing husband and a mother to three adorable kiddos. She is a convinced Catholic Christian who lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her recent book “Rising With Roses” delves deep into her faith journey and conversion from a broken marriage to an amazing and precious relationship with God. It also addresses many interesting life lessons that she learned along the way and now shares with her patients on a daily basis.

In addition to being a renowned pro-life Ob/Gyn, Dr. Monique also leads 40 Days for Life and organizes year-round sidewalk counseling in Philadelphia. Aside from being as a vocal pro-life advocate, trained sidewalk counselor, and public speaker, she also loves salsa dancing, scuba diving, traveling, loving on her family, and spending time with her Lord at Mass and Adoration.

Don’t miss this critical and inspiring event in our borderland’s fight to respect the dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death!

Go online to march.southwest.life



Catholics from El Paso Journey to Washington DC to Support Migrants

At the beginning of December, Ms. Patricia Lopez Fierro, chancellor of the Diocese of El Paso, and Father Jose A. Morales, Pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Horizon, TX, made a pilgrimage to the nation’s capital to lift up the moral and human impacts of a broken immigration system on communities like El Paso. There they joined thousands of advocates from across the country who have travelled to Washington, DC in the last several months to advocate for the Dream Act and protections for migrants at risk of losing TPS status.

“This was the right thing to do,” said Ms. Lopez Fierro. “People of faith cannot sit on the sidelines in the face of injustice. Our El Paso church is a place of refuge for migrants and our border community is a migrant community. We had to bring this message to Washington.”

Last fall, the Trump administration announced plans to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). Nearly 700,000 young migrants who were brought to the United States as children have received work permits and protection from deportation through DACA. Unless Congress acts in the next few months, these young people will be at risk of separation from their communities and families through deportation.

According to Father Morales, “As priests, we know that Dreamers and other migrants are part of the fabric of our community. We’ve baptized them, given them their First

Holy Communion and married them. We’ve seen them graduate from college, serve in the armed forces and give back to their country. To dash their aspirations now would be cruel. This is something we can fix.”

During their trip to DC, Ms. Lopez Fierro and Father Morales visited the offices of Texas senators and representatives. During her visits, Ms. Lopez Fierro delivered a drawing and poem from a local Catholic school student, which depict the harsh reality of the border wall.

They were able to bring their message directly to Congressman Will Hurd, who represents communities in West Texas, including parishioners at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Horizon. After making their case in Representative Hurd’s office, the congressman issued a statement calling on the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, to act to help Dreamers.

Pope Francis spoke late last year about the precarious situation in which Dreamers now find themselves. “God said it and the Bible is clear,” the Pope said. “Receive the migrant, receive the refugee, because you too were a migrant and refugee from Egypt.”

Bishop Mark J. Seitz has spoken on a number of occasions in support of Dreamers. Last year, when the Texas attorney general led efforts to force the Trump administration to roll back DACA protections, the bishop wrote that rather than trying to use the law to punish Dreamers, lawmakers “should have practiced a



Patricia Fierro, Chancellor, delivers to Rep. Hurd a drawing of border wall separating families drawn by 7 year old Zoey Torres of Mt. Carmel Parish.



Father Jose Morales, Pastor Holy Spirit Catholic Church with Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez from Illinois at Dream Act Rally.

higher law, that of justice and mercy and faithfulness. They should have imitated God’s compassion toward those forced by life’s circumstances to carry heavy loads.”

Hundred of thousands of persons are also at risk of losing protection from deportation who are currently in the country as beneficiaries of the Temporary Protected Status program (TPS). TPS provides relief to migrants unable to return to their countries due to serious conditions such as conflict or natural disasters. Late last year, the administration announced the cancellation of TPS for Haitians, despite the devastation caused there by the recent hurricanes Matthew and

Irma. The Trump administration also announced that TPS for Hondurans might also be cancelled, despite dangerous political instability there.

Ms. Lopez Fierro and Father Morales were able to make their trip with support from the Hope Border Institute (HOPE), a Catholic education and advocacy organization that works with local border dioceses. According to HOPE, Texas is the state with the second largest amount of DACA beneficiaries and if Congress does not fix the program, the economic impact to the state will be over six billion dollars.

According to Mr. Dylan Corbett, Executive Director of HOPE, rather than fixing the problem, the

actions of the Trump administration have actually made things worse. “By cancelling protections for Dreamers and recipients of TPS, the Trump administration is not only creating fear and anxiety for an untold number of families across the country and in our border communities, but is actually unnecessarily creating a larger undocumented population. These are problems that we can fix and we shouldn’t be playing politics with people’s lives.”

More information about Dreamers and immigration can be found on the HOPE website at www.hopeborder.org.

Católicos de El Paso viajan a Washington DC para apoyar a los Migrantes

A principios de diciembre, la Sra. Patricia López Fierro, Canciller de la Diócesis de El Paso, y el padre José A. Morales, pastor de la Iglesia Católica Holy Spirit en Horizon, TX, hicieron una peregrinación a la capital de la nación para subrayar los impactos humanos de un sistema de inmigración quebrado en comunidades como El Paso. Allí se unieron a miles de defensores de todo el país que han viajado a Washington, DC en los últimos meses para abogar por el Dream Act y protecciones para los migrantes en riesgo de perder el estatus de TPS.

