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# *the Rio Grande Catholic*

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February 2018

## El Paso Catholics March For Life



Thousands of Catholics take to the streets of Downtown El Paso to take a stance for Life.  
For More Coverage, See Page 4.

## Father Yermo Celebrates 60 Years! Celebrating San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado



Sister Maria Munguia and Bishop Mark J. Seitz welcome everyone to the celebration. For more coverage, See Page 9.



Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Father Fabian Marquez & the family of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado at The Musical based on the Saint's life. For more photos, See Page 18.

# My Pro-Life Encuentro

Ester Garcia glows as she holds baby number five in her arms. He is eleven month old Luke and is beyond precious. Ester is a mother of five with one on the way in a couple of months. We meet for coffee (that only I have as she is pregnant) as she and I begin to share the story that has made Ester one of two women currently serving in the Rachel's Vineyard ministry that is willing to offer testimony to their own experience with abortion. Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry that offers semi annual retreats to women and men that have been affected by the pain of abortion. This includes mothers who opted to abort a child or anyone who has been impacted such as fathers and even grandparents.

Ester grew up Catholic in El Paso with active Catholic parents who participated in several church ministries. She and her siblings were very well engaged in their Catholic faith through a dynamic parish life. Both of her parents also participated in the pro-life ministry at their parish. She fondly remembers attending pro-life marches as a child with her family. She tells me her parents' spiritual work to promote and preserve life included abortion clinic protests.

Her father, deeply committed to his work, once incurred an injury at a clinic demonstration. She says, "In those days it was very different. The protests were aggressive. Bodyguards accompanied abortion doctors on their way in; people locked arms to prevent entry. It got so bad our house was once shot at." Eventually Ester's parents decided to stop advocating so fervently in order to maintain their family's safety. She tells me, "Today we do prayerful demonstrations. The way we are going to get our message across to people is in a peaceful approach. We are the eyes of Christ at the clinics today so we simply pray in front of clinics". Ester says she has heard many testimonies from women saying that while driving to their appointments they asked God to send a sign. And as they pulled up to the clinic they saw someone kneeling in prayer. "Peacefully we become the sign that so many are asking for that makes them change their mind", she shares.

Upon graduating from high school Ester stayed in El Paso and started her Freshman year of college. She always maintained a close relationship with her parents but despite that she still struggled with

typical teenage issues of low self esteem. As a young girl Ester says the talk of sex in her household was "You don't have sex until you get married. My parents could never find the words to discuss sexuality so what I learned, I learned from my friends."

While in college she started a relationship with a man nine years her senior. She became pregnant in the first year of their relationship and he turned out not to be supportive of carrying the baby to term. She says her memory of the events that followed are very blurry and all she can really remember is her then boyfriend telling her it was not possible for her to go through with the pregnancy. She says, "I don't really recall the days leading up to the abortion. I cannot really even recall how the procedure was paid for. I do remember entering the clinic, the way it looked, the way it smelled. There was no pre-counseling and the staff was very cold." She does remember a woman telling her not to worry that she had done this nine times before. Ester goes on to share, "I think in my humanness I blocked some of it out. The experience almost seemed not to be real. It was as if I was in a dream." She tells me the procedure was

horrific and she experienced excruciating pain. It was over rather quickly and she was sent out to a patient recovery room filled with other girls. A close friend picked her up as Ester's parents thought she was at the mall. While at her friend's house she experienced extreme pain and later collapsed. She had to be rushed to the hospital where she found out a part of the baby had been left inside her. The hospital staff told her they could keep the details from her parents. She later woke to her parents at her bedside. Even though she had lied to them about what had really happened she says, "My mom knew. My mom later told me that she knew, she just knew in her heart. She later told me she named the baby that night."

For years after the abortion Ester struggled to find herself and to find peace. After her experience with abortion Ester says she spiraled out of control with careless and reckless behaviors. Ester says that eventually she realized why she acted out this way but it took a long time. She says that finding her way back to her faith to seek forgiveness was what helped her make the connection between the abortion and the self destructive behavior. She



**Nancy Ramos**  
Director/Editor

explains, "Every time that something bad happened to me, I thought God was punishing me." She found her way back to her church community and knew she had to start serving the Lord in some way to make good the bad choice she had made years before. It was an ACTS retreat where she gave her first testimony which led her to go to a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

It was at a Rachel's Vineyard retreat that she found the help to mourn the loss of her child and found a way to cope. Ester says, "The reason I always say yes to giving my testimony in public is that one in three women have experienced an abortion yet our attendance at Rachel's Vineyard remains very low. People need to know." Ester says that women who confess this sort of sin need more and Rachel's Vineyard offers that. She says, "There is a post abortive syndrome that leads women to destructive behaviors like alcoholism, promiscuity, drug abuse, eating disorders and sometimes even suicide. Rachel's Vineyard offers women a place where they are not alone in their pain from abortion and can find acknowledgment of what they have done and ultimately find healing." Ester goes on to explain, "I understood the Lord forgave me but it is forgiving myself that is most difficult. It is hard to live with regret." Rachel's Vineyard helps women forgive themselves, give dignity back to the life they took and gives them closure. Ester says, "God granted me the grace to decide I needed to help people and He gave me the courage to do so by sharing my story."

On Sunday, January 21, 2018 thousands of Catholics marched for life in Downtown El Paso. The march was to remind us that we too need to share our stories of our faith. That life is precious and does begin at conception. We as Catholics are called to be signs of Christ for others. Through her ministry Ester not only found healing but was able to find love. She met her husband by chance while peacefully praying in front of an abortion clinic. He too was praying and was called to the same ministry. Ester's husband refers to Ester as "A Warrior for Christ". May we all choose to be warriors for Christ too.

The next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is scheduled for February 16, 17 & 18. For more information please call (915) 433-1983 or email [rachelsvineyard@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:rachelsvineyard@elpasodiocese.org)

All inquiries remain confidential.



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# What Are You Giving Up for Lent?

At the middle of this month, on February 14th, we will enter the holy time of prayer, penance, almsgiving and fasting which we call Lent. Traditionally we Catholics mark this Season by choosing some specific sacrifice -- letting go of some vice or some habitual activity, which though not harmful in itself, may keep us from a greater good such as prayer or good works on behalf of others. This Lenten sacrifice can also serve to remind us day by day of our Lenten call to conversion.

Giving up a favorite beverage or chocolate or desserts; cutting down on or eliminating T.V. or movies or computer games can all

be well and good. Offering some service or doing some good deed can also be a pleasing sacrifice to God. But in light of the Ash Wednesday Gospel which reminds us of the sincere conversion which must underlie our sacrifices, I would like to suggest some other things we might consider "giving up" this Lent.

Here is my Lenten Sacrifice 10 Best List.

Choose to give up:

10. Taking the name of God in vain and using the gift of speech for vulgar talk.

9. Grumbling about the privilege of worshiping God on Sunday.

8. Speaking critically of anyone to others unless they truly need to know.

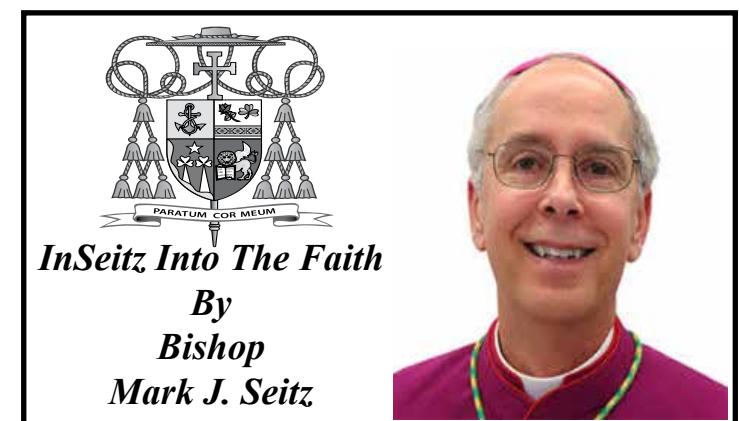
7. Deciding that daily prayer is the first thing to drop if your day is "too busy".

6. Judging that persons in need "have brought it upon themselves" to free yourself from the responsibility of helping.

5. Exposing yourself to sexual temptations by pursuing inappropriate thoughts or entertainment.

4. "Friends" who lead you down the wrong path rather than help you grow.