“Esto fue lo correcto”, dijo la Sra. López Fierro. “La gente de fe no puede permanecer al margen frente a la injusticia. Nuestra iglesia de El Paso es un lugar de refugio para inmigrantes y nuestra comunidad fronteriza es una comunidad migrante. Tuvimos que llevar este mensaje a Washington.”

El otoño pasado, la administración Trump anunció planes para finalizar el programa de Acción Diferida para Llegados en la Infancia (DACA). Casi 700,000 jóvenes migrantes que fueron

traídos a los Estados Unidos cuando eran niños han recibido permisos de trabajo y protección contra la deportación a través de DACA. A menos que el Congreso actúe en los próximos meses, estos jóvenes correrán el riesgo de separarse de sus comunidades y familias mediante la deportación.

Según el padre Morales, “como sacerdotes, sabemos que los soñadores y otros migrantes son parte integral de nuestra comunidad. Los hemos bautizado, les hemos dado sus Primeras Comuniones y los hemos casado. Los hemos visto graduarse de la universidad, servir en las fuerzas armadas y devolver a su país. Deshacerse de sus aspiraciones ahora sería cruel. Esto es algo que podemos arreglar.”

Durante su viaje a DC, la Sra. López Fierro y el Padre Morales visitaron las oficinas de los senadores y representantes de Texas. Durante sus visitas, la Sra. López Fierro entregó un dibujo y un poema de un estudiante local de la escuela católica, que representan la dura realidad del muro fronterizo.

Pudieron llevar su mensaje directamente al congresista Will Hurd, que representa a las comunidades en el oeste de Texas, incluida la iglesia católica Holy Spirit en Horizon. Después de presentar su caso en la oficina del Representante Hurd, el congresista emitió una declaración llamando al Presidente de la Cámara, Paul Ryan, a actuar para ayudar a los Soñadores.

El Papa Francisco habló a fines del año pasado sobre la precaria situación en la que ahora se encuentran los Soñadores. “Dios lo dijo y la Biblia es clara”, dijo el Papa. “Recibe al inmigrante, recibe al refugiado, porque tú también fuiste un inmigrante y un refugiado de Egipto.”

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz ha hablado en varias ocasiones en apoyo a los Soñadores. El año pasado, cuando el fiscal general de Texas encabezó los esfuerzos para obligar a la administración Trump a revocar las protecciones DACA, el obispo escribió que, en lugar de intentar usar la ley para castigar a los Soñadores, los legisladores “deberían haber practicado una ley superior, la

de justicia, misericordia y fidelidad. Deberían haber imitado la compasión de Dios hacia aquellos forzados por las circunstancias de la vida a llevar cargas pesadas.”

Cientos de miles de personas también corren el riesgo de perder la protección de la deportación que se encuentran actualmente en el país como beneficiarios del Programa de Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS). TPS brinda alivio a los migrantes que no pueden regresar a sus países debido a condiciones serias como conflictos o desastres naturales. A fines del año pasado, el gobierno anunció la cancelación de TPS para los Haitianos, a pesar de la inestabilidad persistente en ese país debido a la devastación causada por los recientes huracanes Matthew e Irma. La administración de Trump también anunció que TPS para Hondureños también puede ser cancelado.

La Sra. López Fierro y el Padre Morales pudieron hacer su viaje con el apoyo de Hope Border Institute, una organización de educación y defensa católica que

trabaja con las diócesis fronterizas locales. Según HOPE, Texas es el estado con la segunda mayor cantidad de beneficiarios de DACA y si el programa no es fijado por el Congreso, el impacto económico para el estado será de más de seis mil millones de dólares.

Según el Sr. Dylan Corbett, Director Ejecutivo de HOPE, en lugar de ejecutar el problema, las acciones de la administración Trump en realidad han empeorado las cosas. “Al cancelar las protecciones para Soñadores y destinatarios de TPS, la administración Trump no sólo está creando miedo y ansiedad para un número incalculable de familias en todo el país y en nuestras comunidades fronterizas, sino que está creando innecesariamente una población indocumentada más grande. Estos son problemas que podemos solucionar y no deberíamos jugar a la política con las vidas de las personas.”

Puede encontrar más información sobre los Soñadores e inmigración en el sitio web de HOPE en www.hopeborder.org.

News Around Catholic Schools

Most Holy Trinity Catholic School Supports Guiding Star El Paso



Most Holy Trinity collected items for newborns to donate to “Guiding Star El Paso” formerly known as the House of Hope. Guiding Star El Paso, through the support of our community, reaches out to those in need with love to provide the support they need during an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy. Their services include ultrasounds, pregnancy test, peer counseling, support after a miscarriage, parenting education, material support, fertility education and theology of the body classes.

The Baby Jesus Shower has been a tradition for many years at our school. “It brings joy to my heart to give people what they need, I feel bad for those parents who need things,” said Rae Smith. Rae has a special interest in giving this year as she decided not to accept any presents this Christmas. “I want others who are less fortunate to receive presents this year”.

A major part of our Catholic Faith is the belief in the culture of life. Monica Bar-ba from Guiding Star sent us the following message: “Mother Teresa said it very clearly when she said, “The biggest disease today, is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference toward one’s neighbor who lives at the roadside, assaulted by exploitation, corruption, poverty and disease.” We can bring the love of Christ to those who have been en-trusted to our care because of support provided by those in our community such as Most Holy Trinity Catholic School.

Projects like these help our students understand the importance of caring for others as they contribute items to help.

St. Raphael Catholic School

Our students from pre-kinder to 3rd grade performed at our annual Advent Program on

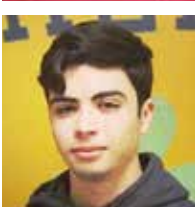


December 14th at 1:00pm in the church. They did an excellent job at telling the Nativity Story as they do every year.

Our annual car raffle has ended. We raffled off a 2017 Nissan Sentra from Nissan of Las Cruces. Congratulations to Ernesta Mendez, a parent of St. Raphael’s, for winning the raffle.

As we come back from Christmas Vacation, we enter the year 2018! We celebrate the New Year by returning to the swing of things by starting the new school semester with our 1st Annual 10 year reunion for the Class of 2008. The re-union is being held on January 5th, in the school’s library along with Mass and Brunch provided by Student Council. It is a nice way to bring back former students to see how they are doing. As well as to show our Alumni how the school has changed in just 10 years with the technology advances put into the curriculum.

We are having our Annual Science Fair in January organized by Mrs. Arriola. Our 7th and 8th grade students have worked hard all semester on their Science Projects. Their projects are going to be judged by St. Raphael Alumni ranging from various years. We will have the results as soon as possible to see which students will go onto the Sun Country Science Fair.



Cathedral High School

The following Cathedral High School students have received college acceptances so far this year: Daniel Brunnick-Harvard University, Jose Luis Villareal-Stanford University, Saul Lopez

Valdez -Swarthmore College



Matthew Appleby - St. Edward’s University, University of Arizona, Mississippi State University, Creighton University, University of Alabama, Arizona State University, Cole Urrea - St. Mary’s University, University of Texas at Austin, Baylor University, Texas A&M University, Omar Abbud-Texas A&M, University of Nebraska, University of Missouri, University of Texas at Austin, Iowa State University, Colorado State University, Baylor University, Anthony Moulton - St. Mary’s University - Athletic offer - Soccer, Zander Karr - New England College - Athletic offer - Rugby. Congratulations Irish!

St. Patrick Cathedral School

Holiday season at St. Patrick Cathedral School

The month of December was both a time of reflection/stewardship and celebration for the students, parents and faculty/staff at St. Patrick Cathedral School. The month began with the annual school Posada on Dec. 7. Students sang and reenacted Joseph and Mary seeking shelter in preparation of the birth of Jesus. Students sang traditional posada songs as students who were portraying Mary and Joseph sought shelter, the students rejoiced once the Holy Family were granted shelter at the end of the performance. Students continued the traditional celebration by then breaking piñatas. To conclude the event, the Home & School Association gave each student a candy bag.

On Dec. 11, the students were able to give back by donating Christmas gifts to the less fortunate



which were picked up and delivered by the El Paso Motorcycle Coalition. During the toy collection drive the students got to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Another annual tradition

was the blanket drive started up by students and brothers, Christian & Sebastian Garcia. The boys collected blankets and donated them on



Dec. 14. This has become a yearly addition by the Garcia’s and their fellow classmates have been glad to join in by donating blankets for the needy.

The St. Patrick Cathedral School Chamber Choir also had the opportunity to perform twice for the greater El Paso community to help spread holiday cheer at the El Paso Museum of Art on Dec. 2 and Dec. 14, prior to the city’s Christmas Tree lighting ceremony and again during a Christmas music program.

The After School Music Program also held its Musical Recitals on Dec. 13-14, performing Christmas musical selections for parents. Students showcased their talents on the piano, violin, cello and clarinet.

Students ended the first half of the year with the school’s annual Christmas Program, “A Classic Christmas” on Dec. 15. Each grade level performed a classic Christmas song for parents and community members in attendance. The multi-purpose building was standing-room only as parents packed the gym to see one of the school’s most popular performances.

January is School Board Recognition Month

The last week of January is Catholic Schools Week. The event



allows the school the opportunity to showcase the importance of a Catholic school education. Events commemorating the event will be posted on the school’s website and

Face-book page later this month. The month is also recognized as School Board Recognition Month. St. Patrick Cathedral School will take time during the month to recognize its school board members for volunteering their time and energy to serving on the St. Patrick Cathedral School Board. The school board consists of Tatiana Avila, Barbara Amaya, President Maureen Franco, Danielle Hernandez, Daniel Fierro, Home & School Association President Martha Nevarez, and Pifas Silva.

St. Patrick Irish Gala a huge success

St. Patrick Cathedral School held its Irish Gala on Dec. 1 at Grace Gardens. The fundraiser helped raise much-needed funds for the school. Attendees began the evening with a silent auction and cocktail reception, followed by a delicious dinner, then a live auction emceed by Father Fabian Marquez. The evening ended with a dance. The evening was organized by the Home & School Association. The event was so successful and attendees had such a great time that plans for another gala next school year is being planned. School administrators and HSA representatives would like to thank everyone who attended the event and especially thank the businesses and organizations who sponsored the event and donated gifts to help raise funds.