3. Telling God how to do



think of others. It's best to zero in on a few areas at most which represent our greatest shortcomings. If we could make of these a sacrifice to the Lord as we turn to Him with all our heart we would be well on our way to a Lent which is very pleasing to God.

2. Avoiding the Sacrament of Penance (Confession).

1. Thinking that everyone else needs conversion more than you.

These are a few ideas. I imagine you can

Bp. Mark

# ¿Qué Es lo Que Estarás Sacrificando Para la Cuaresma?

A mediados de este mes, el 14 de febrero, estaremos entrando en el tiempo santo de oración, penitencia, limosna y ayuno, al cual llamamos Cuaresma. Tradicionalmente, los católicos marcamos esta temporada eligiendo un sacrificio específico; soltar algún vicio o actividad habitual, que aunque no sea nocivo en sí mismo, puede impedirnos un bien mayor, también incluimos la oración o las buenas obras, en bien de otros. Este sacrificio de Cuaresma también puede servir para recordarnos diariamente, nuestro llamado Cuaresmal a la conversión.

Renunciar a una

bebida favorita o a los chocolates o postres; reducir o eliminar el uso de la televisión, o películas o juegos de computadora, puede ser bueno. Ofrecer algún servicio o hacer alguna buena obra también puede ser un sacrificio agradable a Dios. Pero a la luz del Evangelio del Miércoles de Ceniza, el cual nos recuerda la sincera conversión que debe ser la base de nuestros sacrificios, me gustaría sugerir algunas otras cosas que podríamos "renunciar" a, en esta Cuaresma.

A continuación, mi lista de los 10 Mejores Sacrificios de Cuaresma.

Elige renunciar a:

10. Tomar el nombre de Dios en vano y usar el don del habla para hablar vulgarmente.

9. Rezongar sobre el privilegio de adorar a Dios los domingos.

8. Hablar críticamente sobre alguien, a otra persona, a menos que realmente necesiten saberlo.

7. Decidir que la oración diaria es lo primero que se deja para después, si su día está "demasiado ocupado".

6. Juzgar a las personas necesitadas "se lo merecen por sus actos" para liberarse de la responsabilidad de ayudar.

5. Exponerse a las tentaciones sexuales persiguiendo pensamientos inapropiados o por simple entretenimiento.

4. "Amigos" que te llevan por el camino equivocado en lugar de ayudarte a crecer.

3. Decirle a Dios cómo hacer su trabajo, en lugar de buscar la voluntad de Dios en todo.

2. Evitar el Sacramento de la Penitencia (Confesión).

1. Pensar que todos los demás necesitan conversión, más que tú mismo.

Estas son algunas ideas. Me imagino que usted puede pensar en otras más. Lo mejor es concentrarse en algunas áreas que principalmente representen nuestras mayores deficiencias. Si pudiéramos hacer de estos un sacrificio al Señor mientras nos dirigimos a Él con todo nuestro corazón, estaríamos en camino a una Cuaresma que sería muy agradable a Dios.

Obispo Mark

# March for Life Marks 45th Anniversary of Legal Abortion

By Janet Crowe, Rio Grande Catholic Columnist

On a cold and windy January 21st, pro-life El Pasoans were joined by many others from Las Cruces and the surrounding region to prayerfully commemorate the 45th anniversary of legalized abortion. Over 60 million children have been killed in the United States by abortion since the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

Bishop Mark Seitz started the 2018 March for Life by acknowledging the dedication of those attending the rally when the 43-degree temperature's wind chill factor made it feel like 28 degrees. "God will warm us with His Holy Spirit," the Bishop said. Fingers and toes were cold, but hearts were warmed by the Bishop's encouragement to "Stand up for every person that God calls to life from the very beginning until He calls them home."

While annual abortion rates have begun to decline in the United States during the past few years, babies are still dying and women continue to be wounded by abortion. Southwest Coalition for Life's Director Mark Cavaliere reminded the attendees that legal and moral do not necessarily mean the same thing.

The Roe v. Wade court decision declared that the unborn child was not a person protected by law. Cavaliere urged people to remember other times in history that a group of human beings have been proclaimed to be less than human. Over a hundred and fifty years ago, slaves and Native Americans were also not considered to be persons. Just over 70 years ago, a group of

people were judged not to be human during the Holocaust when Hitler tried to wipe out the entire Jewish population of Europe. Failing to learn from history, only thirty years later the U.S. Supreme Court determined that an entire class of human beings were not persons and could be legally killed within their mothers' wombs. Legal doesn't always mean right.

Bishop Seitz emphasized this same message that every human being has been created equal in the sight of God during his homily at the Mass following the March for Life. "People of our own time have forgotten this basic truth which defines who we are as human beings. We each have a special dignity because we are created by God to live forever. This is a basic principle upon which our country was founded. The Founders of our Country knew that government could not be the entity with the power to decide which human beings were deserving of human dignity and therefore

possessing human rights.... For a just nation to exist there needed to be a fundamental agreement that human beings were all created by God."

"Now we find ourselves marking 45 years since our U.S. Supreme Court forgot these basic principles again and invented a right not found in our Constitution that would allow us to kill an innocent unborn child in its mother's womb," Bishop Seitz continued. "We are here to speak up for these children who have no voice."

"Speaking up for those being threatened doesn't happen often enough", stated Dr. Monique Ruberu, a nationally-renowned pro-life

Ob/Gyn who leads 40 Days for Life and organizes year-round sidewalk counseling outside abortion centers in the Philadelphia area. After her first experience praying at an abortion clinic, Dr. Ruberu recognized that when people witness to the sanctity of human life by their prayers for the women and unborn babies, many of those mothers will

relied on the community for food, shelter and extra clothes. In the same way, Dr. Ruberu said, "We must be the community for these women" who are experiencing crisis pregnancies. "We are followers of an amazing God. He is working so strongly through this community when we allow Him to use us as his instruments."



Bishop Mark J. Seitz marches while praying the Rosary.



Many attendees made the March for Life a family affair.

## the Rio Grande Catholic

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choose life. "Our prayerful, peaceful presence is what makes a difference."

Present at the March for Life rally to demonstrate how education, prayer and physical support can make a difference were several pro-life resources such as Guiding Star, Rachel's Vineyard, Southwest Coalition for Life, Knights of Columbus, Knights on Bikes, and others.

After expressing her appreciation for the assistance that such organizations offer to those in need, Dr. Ruberu told how Jesus and His disciples traveled throughout the countryside without carrying supplies or even a second pair of sandals. The disciples

"As Christians, aren't we called to answer the cry of the poor?" Dr. Ruberu asked. "We should be willing to stand outside and pray for the women who need us. It is called sacrifice and we are called to it as Christians."

However, Dr. Ruberu admitted that one person alone cannot change the world. "None of us can do this alone, but together we can make such a difference." Encouraging all who believe in "an amazing God" to allow Him to fill them with His Holy Spirit and give them the peace and strength to convert hearts to His message of love, Dr. Ruberu challenged the crowd, "Trust in God, and go do His work."

# La Marcha por la Vida marca el 45 Aniversario del Aborto Legal

Por Janet Crowe, Columnista del Rio Grande Catholic

En un frío y ventoso 21 de enero, a las personas pro-vida de El Paso se les unieron muchas otras personas de Las Cruces y la región circundante para conmemorar en oración el 45 aniversario del aborto legalizado. Más de 60 millones de niños han sido asesinados en los Estados Unidos por aborto, desde la decisión de la Corte Suprema en 1973 Roe v. Wade. El Obispo Mark Seitz dio inicio a la Marcha por la Vida del 2018, reconociendo la dedicación de los asistentes a la reunión y estando el factor de enfriamiento de temperatura a 43 grados, hizo este que pareciera 28 grados. "Dios nos calentará con su Espíritu Santo", dijo el obispo. Los dedos de las manos y los pies estaban congelados, pero los ánimos revivieron con el aliento del obispo al decir "defender a todas las personas que Dios llama a la vida desde

siguen muriendo y las mujeres continúan siendo heridas por el aborto. El director de "Southwest Coalition for Life" (Coalición por la Vida del Suroeste), Mark Cavaliere, les recordó a los asistentes que legal y moral no necesariamente significan lo mismo. La decisión del tribunal Roe v. Wade, declaró que el niño por nacer no era una persona protegida por la ley. Cavaliere instó a la gente a recordar otras veces en la historia donde un grupo de seres humanos ha sido proclamado como menos que humano. Hace más de ciento cincuenta años, los esclavos y los nativos americanos tampoco se consideraban personas. Hace poco más de 70 años, se juzgó a un grupo de personas que no eran humanas durante el Holocausto, cuando Hitler trató de eliminar a toda la población judía de Europa. Al fallar en aprender sobre la historia, solo treinta años después, la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos determinó que un tipo de incompleto ser humano no es una persona y que podía ser asesinado legalmente dentro del útero de su madre. Lo legal no siempre significa que sea correcto.