St. Pius X Catholic School

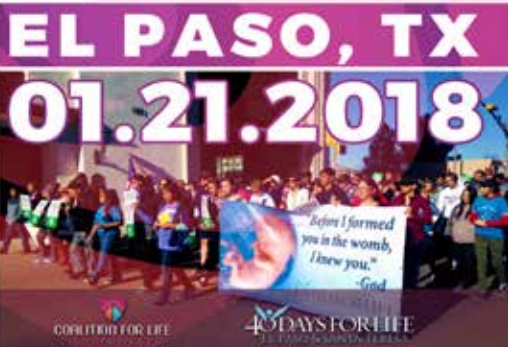
St. Pius X School’s Christmas gift project this year was to provide all the children at

the Centro Santa Catalina in Juarez with a warm hoodie sweatshirt. More than 100 children, from ages 5 to 15, use this facility where they receive educational services, food, and a safe place to rest. The center is located around the old garbage dump in Juarez. It was through the generosity of each SPX family, that we were able to reach our goal. The center provides educational services to the children who live around this area.



LOVE SAVES LIVES

Southwest MARCH for LIFE



Visit march.southwest.life for more info



National Migration Week – January 7 to 13, 2018
Semana Nacional de la Migración – 7 a 13 de enero de 2018

“Many Journeys, One Family”
“Muchos Caminos, Una Familia”

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION
Presided by Most Reverend Mark Seitz, Bishop of El Paso
CELEBRACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA
Celebrada por el Reverendísimo Mark Seitz, Obispo de El Paso

Saturday, January 13th at 5:15pm
Sábado, 13 de enero a las 5:15pm
Saint Patrick’s Cathedral

Posada Vocacional: A Calling to Receive Others

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Vocation Office

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Pope Francis has invited the faithful from across the world to open the doors to over 250 million migrants (of whom 22.5 million are refugees) (World Day of Prayer For Peace Message, Paragraph 1) acknowledging that as Christians we possess a common home and that we are a universal family of God (Paragraph 6). This act of hospitality requires an internal disposition of seeking to welcome others into our home. As Latino Christians in the United States, our popular religiosity and devotions express this action of welcoming so many times. Recently, the celebration of the posadas express this gesture of hospitality that is at the center of our faith. Saint Charles Seminary, opened its doors to the community this past December 14th for the celebration of the “Posada Vocacional” (Vocational Posada) in which we were able to receive over 200 people from the different parishes in the diocese (children, youth, families and the elderly) to celebrate that Joseph and Mary were able to find a home as they were preparing to receive Jesus in Bethlehem.

Youth from Our Lady of Assumption Parish dressed as Mary and Joseph in order to lead the procession on the seminary grounds. The participants carried their lit candles as they walked

behind the pilgrims passing from one door to another singing the traditional carols to request space at the inn. The litany of the saints was sung as the solemn procession with the seminarians took place. Upon arriving to the third door, there were shouts and carols of joy, led by the San Juan Bautista Parish Choir, because the pilgrims had been granted a place for Jesus to be born.

The meditations of the rosary were based on the different vocations and we reflected how God continues to call people in the present, just as he called Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Simeon, Ana (and other biblical characters) to acknowledge that salvation was coming and that they were to be part of the story of salvation. In the present, many are called to diocesan priesthood, religious life, single life, and married life. The entire posada was offered for the vocations of the youth of the Diocese of El Paso. We pray that just as the Holy Family was received and given a place of hospitality for Christ to be born, that

the youth may receive the calling of God and offer all they are so that Jesus may come to bring his salvation to the world. The traditional piñata, candy bags, and tamales were shared afterwards, thanks to the generosity of many friends and benefactors of Saint Charles Seminary and the Vocation Office.

The Diocese of El Paso has had the blessing of receiving men and women for formation to the priesthood and religious life. The posada was blessed to count with the participation of young ladies who are candidates in formation for religious life with the Dominican’s of the Christian

Doctrine (a religious community that serves our diocese). Several seminarians of the Diocese of El Paso were also present. Currently, there are a total of 28 seminarians who are discerning and preparing for priesthood for the Diocese of El Paso. Eight of the seminarians are in the Introductory Formation Program at Saint Charles Seminary and the other twenty study philosophy and theology through the sponsorship of the diocese in seminaries in different cities.

Saint Charles Seminary would like to extend its gesture of hospitality beyond the traditional posada. We invite you to join us for our next Mass with

the Friends of Saint Charles on Saturday, January 27th at 9am. We will have the opportunity to pray for vocations in the chapel of our Saint Charles Seminarians and to participate in fellowship afterwards. There will also be a brief meeting with the Diocesan Vocation Ministry after mass, in which anyone who would like to support and promote vocations is welcomed to attend. We pray that each of us may have a spirituality of hospitality in our daily encounters in life as we continue studying, working and caring for others.