E l obispo Seitz hizo hincapié en la Misa posterior a la Marcha por la Vida, durante su homilía, sobre este mismo mensaje: todo ser humano ha sido creado en igualdad, a la vista de Dios. "La gente de nuestro tiempo ha olvidado

esta verdad básica que define quiénes somos como seres humanos. Cada uno de nosotros tiene una dignidad especial porque fuimos creados por Dios para vivir para siempre. Este es un principio básico sobre el cual se fundó nuestro país. Los fundadores de nuestro país sabían que el gobierno no podía ser la entidad con el poder de decidir quiénes como seres humanos merecían la dignidad humana, por lo tanto, que poseían los derechos humanos ... para que exista una nación justa, debe haber un acuerdo fundamental de que todos los seres humanos fueron creados por Dios".

"Ahora nos encontramos ya cumpliendo 45 años desde que nuestro Tribunal Supremo de los EE. UU. Olvidó estos principios básicos otra vez e inventó un derecho que no se encuentra en nuestra Constitución y que nos permite matar a un inocente niño en el vientre de su madre", continuó el Obispo Seitz. "Estamos aquí para defender a estos niños que no tienen voz". Hablar por los amenazados no ocurre con la frecuencia suficiente, afirmó la doctora Monique Ruberu, Ob-Gyn (Obstetra-ginecólogo, o ginecólogo obstetra y quien tiene experiencia en salud reproductiva femenina, embarazo y parto), pro-vida, reconocida a nivel nacional y quien lidera a "40 Days for Life" (40 Días por la Vida) además de organizar consejerías durante todo el año en las aceras, afuera de los centros de aborto en el área de Filadelfia. Después de su primera experiencia orando en una clínica de aborto, la Doctora

Ruberu reconoció que cuando las personas testifican sobre la santidad de la vida humana mediante sus oraciones por las mujeres y los bebés por nacer, muchas de esas madres eligen la vida. "Nuestra presencia orante y pacífica es lo que hace la diferencia".

Presentes en la manifestación de la Marcha por la Vida para demostrar cómo la educación, la oración y el apoyo físico pueden marcar la diferencia, estuvieron varios recursos de pro-vida, tales como son: Guiding Star, (Estrella que guía), Rachel's Vineyard, (El Viñedo de Raquel), Southwest Coalition for Life, (Coalición del suroeste por la vida), los Caballeros de Colón, Knights on Bikes (Caballeros en Bicicleta) y otros grupos. Despues de expresar su agradecimiento por la ayuda que tales organizaciones ofrecieron a los necesitados, la Doctora Ruberu contó cómo Jesús y sus discípulos viajaron por el campo sin llevar suministros, o incluso un segundo par de sandalias. Los discípulos confiaron en la comunidad para obtener comida, refugio y ropa extra. De la misma manera, la Doctora Ruberu dijo: "Debemos de ser esa comunidad para estas mujeres



**Well Known OBGYN and Pro-Life Advocate Dr. Monique Ruberu addresses the crowd as keynote speaker.**

que están experimentando embarazos de crisis". "Somos seguidores de un Dios increíble. Él está trabajando tan fuertemente a través de esta comunidad al nosotras permitirle que nos use como sus instrumentos".

"Y es que como cristianos, ¿no es acaso que estamos llamados a responder al grito de los pobres?", Preguntó la Doctora Ruberu. "Deberíamos estar dispuestos a pararnos afuera y orar por las mujeres que nos necesitan. Esto se llama sacrificio y se nos llama a nosotros como cristianos". Sin embargo, el Dr. Ruberu admitió que una sola persona por sí sola no puede cambiar el mundo. "Ninguno de nosotros puede hacer esto solo, pero juntos podemos hacer una gran diferencia". Animar a todos los que creen en "un Dios asombroso" a permitir que Él los llene con Su Espíritu Santo y les dé la paz y la fuerza para convertir los corazones en Su mensaje de amor, el Dr. Ruberu desafió a la multitud, "Confie en Dios y haga su trabajo".



**Many proudly carried Pro-Life signs.**

el principio hasta que las llame a casa".

Si bien las tasas anuales de aborto han comenzado a disminuir en los Estados Unidos durante los últimos años, los bebés

## Happy Birthday

Fr. William Morton, SSC

Fr. Valentin Cota, MNM

Fr. Mariano H. Lopez

Msgr. David G. Fierro

Fr. Jovino Antonio Martinez, Extern

Fr. Fidel Cervantes

Fr. Salvador Aguilera, CAPT, CHC, USN

**January Issue Correction Happy Birthday to:**

Fr. Stephen Peters

Fr. Jose Alcocer

February 9

February 14

February 14

February 18

February 18

February 19

February 22

January 10

January 23

## Ordination Anniversary

Fr. Sergio (Roberto) Hernandez, OFM

**January Issue Correction Happy Ordination Anniversary to:**

Fr. Jesus Maria Mena, OAR

February 2

January 11

SSC-Missionary Society of St. Columban

OAR-Order of the Augustinian Recollects

CAPT, CHC, USN-Captain. Chief of Chaplains. United States Navy

MNM-Misioneros de la Natividad de María

OFM-Order of Friar Minors

# What is Consecrated Life?

By Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

St. Pope John Paul II inaugurated the World Day of Consecrated Life in 1997 to celebrate and pray for those women and men who respond to God's call as Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests. He chose February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, to connect the vocation to consecrated life with the call to shine forth by their lives the light of Christ. All of the baptized share the call to holiness. Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests live out that call through vows of poverty, consecrated chastity and obedience, supporting each other in community life and discerning together the ways to serve the

people of God.

The Diocese of El Paso is blessed with twenty-seven congregations of women religious and twelve congregations of men. Each of these groups or "orders" brings a particular gift or charism that was ignited in the heart of the founder and that continues to be poured out in the life of each member today. Those charisms are expressed in the way of life together, the spirituality and the ministries of the congregations. So just in our diocese from the particular inspiration of St. Francis of Assisi to follow Jesus, we have ten ways of living consecrated life in a "Franciscan" manner!

Why so many different congregations? Most of the time new congregations started because of new needs in new places. In the early days of the United States it wasn't uncommon for a bishop to go "shopping for Sisters" in Europe to serve the needs of the diocese. Sometimes they sponsored a new congregation to form in their diocese. And sometimes a new founder arises within an existing congregation to begin an entirely new entity. Think of Mother Teresa who was a Loreto Sister for twenty years before receiving her "call within a call" to begin the Missionaries of Charity. The

history of religious congregations is fascinating!

Consecrated life is like an orchestra with many instruments working in various harmonies and rhythms. The contemplative life of nuns and monks provides a steady baseline melody for the active religious women and men who serve in almost any profession. The signs of the times dictate their manner of service and daily schedule. Those called to missionary congregations travel the scales in descents of different cultures. In traditional religious garb or contemporary dress, in large institutions or tiny rented rooms, the vows of poverty,

chastity and obedience carry the commitment of consecrated life.

This year Bishop Seitz will celebrate a mass for the World Day of Consecrated Life on Friday, February 9 at 6 p.m. at the cathedral. We chose a week-night because it is often difficult for our Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests who minister in parishes to attend a week-end liturgy when they are busy serving us. We hope that the people of our diocese will join in the celebration to thank God for their commitment, to pray for their perseverance and that new generations will be inspired to respond to the call to consecrated life.

## ¿Qué es la Vida Consagrada?

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

El Santo Papa Juan Pablo II inauguró la Jornada Mundial de la Vida Consagrada en 1997 para celebrar y orar por aquellas mujeres y hombres que responden al llamado de Dios como Hermanas Religiosas, Hermanos y Sacerdotes. Elegió el 2 de febrero, la Fiesta de la Presentación del Señor, para conectar la vocación a la vida consagrada con el llamado a brillar en sus vidas la luz de Cristo. Todos los bautizados comparten el llamado a la santidad. Las Hermanas Religiosas, Hermanos y Sacerdotes viven ese llamado a través de votos de pobreza, castidad consagrada y obediencia, apoyándose unos a otros en la vida comunitaria y discerniendo juntos las formas de servir al pueblo de Dios.