Posada procession at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary



San Juan Bautista Parish Choir led the singing for the Posada Vocacional

Posada Vocacional: Un Llamado a Recibir a Otros

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Oficina de Vocaciones

En su mensaje para el Día Mundial de Oración por la Paz, el Papa Francisco invita a los fieles en todo el mundo a abrir las puertas a más de 250 millones de migrantes (de los cuales 22.5 millones son refugiados) (Mensaje Para el Día Mundial de Oración por la Paz, Párrafo 1) reconociendo que como cristianos

poseemos un hogar común y somos una familia universal de Dios (Párrafo 6). Este acto de hospitalidad requiere de una disposición interna que busca darles la bienvenida a otros en nuestro hogar. Como Cristianos Latinos en Estados Unidos, nuestra religiosidad popular y devociones expresan esta acción

de dar la bienvenida tantas veces. Recientemente, la celebración de las posadas expresó este gesto central de nuestra fe. El Seminario San Carlos abrió sus puertas a la comunidad el pasado 14 de diciembre para la celebración de la “Posada Vocacional” en la cual se recibió a más de 200 personas de las diferentes parroquias de la diócesis (niños, jóvenes, familias y personas mayores) para celebrar que José y María pudieron encontrar un hogar al prepararse a recibir a Jesús en Belén.

Jóvenes de la Parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Asunción se vistieron de María y José para guiar la procesión en el campus del seminario. Los participantes portaban velas encendidas al caminar detrás de los peregrinos de una puerta a otra cantando los villancicos tradicionales para pedir posada. Se cantó la letanía de los santos al avanzar en la procesión solemne guiada por los seminaristas. Al llegar a la tercera puerta, hubo cantos de alegría, dirigidos por el Coro de la Parroquia San Juan Bautista, porque los peregrinos recibieron un lugar para el nacimiento de Jesús. Los



Seminarians Angel DJ Aguilar, Loyd Divinagracia and Astry Deraly were Los Reyes Magos

meditaciones del rosario se basaron en las diferentes vocaciones y reflexionamos como Dios sigue llamando a personas en estos días, así como llamo a Isabel, María, José, Simeón y Ana (y otros personajes bíblicos) a reconocer que la salvación estaba llegando y que ellos deberían ser parte de la historia de salvación. En el presente, muchos son llamados al sacerdocio diocesano, a la vida religiosa, a la vida soltero y a la vida matrimonial. La posada entera se ofreció por las vocaciones de los jóvenes de la Diócesis de El Paso. Le pedimos al Señor que así como la Sagrada Familia fue recibida y dada un sitio de hospitalidad para el nacimiento de Cristo, que los jóvenes reciban el llamado de Dios y se ofrezcan por completo para que llegue Jesús a traer la salvación al mundo por medio de ellos. La piñata tradicional, el aguinaldo, y los tamales se compartieron después, gracias a la generosidad de muchos amigos y bienhechores del Seminario San Carlos y la Oficina de Vocaciones.

La Diócesis de El Paso ha tenido la bendición de recibir hombres y mujeres para la formación en la vida religiosa y sacerdocio. La posada contó con la bendición de que participaran candidatos para la vida religiosa con las Hermanas Dominicas


de la Doctrina Cristiana (una comunidad de hermanas que sirve a nuestra diócesis). Varios seminaristas de la Diócesis de El Paso estuvieron presentes. Actualmente, hay un total de 28 seminaristas que discernen y se preparan para el sacerdocio en la Diócesis de El Paso. Ocho seminaristas están en el Programa de Formación de Introductorio en el Seminario San Carlos y otros veinte estudian filosofía y teología bajo el patrocinio de la diócesis en seminarios en distintas ciudades. El Seminario San Carlos busca extender su gesto de hospitalidad más allá de la posada tradicional. Los invitamos a nuestra próxima Misa con los Amigos de San Carlos el sábado, 27 de enero a las 9am. Tendremos la oportunidad de orar por vocaciones en la capilla de los Seminaristas de San Carlos y participar en convivencia después de misa. Habrá una reunión breve con el Ministerio Diocesano por Vocaciones después de misa, y están invitadas todas las personas que quieran apoyar y promover vocaciones. Le pedimos al Señor que cada uno de nosotros pueda tener una espiritualidad de hospitalidad en nuestros encuentros cotidianos al seguir estudiando, trabajando y cuidando de los demás.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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

Cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo

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



Facilities and Services

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

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

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

401 S. Zaragoza Rd * Ph. 860-0606

One in a series of informational presentations

Progress, The Bishop’s Annual Appeal begins this month



The Bishop’s 2018 Appeal invites the people of the Diocese of El Paso to participate in and support the ministries and programs of our local Church. These ministries and programs support parishes, individuals, families, and the broader community in the 10 counties of the Diocese, and they involve activities that individual parishes cannot carry out on their own.

The Importance of the Progress Annual Appeal
The Bishop’s Appeal funds ongoing ministries. This revenue ensures that the Diocese is able to provide its current level of ministries and services. Funds raised through the Progress Appeal represent 40% of all funds available to diocesan ministries. **Parishes, Schools, Families and Individuals Benefit**
Parishes receive training,

consultation, and direct support from the programs and ministries funded by the Progress Appeal and individuals receive educational, spiritual, and social services.

- For 33 cents a day, \$10 a month, your gift can support the annual retreat for one Deacon Candidate.
- For 66 cents a day, \$20 a month, your gift can fund an online class from Tepeyac Institute for a Eucharistic minister.
- For \$1.00 a day, \$30 a month, your gift can provide training for a marriage preparation couple at your parish.
- For \$2.00 a day, \$60 a month, your gift can provide half the tuition cost for one seminarian for one month.