La Diócesis de El Paso ha sido bendecida con veintisiete congregaciones de religiosas y doce congregaciones de hombres. Cada uno de estos grupos u "órdenes" ofrecen un don o carisma particular que se encendió en el corazón del fundador y que continúa siendo derramado en la vida de cada miembro hoy. Esos carismas se expresan en la forma de vida común, la espiritualidad y los ministerios de las congregaciones. ¡Tan solo en nuestra diócesis, desde la inspiración particular de San Francisco de Asís para seguir a Jesús, tenemos diez maneras de vivir la vida consagrada de una manera "franciscana"!

¿Por qué tantas congregaciones diferentes? La mayoría de las veces nuevas congregaciones

comenzaron debido a nuevas necesidades en nuevos lugares. En los primeros días de los Estados Unidos no era raro que un obispo fuera en búsqueda de hermanas en Europa para servir a las necesidades de la diócesis. A veces patrocinaban una nueva congregación para formar en su diócesis. Y a veces surge un nuevo fundador dentro de una congregación existente para comenzar una entidad completamente nueva. Sabemos en la Madre Teresa que era una Hermana de Loreto durante veinte años antes de recibir su "llamada dentro de un llamado" para comenzar las Misioneras de la Caridad. ¡La historia de las congregaciones religiosas es fascinante!

La vida consagrada es como

una orquesta con muchos instrumentos que trabajan en diversas armonías y ritmos. La vida contemplativa de las monjas y los monjes proporciona una melodía de referencia constante para las mujeres y hombres religiosos activos que sirven en casi cualquier profesión. Los signos de los tiempos dictan su forma de servicio y el horario diario. Aquellos llamados a las congregaciones misioneras viajan las escalas en descansos de diferentes culturas. En vestimenta religiosa tradicional o vestimenta contemporánea, en grandes instituciones o en pequeñas habitaciones alquiladas, los votos de pobreza, castidad y obediencia llevan el compromiso de la vida consagrada.

Este año, el Obispo Seitz

celebrará una misa para el Día Mundial de la Vida Consagrada el viernes 9 de febrero a las 6 p.m. en la Catedral. Elegimos una noche de la semana porque a menudo es difícil para nuestras Hermanas Religiosas, Hermanos y Sacerdotes que ministran en las parroquias asistir a una liturgia de fin de semana cuando están ocupados sirviéndonos. Esperamos que los fieles de nuestra diócesis se unen a la celebración para agradecerles a Dios por su compromiso, orar por su perseverancia y que las nuevas generaciones se sientan inspiradas para responder al llamado a la vida consagrada.

### Congregations of Sisters/Congregaciones de Hermanas:

- Adoratrices Perpetuas del Santísimo Sacramento
- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas
- Hermanas Franciscanas de San José
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
- Hermanas del Servicio Social
- Hermanas de San José de Lyon
- Missionary Sisters of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
- Adrian Dominican Sisters
- Hermanas Dominicas de la Doctrina Cristiana
- Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
- Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Lourdes
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family
- Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity
- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
- Religious of the Good Shepherd of Our Lady of Charity
- Hermanas Contemplativas de Nuestra Señora del Buen Pastor
- Religious of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters for Christian Community
- Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross
- Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- School Sisters of St. Francis
- Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate

### Congregaciones de Hombres (Hermanos y Sacerdotes):

- Christian Brothers
- Society of St. Columban
- Society of Jesus
- Order of Friars Minor (St. Anthony Seminary)
- Order of Friars Minor (Roger Bacon Seminary)
- Order of Friars Minor, Conventual

- Siervos de María
- Order of Augustinian Recollect
- Misioneros de la Natividad de María
- Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
- Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
- Order of Carmelites

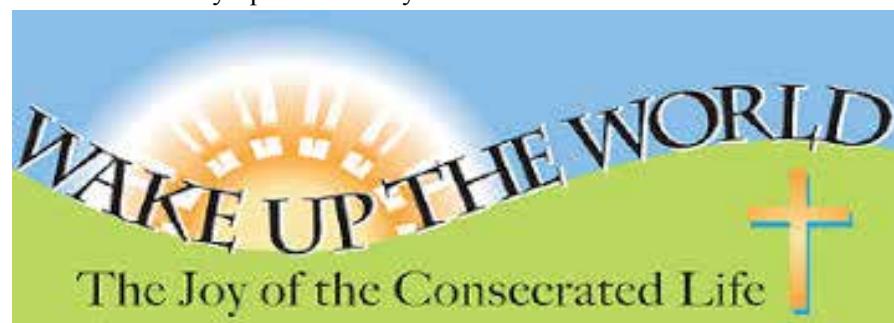
**Celebrate  
World Day  
of Consecrated Life!**  
Join Bishop Mark Seitz in  
gratitude for the Religious  
Sisters, Brothers and Priests  
who serve our diocese.  
**Eucharistic Liturgy  
Friday February 9 at 6 pm  
St. Patrick Cathedral**

**"Vocation is today!  
The Lord continues to call  
others to live with him and to  
follow him in a relationship of  
particular closeness...  
It is beautiful—and a great  
grace—to be completely and  
forever consecrated to God  
and the service of our  
brothers and sisters."**  
Pope Francis 2018 World Day of Vocations



**Celebre  
el Dia Mundial  
de la Vida Consagrada!**  
Unase al Obispo Mark Seitz  
en agradecimiento por las  
Religiosas Hermanas,  
Hermanos y Sacerdotes que  
sirven en nuestra diócesis.  
**Liturgia Eucarística  
Viernes, 9 febrero a las 6 pm  
Catedral de San Patricio**

**"¡La vocación es hoy!  
El Señor nos sigue llamando  
a vivir con él y a seguirlo en  
una relación de especial  
cercanía...  
Es hermoso —y es una gracia  
inmensa— estar  
consagrados a Dios y al  
servicio de los hermanos,  
totalmente y para siempre."**  
Papa Francisco Jornada Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones

# To Be or Not to Be-Parsing the Implications of Suicide

In recent years we have witnessed a growing tendency to promote suicide as a way of resolving end-stage suffering. Physician-assisted suicide is now legal in a handful of states and a number of other jurisdictions are considering laws to legalize the practice. A few years ago on Nightline, Barbara Walters interviewed an assisted suicide advocate who summed it up this way: "We're talking about what people want. There are people who, even suffering horribly, want to live out every second of their lives, and that's their right, of course, and they should do it. Others don't want that. Others want out!"

Those favoring physician-assisted suicide argue that getting out of our final agony means essentially redeeming a "get out of jail free" card through committing suicide. At first glance, taking this step would indeed appear to end our troubles definitively. But what if this view of things is dead wrong, and we don't actually end up escaping our sufferings? What if we, instead, end up in a new situation where our trials are still present, and maybe even more intense, on account of the willful decision we made to end our own life?

I was recently reminded of this serious flaw in the "suicide solution" after watching a remarkable video adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet, with Campbell Scott co-directing and starring in the title role. Listening once again to Hamlet's timeless soliloquy "to be or not to be," I was struck by how carefully Shakespeare addresses the vexing question of intense human suffering and the perennial temptation to commit suicide.

Hamlet muses about whether it is better to put up with the bad things we know about in this life than to step into the strange new land of death's "undiscovered country," a country about which we know very little, and from which no one returns. This leaves us, in Hamlet's words, "puzzled" and in "dread of something after death." He wonders aloud about the hidden purposes of suffering when he asks himself, "Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" than to "take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them." He concludes by asking whether we shouldn't rather "bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of?"

Among those who end up committing suicide, whether physician-assisted or otherwise, many will face extenuating circumstances including severe depression or other forms of extreme mental pain. In such cases, it is clear that their moral responsibility will be greatly diminished, as fear and anguish constrict their ability to think and reason clearly. But this is not always the case, and some people, with clear mind and directed intention, do choose to end their lives, as appears to have been the case for Britney Maynard. She was the young woman in California who in the early stages of her brain cancer carefully arranged and orchestrated her own physician-assisted suicide, establishing months in advance the date and setting, who would be present in the room, what music would be playing as she did it, etc.