What’s New This Year?
This year, families can designate their gifts to one of five areas of support. Just look for the designation box on your pledge form or gift envelope or call us at 872-8412 to let us know your

preferences.

How to Designate Your Gift to the Area of Your Choice

Education & Formation
Ministries that oversee our Catholic schools, provide support to parish catechetical programs, and train lay ministers

Office of Education | Religious Formation Ministry | Tepeyac Institute

Evangelization
Programs that provide evangelization and advocacy on behalf of those in need

Communications Office | Peace & Justice Ministry | Tigua Native American Ministry | West Texas Ministry | Office of Worship

Pastoral Outreach
Ministries that offer human services and outreach to the Catholic community

Catholic Campus Ministry | Catholic Counseling Services | Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services | Marriage & Family Life Ministry | Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Seminarian & Diaconate Formation
Ministries that recruit and train

the seminarians and permanent deacons for the Diocese of El Paso

Major Seminarians Program | Permanent Diaconate Program | St. Charles Seminary | Vocations Ministry

Area of Greatest Need
The Foundation can maximize your gift and use it to make the greatest possible impact if you choose this designation. That’s because we are always assessing the areas of greatest need in our Catholic community and working to find the best possible solutions.

The 2018 Goal for this year is 2.2 Million and 12,000 donors.

Be 1 of the 12,000 donors

and share with us why you’re Proud to be Catholic.

- Call (915) 872-8412
- Log on to www.progress2018.org
- Send your gift to:
Bishop’s Annual Appeal
P.O. Box 17993, El Paso, Texas 79917
- Like us on Facebook/Follow us on Twitter



Progreso, La Campaña Anual del Obispo inicia este mes



La Campaña del Obispo 2018 invita a toda su gente en la Diócesis de El Paso a que participe y apoye a los ministerios y programas de nuestra Iglesia local. Estos ministerios y programas apoyan a las parroquias, a las personas, a las familias y a la comunidad en general en los 10 condados de la Diócesis, además se involucran en actividades que las parroquias individuales no pueden llevar a cabo por sí solas.

La importancia de la Campaña Anual, Progreso
La Campaña del Obispo financia ministerios que están activos continuamente. Este ingreso asegura que la Diócesis pueda proporcionar su nivel actual de ministerios y servicios. Los fondos recaudados a través de la Campaña de Progres, representan el 40% de todos los fondos disponibles para estos ministerios diocesanos. **Se Benefician Parroquias,**

Escuelas, Familias e Individuos
Las parroquias reciben capacitación, consulta y apoyo directo de los programas y ministerios financiados por la Campaña de Progreso y las personas reciben servicios educativos, espirituales y sociales.

- Por 33 centavos al día, \$10 al mes, su obsequio puede respaldar al retiro anual para un candidato al Diaconado.
- Por 66 centavos al día, \$20 al mes, su donación puede financiar una clase en línea del Instituto Tepeyac, para un ministro de Eucaristía.
- Por \$1.00 al día, \$30 al mes, su donación puede proporcionar capacitación para una pareja en preparación matrimonial en su parroquia.
- Por \$2.00 al día, \$60 al mes, su donación puede proporcionar la mitad del costo de la matrícula de un seminarista por un mes.

¿Qué hay de nuevo este año?
Este año, las familias pueden

asignar sus donativos en una de las cinco áreas de apoyo. Simplemente busque el cuadro de asignaciones en su formato de compromiso o sobre de donativo, o llámenos al 872-8412 para hacernos saber sus preferencias.

Como Asignar Su Donativo a el Área de su Elección

Educación y Formación
Ministerios que supervisan nuestras escuelas católicas, brindan apoyo a los programas de catequesis de la parroquia y capacitan a ministros laicos

Oficina de Educación | Ministerio de Formación Religiosa | Instituto Tepeyac

Evangelización
Programas que brindan evangelización y defensa en nombre de aquellos en necesidad

Oficina de Comunicaciones | Ministerio de Paz y Justicia | Ministerio de los

indígenas de Tigua | Ministerio del oeste de Texas | Oficina de Adoración

Alcance Pastoral
Ministerios que ofrecen servicios humanos y alcance a la comunidad católica

Ministerio Católico del Campus | Servicios de consejería católica | Servicios Diocesanos de Migrantes y Refugiados | Ministerio de matrimonio y vida familiar | Ministerio de Jóvenes y Jóvenes Adultos

Formación de Seminaristas y Diaconado
Ministerios que reclutan y

entrenan a los seminaristas y diáconos permanentes para la Diócesis de El Paso

Programa de seminaristas mayores | Programa de diaconado permanente | Seminario de San Carlos | Ministerio de Vocaciones

Área de Mayor Necesidad
La Fundación puede maximizar su donación y usarla para lograr el mayor impacto posible si elige esta designación. Eso es porque siempre estamos evaluando las áreas de mayor necesidad en nuestra comunidad católica y trabajando para encontrar las mejores soluciones posibles.

La Meta para este año 2018 es de 2.2 millones y 12,000 donantes.

Sé 1 de los 12,000 donantes y comparte con nosotros por qué estás orgulloso de ser Católico.