Such a decision is always a tragedy, and every life, even when compromised by disease or suffering, remains a great gift to be cared for. When freely chosen, suicide is a form of serious wrongdoing and is, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly

## Making Sense Out of Bioethics

By  
Fr. Tad  
Pacholczyk



breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations." It leaves behind loved ones to contend with unresolved guilt, shame, and pain.

While ending our life may seem to offer an "escape valve" for the serious pressures and sufferings we face, we do well to consider the real effects of this choice both in this life, and in the life to come. In the next life, a preceding act of suicide may deny us the very relief we were seeking, and may, in fact, lead to harsher purification in a new situation of our own making, or, heaven forbid, lead to a fate far worse than purgatory.

Our Lord and his Church care profoundly for those who commit suicide, and even though this act clearly involves grave matter, the Catechism reminds us

that, "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives."

Suicide affects us not only in the here and now, but has significant, even eternal, implications for the journey to that "undiscovered country" that awaits us.

*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](http://www.ncbcenter.org)*

## The Annual Collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe Will Be Held on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018

### RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

A Special Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

The Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe is actively involved in rebuilding the faith of its people and reestablishing its congregations after the fall of communism more than two

decades ago. In most parts of the region, the Church cannot yet support its own renewal and growth.

This special collection helps restore the Church and build the future in 20 countries,

many of which still struggle to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds from this collection help support construction, education, formation and poverty outreach.

On Ash Wednesday, please be as generous as possible and make a donation to this worthy cause. Thank you.

## La Colecta Anual para la Iglesia Católica en Europa Central y del Este Se Llevará a Cabo el Miércoles de Ceniza, 14 de febrero del 2018

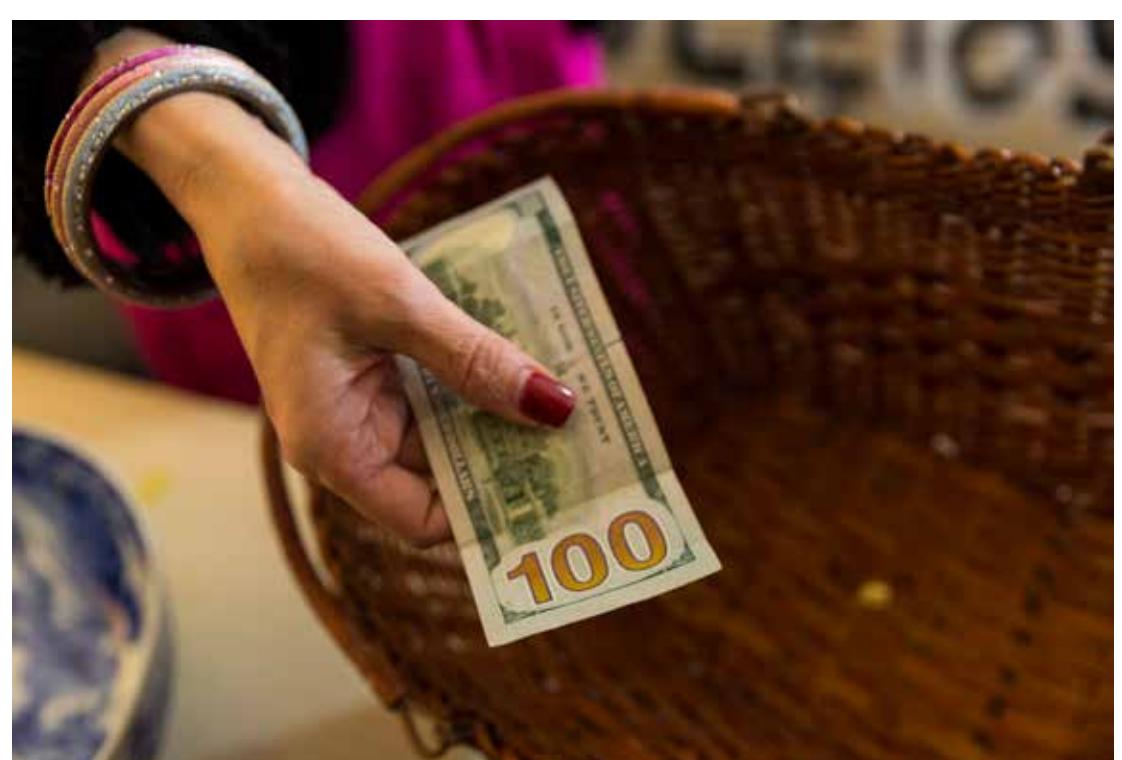
### RESTAURA LA IGLESIA, CONSTRUYE EL FUTURO

Una Ofrenda Especial para la Iglesia en Europa Central y del Este se llevará a cabo el Miércoles de Ceniza, 14 de febrero del 2018.

La Iglesia Católica en Europa Central y del Este participa activamente en la reconstrucción de la fe de su pueblo y en el restablecimiento de sus congregaciones después de la caída del comunismo, hace más de dos décadas. En la mayor parte de la región, la Iglesia no puede apoyar su propia renovación y crecimiento.

Esta colecta especial ayuda a restaurar la Iglesia y a construir el futuro en 20 países, muchos de los cuales aún luchan por recuperarse después del gobierno soviético. Los fondos de esta colección ayudan a apoyar la construcción, la educación, la formación y el alcance a la pobreza.

Por favor, el Miércoles de Ceniza, sean lo más generosos posible y hagan una donación a esta noble causa. Gracias



# A Synod that Looks to the Future

By Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

A general synod of bishops provides advice to the pope on issues of critical importance to the Church. The Synod on the Family concluded in October 2015 and provided input to Pope Francis that was foundational for his apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*. In January of 2017 the pope announced that the next world synod of bishops will be held in October 2018. The second great issue the pope desires the bishops to consider is "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment". Speaking to young adults, ages 16-29, Pope Francis explained, "I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart. Today, the Preparatory Document is being

presented, a document which I am also entrusting to you as your "compass" on this synodal journey." (Letter to Young People, January 13, 2017)

Already the Vatican solicited input from young adults via an online survey, available in four languages. The preparatory document for the synod includes questions that the bishops are requested to direct to pastoral leaders, some of which relate to concerns specific to particular continents. Gathering information, This Synod offers opportunities for the local Church to understand and reach out to the generation that is now growing in the faith and whose members are its future leaders. The preparatory document acknowledges the rapidly changing

world that is the context in which today's young people are coming of age. It names some of the complexities that influence their lives such as economic globalization, climate change, and multiculturalism. Importantly, the document acknowledges the genuine cultural differences

between the newest generations of Catholics and former generations.

By focusing the attention of the synod on young adults Pope Francis shows his awareness that although events like World Youth Day attract and inspire thousands, at the local level from Sunday to Sunday many feel that they do not belong and do not participate. Increasingly young people declare themselves to be "spiritual but not religious". Pope Francis challenges us "to encounter, accompany and care for every young person, without exception". The preparatory document outlines the need to nurture the faith in ways that address the critical issues of young people. Teaching the art of discernment is at the heart of this effort.

By vocational discernment the synod is directed to focus on "the process by which a person makes fundamental choices, in dialogue with the Lord and listening to the voice of the Spirit, starting with the choice of one's state in life". How can we help young people develop the skills to recognize the movement of God in their lives? How do we teach them to interpret their experiences in the light of the Spirit? How can we accompany them and encourage them to make choices and lasting commitments? "The purpose of vocational discernment is to find out how to transform [choices],

in the light of faith, into steps towards the fullness of joy to which everyone is called."

The Synod on "Youth, the Faith and Vocational Discernment" offers a challenge and opportunity to continue

to form the next generation of Catholics. How will you respond? How will your parish respond? A first step is to read the preparatory document which is available on the U.S. Catholic Bishops website at <http://www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/synod-of-bishops/synod-2018/index.cfm>. The Vocation Committee of Religious for the diocese will provide excerpts from the preparatory document for parish bulletins each week. The monthly "First Wednesday Discernment Evenings for Women" will use a reflection tool which was developed by the Benedictine Volunteers that incorporates themes from the document. Plans are also underway to create additional discernment groups for young adults in the focus age range (16-29 yr) using the same reflection process.



**El Paso Young Adult Missioners at Hugs Not Walls Event**



**Young Adults Gather for Prayer and Discussion at the Columban Mission Center**

The introduction to the synodal preparatory document expresses the hope with which we engage in this important process: "The Church has decided to examine herself on how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways to announce the Good News today. By listening to young people, the Church will once again hear the Lord speaking in today's world. As in the days of Samuel (cf. 1 Sam 3:1-21) and Jeremiah (cf. Jer 1:4-10), young people know how to discern the signs of our times, indicated by the Spirit. Listening to their aspirations, the Church can glimpse the world which lies ahead and the paths the Church is called to follow."

## Un Sínodo que Mira Hacia el Futuro

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

Un sínodo general de obispos brinda consejos al Papa sobre asuntos de importancia crítica para la Iglesia. El Sínodo sobre la Familia concluyó en octubre de 2015 y proporcionó información al Papa Francisco que fue fundamental para su exhortación apostólica, *Amoris Laetitia*. En enero de 2017, el Papa anunció que el próximo Sínodo Mundial de Obispos se celebrará en octubre de 2018. El segundo gran problema que el Papa desea que los obispos consideren es "Los jóvenes, la fe y el discernimiento vocacional". Dirigiéndose a adultos jóvenes, de entre 16 y 29 años, el Papa Francisco explicó: "Quería que fueras el centro de atención, porque estás en mi corazón. Hoy se está presentando el documento preparatorio, un documento que también les encomiendo como su "brújula" en este viaje sinodal" (*Carta a los jóvenes, 13 de enero de 2017*).

El Vaticano ya solicitó participación de jóvenes adultos a través de una encuesta bajo el control de computadora central, disponible en cuatro idiomas. El documento preparatorio para el sínodo incluye preguntas que los obispos deben dirigir a los líderes pastorales, algunas de las cuales se relacionan con preocupaciones específicas de continentes particulares. Recopilando información, este Sínodo ofrece oportunidades para que la Iglesia local entienda y se acerque a la generación que ahora está creciendo en la fe y cuyos miembros son sus futuros líderes. El documento preparatorio reconoce el mundo rápidamente cambiante que es el contexto en el que los jóvenes de hoy alcanzan la mayoría de edad. Menciona algunas de las complejidades que influyen en sus vidas, como la globalización económica, el cambio climático y la multiculturalidad. Es

importante destacar que el documento reconoce las genuinas diferencias culturales entre las nuevas generaciones de católicos y generaciones anteriores.

Al centrar la atención del sínodo en los jóvenes adultos, el Papa Francisco muestra su conciencia de que, aunque eventos como el Día Mundial de la Juventud atraen e inspiran a miles, a nivel local de domingo a domingo muchos sienten que no pertenecen y no participan. Cada vez más jóvenes se declaran "espirituales pero no religiosos". El Papa Francisco nos desafía a "encontrar, acompañar y cuidar a cada joven, sin excepción". El documento preparatorio delinea la necesidad de nutrir la fe de maneras que aborden los problemas críticos de los jóvenes. Enseñar el arte del discernimiento es el corazón de este esfuerzo.

Por discernimiento vocacional, el sínodo se dirige a enfocarse en "el proceso por el cual una persona toma decisiones fundamentales, en diálogo con el Señor y escuchando la voz del Espíritu, comenzando con la elección del estado de uno en la vida". ¿Cómo podemos ayudar a los jóvenes a desarrollar las habilidades para reconocer el movimiento de Dios en sus vidas? ¿Cómo les enseñamos a interpretar sus experiencias a la luz del Espíritu? ¿Cómo podemos acompañarlos y alentarlos a tomar decisiones y compromisos duraderos? "El propósito del discernimiento vocacional es descubrir cómo transformar [las elecciones], a

la luz de la fe, en pasos hacia la plenitud de la alegría a la que todos son llamados".

El Sínodo sobre "La juventud, la fe y el discernimiento vocacional" ofrece un desafío y una oportunidad para continuar formando la próxima generación de católicos. ¿Cómo responderás?

¿Cómo responderá tu parroquia? Un primer paso es leer el documento preparatorio que está disponible en el sitio web de los Obispos Católicos de los EE. UU. en <http://www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/synod-of-bishops/synod-2018/index.cfm>.

El Comité Vocacional de Religiosos de la diócesis proporcionará extractos del documento preparatorio para los boletines de la parroquia cada semana. Las "Veladas de discernimiento del primer miércoles para mujeres" mensuales utilizarán una herramienta de reflexión desarrollada por los Voluntarias Benedictinas que incorpora temas del documento. También hay planes en marcha para crear grupos de discernimiento adicionales para adultos jóvenes en el grupo de edad de enfoque (16-29 años) usando el mismo



**Columban Fr. Bob Mosher with the El Paso Young Adult Missioners in the chapel at the mission center**

proceso de reflexión.

La introducción al documento preparatorio sinodal expresa la esperanza con la que participamos en este importante proceso: "La Iglesia ha decidido interrogarse sobre cómo acompañar a los jóvenes para que reconozcan y acojan la llamada al amor y a la vida en plenitud, y también pedir a los mismos jóvenes que la ayuden a identificar las modalidades más eficaces de hoy para anunciar la Buena Noticia. A través de los jóvenes, la Iglesia podrá percibir la voz del Señor que resuena también hoy. Como en otro tiempo Samuel (cfr. 1Sam 3,1-21) y Jeremías (cfr. Jer 1,4-10), hay jóvenes que saben distinguir los signos de nuestro tiempo que el Espíritu señala. Escuchando sus aspiraciones podemos entrever el mundo del mañana que se aproxima y las vías que la Iglesia está llamada a recorrer."



**El Paso Young Adult Missioners Work on a Service Project**

## The Shepherd's Corner

### GIFTS & BOOKS

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

### Hours of Operation

Sunday 10-3; Monday 9-12  
Tues 9:15-11:00; Thurs-Sat 10-1  
Phone: (915) 585-1771



# Father Yermo Celebrates 60 Year Anniversary

By Sr. Maria J. Munguia, SSCJP

Father Yermo School has served the El Paso-Juarez border community for a span of sixty years from 1958-2018. "The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown, it is a great tree and the birds of the air make nests in its branches." (Mt 13, 31).

In 1958, the Sisters Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor opened the doors of Father Yermo Elementary to receive the children of the neighborhood. Two years later, in 1960, the high school opened with just twenty girls. The small mustard seed was planted. Sixty years have gone by and the small mustard seed is now a

great tree that holds thousands of children, youth and families. Many good people now consider Father Yermo their alma mater, have and children are learning to love Jesus Christ and live Saint Jose Maria de Yermo's philosophy of education.

Father Yermo School, Pre-K to 12th grade, has a special niche in the border region; to receive new families into the American Dream and to promote the Word of the Gospel. Father Yermo School continues to instill in our younger generations the love of God, service to our neighbor, a sense of family and an environment of trust, friendship, respect and personalized attention. Father Yermo's solid academics are

accommodated to meet each child's needs. Father Yermo high school has prepared thousands of students for higher education and many are recognized as men and women of value and citizenship.

Father Yermo Benefactors, Alumni and Friends always celebrate together. This year, Father Yermo is celebrating the 60th anniversary. On Saturday January 20, 2018, an "ITALIAN NIGHT" gathered the Father Yermo's Family together to express their gratitude for the 60 years of service Father Yermo School has given to our border community. Bishop Mark Seitz celebrated Mass and presided over the Liturgical celebration at the Sisters' Convent. Immediately



Sr. Munguia and Bishop Seitz with Father Yermo Alumnae

afterwards a dinner, Italian style, was served at the Rudolph Miles Multipurpose Center with music and a silent auction. Friends, benefactors, board members, alumnae, parents, students and staff enjoyed the night. Our history, your history, is woven in the different events and circumstances that have made Father Yermo what it is today.

## Father Yermo Celebra Su 60 Aniversario

Por Sr. Maria J. Munguia SSCJP

La Escuela Father Yermo de El Paso, ha servido a la comunidad fronteriza de El Paso-Juárez por un lapso de sesenta años desde 1958-2018. "El Reino de los cielos es como un grano de mostaza que alguien tomó y sembró en su campo; es la más pequeña de todas las semillas, pero cuando ha crecido, es un gran árbol y las aves del cielo hacen nidos en sus ramas." (Mt 13, 31). En 1958, las Hermanas Siervas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y de los Pobres abrieron las puertas de la Primaria Padre Yermo para recibir a los niños del barrio. Dos años más tarde, en 1960, la escuela preparatoria

inicio con solo veinte señoritas. La pequeña semilla de mostaza había sido plantada. Han pasado sesenta años y la pequeña semilla de mostaza es ahora un gran árbol que alberga a miles de niños, jóvenes y familias. Mucha gente buena ahora considera la escuela Father Yermo su alma mater, y sus hijos están aprendiendo a amar a Jesucristo y a vivir la filosofía de la educación de San José María de Yermo.