- Llámenos al (915) 872-8412
- Ingrese a www.progress2018.org
- Mande su donativo a:
Campaña Anual del Obispo
P.O. Box 17993, El Paso, Texas 79917
- “Like” en Facebook/Siganos en Twitter

St. Patrick Cathedral Historic Preservation Fund Hits Goal of \$1 Million

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

Frank Gorman, a devout Catholic and lifelong St. Patrick Cathedral parishioner left a generous gift to the St. Patrick Cathedral Historic Preservation Fund, helping the fund reach its goal of \$1 million. An endowed fund of \$1 million will provide a yearly distribution of \$40,000 to help preserve our beautiful century-old Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese. The campaign to establish a permanent fund for the Cathedral was initiated by Fr. Rick Matty† in 2011. Since then, more than 400 donors have given generously to the preservation fund.

The Cathedral of St. Patrick kicked off centennial celebrations in March, 2017 with a seated dinner for clergy and ministry leaders, a Mass to commemorate the Feast Day of St. Patrick followed by a parade, a 5K Run, and guided tours of the Cathedral. There will be a centennial celebration of Saint Pedro de Jesús Maldonado from January 22-26, 2018. He was ordained a priest on January 25, 1918 at St. Patrick Cathedral by Bishop Anthony Joseph Schuler, S.J.

Countless people can tell you about how Frank Gorman touched their lives, especially

how he did things from his heart to honor God with absolutely no thought of any recognition. As a matter of fact, if you were going to put his name on something, he would refuse. This time is an exception. His children thought it was important to share the news of his gift because they wanted to inspire others to give. Frank’s son Mike said it best, “His charity and humility paved his way to heaven.”

The first time I climbed the steep stairs to Frank Gorman’s office, he was in his 90’s and still going to work each day. I went there to ask Frank’s advice. What I left with was an enormous appreciation for his family history, work ethic, dedication to the Church, and a gift for the St. Patrick Cathedral Historic Preservation Fund. Frank was straightforward and incredibly generous. Many visits, conversations, stories, anecdotes, and follow-up letters would ensue. Frank’s love of St. Patrick Cathedral went all the way back to the conversion of his mother by Msgr. Henry Buchanan, the marriage of his parents, his own baptism, and serving as an altar boy while a student at St. Patrick Cathedral School where he was educated by the Sisters of Loretto.

After the Second Vatican Council, or Vatican II, which concluded in 1965, Frank fought to keep the interior of the Cathedral and the contents at the altar intact and historically accurate.

Frank and his late wife, Barbara, were married on August 25, 1947 at St. Patrick Cathedral and would have celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2017. They had 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. They will both be remembered with great fondness and admiration and will be deeply missed.

The St. Patrick Cathedral Historic Preservation Fund was established to provide for the future care of the Cathedral. Donations to this fund are a great gift to our community and will ensure that all families within our diocese are able to enjoy the beauty and sanctity of our Cathedral Church now and for years to come.

To give to the St. Patrick Cathedral Historic Preservation Fund call the Catholic Foundation at 915.872.8412 or visit elpasodiocesefoundation.org. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible.



Barbara & Frank W. Gorman, Jr.

Photo Credit: Patrick Craig, Diocese of El Paso Archives and UTEP Special Collections Department

You can reach Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at 915.872.8412 or slarkin@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.

St. Patrick Cathedral is 100 Years Old

First Catholic Church in El Paso

The first Catholic Church in El Paso, St. Mary Chapel, was built by the Jesuits. Known as the Rock Church, St. Mary was located at the corner of Oregon and Wyoming Streets. The first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day 1882.

On March 3, 1914, Pope Pius X issued a Papal Bull formally establishing the Diocese of El Paso with Immaculate Conception Church as the provisional or Pro-Cathedral. In June 1915, Pope Benedict XV named the Rev. Anthony J. Schuler, S.J. of Denver as El Paso’s first bishop. He was consecrated as bishop in Denver on October 28, 1915 and installed at Immaculate Conception Church in El Paso on November 11, 1915.

A Cathedral for the New Diocese

Since neither Immaculate Conception nor Holy Family Church (formerly St. Mary Chapel) was large enough to serve as the Cathedral, Bishop Schuler informed the faithful that he would make the new church of St. Patrick his Cathedral. The origin of St. Patrick Cathedral dates to 1908 when the parishioners of Holy Family started a building fund for a new church. By 1913, the

need for a larger church became even more pressing as the city’s population grew to 30,000. Father Edward Barry, S.J., the pastor at Immaculate Conception, devised a unique fundraising idea. In December, he distributed cards with a picture of a proposed new church to parishioners saying that whoever donated \$10,000 (about \$215,000 in today’s currency) would be given the right to name the new church after a saint. Mrs. Delia Lane, a pioneer churchwoman of early El Paso, presented a check for \$10,000 to Father Barry on December 31, 1913 but passed along the naming privilege to the Daughters of Erin who unanimously chose St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, as the name of the new church.