La Escuela Father Yermo, que educa a niños de Pre-K a 12 ° grado, tiene un nicho especial en la región fronteriza; recibe a las familias que reclaman para si el Sueño Americano, desean

mantener su fe en la promoción del Evangelio. La Escuela Father Yermo continúa inculcando en nuestras generaciones más jóvenes el amor de Dios, el servicio a nuestro prójimo, un sentido de familia y un ambiente de confianza, amistad, respeto y atención personalizada. Los sólidos programas académicos de la Escuela Yermo se acomodan para satisfacer las necesidades de cada niño. La preparatoria ha preparado a miles de estudiantes para la educación superior y muchos son reconocidos como hombres y mujeres de valores cristianos y ciudadanía.

La Familia de la Escuela Father Yermo, Benefactores, Alumni y Amigos, siempre celebran juntos. Este año, la escuela Father Yermo está celebrando su 60 aniversario de fundación. El sábado 20 de enero de 2018, una "NOCHE ITALIANA" reunió a la Familia para expresar su gratitud al Señor por los 60 años de servicio que la Escuela Father Yermo ha brindado a nuestra comunidad fronteriza. El Obispo Mark Seitz celebró la Misa y

presidió la celebración Litúrgica en el Convento de las Hermanas. Inmediatamente después se sirvió una cena, de estilo italiano, en el Centro Multiusos Rudolph Miles con música y una subasta silenciosa. Amigos, bienhechores, miembros de la Junta Directiva, ex alumnos, padres de alumnos y el personal disfrutaron de la noche. Nuestra historia, tu historia, está entrelazada en los diferentes eventos y circunstancias que han hecho al Padre Yermo lo que es hoy.

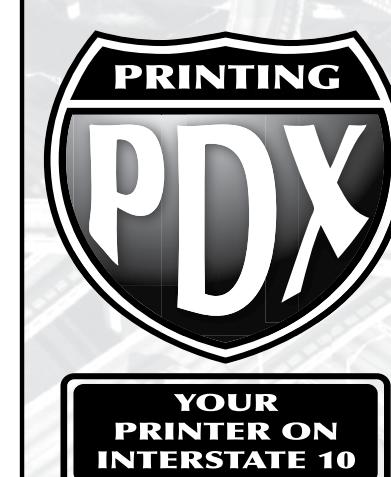


Sr. Margarita Sanchez de la Vega, Sr. Socorro Garcia and Sr. Alice Escamilla

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

**La Diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abuso sexual**

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



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# Astrophysicist-Priest, Seminary Rector to speak in El Paso on Faith and Science

By Michael L. Lewis, Seminarian, Diocese of El Paso

Father John Kartje, the rector/president of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary outside of Chicago, will give a special presentation, "Faith & Science: You Can't Have One Without the Other" at St.



**Fr. John Kartje, Cover of North by Northwestern Magazine, 2012**

Raphael Parish in El Paso on Monday, Feb. 12 and Tuesday,

Feb. 13 at 7:00 p.m. The event is free, but seating is limited.

As the rare academic who has doctoral degrees in both science and sacred theology, Kartje brings decades of experience exploring faith and science and the ways each can inform the other. But he also brings years of experience as a spiritual mentor, servant leader and guide for men in priestly formation.

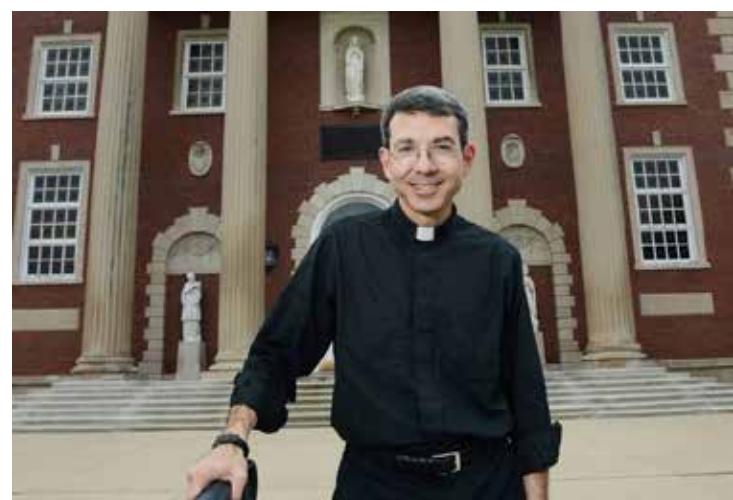
"No scientist goes out one day and just does one experiment and makes a conclusion about the universe," Kartje said. "You collect data, you look for patterns. How to pose critical questions is a huge part of what science

is. And the way you look at a problem, the kinds of questions

you ask, has a lot to say about how we talk about faith as well."

Kartje earned a Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Chicago in 1995 before becoming ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2002. Then, he earned a second doctorate, this time in biblical studies, from the Catholic University of America in 2010. After years as the director of Catholic campus ministry at Northwestern University, and then on the Mundelein Seminary faculty teaching Scripture courses and serving as a spiritual director, he was named the seminary's rector in 2015, replacing the Most Rev. Robert Barron, who was appointed auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles.

Today, as the leader of the largest seminary in the United States — where four El Paso seminarians are currently being formed for the priesthood — Kartje continues to teach courses in Scripture as well as a new course, "Fundamentals of Science at the Foundations of Faith" for pre-theology philosophy students. Kartje said that his goal is to instill



**Very Rev. John Kartje, Ph.D., S.T.D., Mundelein Seminary**

in seminarians a foundational scientific understanding that goes beyond commonly held beliefs.

"The course I teach at the seminary isn't an apologetics course, nor is it an attempt to use science to prove the existence of God," he said. "But there's also more to it than just saying that faith and science can get along. It's saying that science has a lot to contribute to faith and how we pose the questions of faith: How do you phrase it, and how do you shape it and hone it, and how do you realize that how

you've put it may be too vague or not useful?"

Several El Paso priests are Mundelein Seminary alumni, including the Very Rev. Benjamin Flores, the diocese's vicar general, and the Rev. Tony Celino, St. Raphael's pastor. The seminary, located on a lakeside campus northwest of Chicago in Mundelein, Illinois, has more than 200 men studying to become priests from 36 dioceses around the country and around the world.

# Sacerdote-Astrofísico, Rector del Seminario de Mundelein, Chicago, Hablará en Conferencia en El Paso sobre la Fe y la Ciencia

Por Michael L. Lewis, Seminarista, Diocese of El Paso

El padre John Kartje, rector-presidente de la Universidad Santa María del Lago-Seminario Mundelein, en las afueras de Chicago, dará una presentación especial; "Fe y Ciencia, No se Puede obtener una sin la otra". El evento se llevará a cabo en la Parroquia de San Rafael en El Paso, TX., el lunes 12 de febrero y martes 13 de febrero, a las 7:00 p.m. El evento es gratis, pero el cupo es limitado.

Siendo él un raro académico que tiene doctorado, tanto en ciencia como en teología sagrada, Kartje aporta décadas de experiencia explorando la fe y la ciencia, además de las formas en que cada una puede informar a la otra. Pero también aporta años de experiencia como mentor espiritual, líder sacerdotal y guía para los hombres en la formación sacerdotal.

"Ningún científico sale

un día y hace un experimento simplemente porque sí y llega a una conclusión sobre el universo", dijo Kartje. "Se recopilan datos y se buscan patrones. El hecho de cómo plantear preguntas críticas, es en gran parte lo que es realmente la ciencia. Y la forma en que ves un problema, el tipo de preguntas que haces, también tiene mucho que decir sobre cómo hablamos sobre la fe".