Several sites were considered for the new church before Father Barry settled on the corner of Mesa and Arizona Streets which he bought in February 1914 for \$20,000. On November 12, 1916, Bishop Schuler blessed the cornerstone and the site of the altar was marked by a large wooden cross. In the cornerstone was placed a metal box with coins, medals, a historical record of the ceremony written on parchment and placed in a glass tube to prevent its destruction from dampness, the names of the governor, mayor, and officials and a list of benefactors and contributors. As

the cornerstone was set, Bishop Schuler laid his hand upon the marble being lowered and sprinkled it with Holy Water, saying, “In the faith of Jesus Christ we place this cornerstone into this foundation in the name of the Father and Son, and the Holy Ghost.” On the cornerstone was inscribed “Church of St. Patrick, erected A.D. 1916 Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!” – For the Greater Glory of God – the motto of the Jesuits.

Architecture

The architectural plans for St. Patrick were prepared by Barnett, Haynes and Barnett of St. Louis, the architects who had designed the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis. The church was designed in the Byzantine style of architecture and constructed from brick and Carrara marble. Designed to seat 720 worshippers, the interior is modified Byzantine with the woodwork of golden oak and the floor of polished oak. The interior is adorned with Roman columns, elaborate frescoes that



St. Patrick Cathedral in the Early 1900’s

depict biblical scenes, and the Stations of the Cross that are carved in bas-relief on the interior walls.

The impressive marble altar was donated by Michael Connerton, a local businessman and brother of Delia Lane.



Exterior of St. Patrick Cathedral, El Paso

Seventy-five feet high, it is a smaller duplicate of the altar in the St. Louis Cathedral and was designed by George Barnett at the request of Bishop Schuler. Contained within the altar is an eight-foot statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus under a large canopy that is topped with a golden eagle. The Cathedral’s original pipe organ was made by George Gilgen & Sons of St. Louis. It had 2,500 pipes and was electrical in its mechanism.

For the Greater Glory of God

The dedication ceremony took place on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1917. On November 30, 1917, Bishop

Schuler baptized a baby named Patrick Anthony Enjady. He was the son of Clarence and Isabel Enjady and a Mescalero Apache. The first marriage at the Cathedral occurred in December when Private James Joseph O’Brien married Mary Louise Hinton with the ceremony officiated by Jesuit Father A.F. Upton. The marriage was rushed because the groom was leaving within a few days for military service in Europe during World War I. Louise died in 1926 in El Paso when she was just 29 years old. James died in 1930 in Tucson, Arizona. He was 43. They had 4 children.

Bishop Schuler requested that the Cathedral be

administered by the Jesuits but his request was denied by Rome because the New Mexico-Colorado Province of the Society of Jesus was in the process of being divided. Therefore, St. Patrick Cathedral has been administered by diocesan clergy since its opening. Bishop Schuler appointed Rev. George C. Frund the first rector in October 1917. One of the early pastors at the Cathedral was Father Malachy O’Leary who started



Sacred Heart of Jesus

St. Patrick Parochial School and laid the plans for the Catholic Community Center which became Cathedral High School. In June 1925, Father O’Leary was succeeded by Father Robert O’Laughran. Under him, the Community Center was finished and the Christian Brothers arrived in El Paso to open Cathedral High School. In time, the parish came to encompass the entire city block including the church, Cathedral High School, the priests’ homes, St. Patrick Parochial School, the Christian Brothers’ home, the Daughters of Charity’s home, and the Catholic Museum building. Across the street was the Chancery and Bishop’s house and Hotel Dieu Hospital was located on the next block.

Delia Lane

“Humility, kindness and generosity were the three beautiful gifts which were given to a Catholic woman who did much for Catholicity in the city of El Paso before she passed on to her heavenly reward.” Such began a memorial article written by Florence LeBreich in June 1936 after the death of Delia Lane.

Delia Lane was born in Ireland in 1843 and came to the United States when she a child. Both she and her brother, Michael Connerton, were well-known early benefactors of the church in El Paso. Lane was the first president of the Altar Society at Immaculate Conception. During her lifetime, she donated generously to many churches, orphanages, hospitals and convents. After donating \$10,000 to begin the building of St. Patrick Cathedral, she gave the statue of Saint Patrick which still looks down upon the congregation and donated two paintings of St. Patrick that hung in Immaculate Conception Church. Two of the

stained glass windows were also donated by Lane and her brother donated the altar.

Lane had a special interest in the welfare of children. When the Catholic Community Center was built, the playground was placed on the roof. Mrs. Lane immediately saw how dangerous this was and how hot it would be for the children, so she donated the grounds on Mesa and River streets to Bishop Schuler for the playground.

Lane also cared for a foster child, Grace Gray, and provided for the education of numerous children who could not afford to attend Catholic school. She was also a close friend of Mother Praxedes and made a donation to help build Loretto Academy. When Lane died in 1936, at the age of 93, she left generous bequests to St. Margaret’s Orphanage and to Hotel Dieu.

Saint Pedro de Jesús Maldonado

The Diocese of El Paso’s only martyr, Father Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero, was a victim of the religious persecution in Mexico. Buried in the Cathedral of Chihuahua, his tombstone simply says “Tú eres sacerdote - You are a priest.” In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized 25 priests who were murdered during the time of religious persecution in Mexico, including San Pedro Maldonado. In 2005, St. Patrick Cathedral dedicated a nave to the memory of San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, the martyr of the Diocese of El Paso.



Matachines dance in front of St. Patrick Cathedral

Happy New Year
2018



May Everyday Glow with Cheer &
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"The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only one page".

- Saint Augustine

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