Kartje obtuvo el Doctorado en Filosofía Astrofísica de la Universidad de Chicago en 1995, antes de ser ordenado como sacerdote en la Arquidiócesis de Chicago en el 2002. Luego obtuvo un segundo doctorado, esta vez en estudios bíblicos, en la Universidad Católica de América en el 2010. Después de varios años como director del ministerio en el campus católico en la Universidad Northwestern y luego en la facultad del Seminario Mundelein, enseñando cursos de escritura y sirviendo como director espiritual, fue nombrado rector del seminario

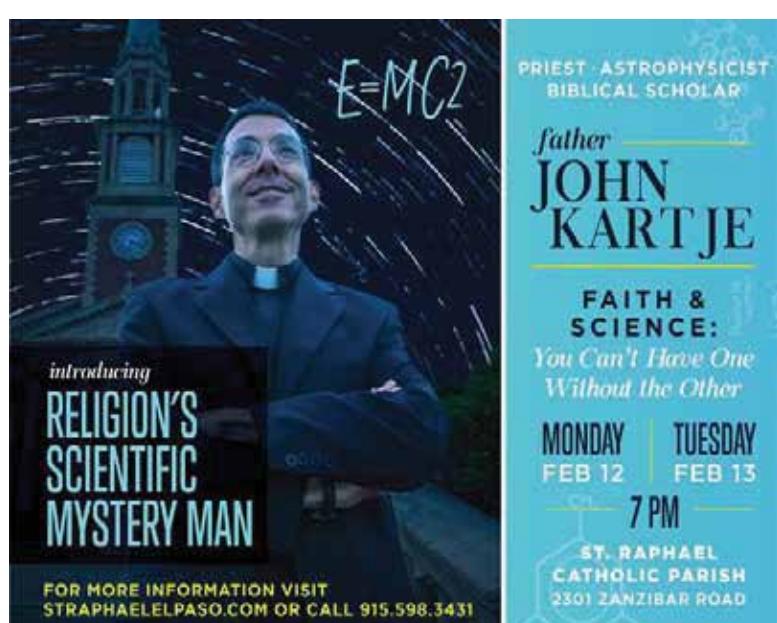
en el 2015, reemplazando al Reverendísimo Robert Barrón, quien fue nombrado obispo auxiliar de Los Ángeles.

Hoy, como líder del seminario más grande de los Estados Unidos, donde cuatro seminaristas de El Paso se están formando para el sacerdocio, Kartje continúa impartiendo cursos de Escritura, así como un nuevo curso; "Fundamentos de la Ciencia, en los Fundamentos de la Fe", para estudiantes de filosofía pre-teología. Kartje dijo que su objetivo es inculcar en los seminaristas una comprensión científica fundamental que va más allá de las creencias comunes.

"El curso que enseño en el seminario no es un curso de apologética, ni es un intento para tratar de usar la ciencia para probar la existencia de Dios", dice Kartje. "Pero también hay más que decir, que solo decir que la fe y la ciencia pueden llevarse bien. Se está diciendo que la ciencia tiene mucho que aportar a la fe y cómo planteamos las cuestiones de la fe, cómo lo expresas y cómo lo moldeas,

lo perfeccionas y cómo te das cuenta de cómo es que lo presentas; ¿demasiado vago o no útil?"

Varios sacerdotes de El Paso son alumnos del Seminario de Mundelein, entre ellos el Reverendísimo sacerdote Benjamín Flores, vicario general de la diócesis, el reverendo Tony Celino, pastor de San Rafael, el reverendo Frank López, pastor de San Mateo, el reverendo Pablo Matta, pastor de San Pablo, el reverendo Miguel Ángel Sánchez, pastor de San Judas Tadeo, el reverendo Fabián Márquez, administrador parroquial del Buen Pastor y el reverendo Balke Fry, (jubilado). El seminario, ubicado en un campus junto al lago al norte de Chicago en Mundelein, Illinois, tiene más de 200 hombres estudiando para convertirse en sacerdotes, los cuales pertenecen a 36 diócesis de todo el país y en todo el mundo.



## New Priests Elected for the Diocese of El Paso Presbyteral Council

By Father Saul Pacheco, President of the Diocese of El Paso Presbyteral Council & Pastor, Our Lady of Assumption Church

A new presbyteral council has been elected from among the priests in the diocese to collaborate with Bishop Mark Seitz in caring for the people of God. As the charter states, "Of one mind and heart with the Bishop of El Paso, all priests of the diocese of El Paso are called to exercise their special role as collaborators in the building up of the reign of God in the Diocese. As part of the pastoral care of the

people, and mindful of their particular mission, the council shall consist of priests who will represent the presbyterate and will act as advisors to the Bishop." The first presbyteral council meeting was held on November 20, 2017 and three officers were elected for a three year term. The President is Rev. Saul Pacheco who is Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Vice-President is Rev. Mariano Lopez who is the

Rector at St. Charles Seminary and Vocation Director for the Diocese and the Secretary is Rev. Francisco Hernandez who is the Associate Pastor at St. Pius X Community. Please keep the three officers, presbyteral council members and all priests in your prayers who are diligently working to offer better pastoral care to the People of God in our border region.



**Rev. Saul Pacheco-President, Rev. Mariano Lopez-Vice President and Rev Francisco Hernandez-Secretary**

## Nuevos sacerdotes elegidos para Consejo Presbiteral de la Diócesis de El Paso

Por Padre Saul Pacheco, Presidente del Consejo Presbiteral de la Diócesis de El Paso y Pastor, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción

Un nuevo concilio presbiteral ha sido elegido entre los sacerdotes de la diócesis, para colaborar con el Señor Obispo Mark Seitz en el cuidado del pueblo de Dios. Como dice la carta: "Una sola mente y un solo corazón con el Obispo de El Paso, todos los sacerdotes de la diócesis de El Paso están llamados a ejercer un papel especial como colaboradores en la construcción del reino de Dios en la Diócesis. Como parte del cuidado pastoral de

las personas y conscientes de su misión particular, el concilio consistirá de sacerdotes que representarán al presbiterado y actuarán como consejeros del Obispo". La primera reunión del consejo presbiteral se llevó a cabo el 20 de noviembre de 2017 y se eligieron tres oficiales por un período de tres años. El presidente es el reverendo Saúl Pacheco, párroco de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, el vicepresidente es el reverendo Mariano López, rector del Seminario

San Carlos Borromeo y como secretario, el reverendo Francisco Hernández, director vocacional de la Diócesis, quien es el pastor asociado en la comunidad de San Pio X. Mantenga en sus oraciones a los tres oficiales, miembros del concilio presbiteral y todos los sacerdotes que trabajan diligentemente para ofrecer un mejor cuidado pastoral al Pueblo de Dios en nuestra región fronteriza



**Presbyteral Council New Leadership**

## Catholic Singer/Songwriter Marty Rotella Performs

"Spirit Power", a morning concert with Marty Rotella, singer, songwriter and three-time Grammy award nominee, is scheduled

for Saturday, February 17, 9 AM at Open Arms Community, 8210 North Loop Drive. A native New Yorker, Rotella is the founder

of Spirit Power Music and producer of eighteen CD's. He composed the score of "The Passion Play", longest running musical version of

the Passion in America. A frequent guest on EWTN Catholic television network, he travels internationally, sharing his songs and stories

in a faith-filled message of hope and healing. Free admission. Information: 915-595-0589

## Cantante/ Compositor Católico Marty Rotella se Presenta

Spirit Power", un concierto matutino con Marty Rotella, cantante, compositor y

tres veces nominado al premio Grammy, está programado para el sábado 17 de febrero

a las 9 a.m. en la Comunidad Open Arms, 8210 North Loop Drive. Nativo de Nueva York,

Rotella es el fundador de Spirit Power Music y productor de 18 discos compactos. Compuso la partitura de "The Passion Play", la versión musical de más larga duración de la Pasión in

EWTN, viaja internacionalmente, compartiendo sus canciones e historias en un mensaje lleno de fe de esperanza y sanación. Entrada gratis. Información: 915-595-0589

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**Marty Rotella**

# Love Means Sacrifice and Reward

Roses and heart-shaped boxes of chocolates – typical symbols for that special day of the year to express undying love for that special someone. But, oh dear, how will we ever celebrate our love this year since – horror of horrors – Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday?

Oh my, how can we dress in party clothes when we wear ashes on our foreheads? How can we pamper our loved ones with candy and fancy food when we are supposed to fast – a word that does not mean eating quickly but does mean to deny ourselves of the pleasures of over-indulgences, to restrict the amount of food and drink that we would normally spoil our loved ones with on Valentine's Day? To sacrifice! How can that show my love for someone?

Indeed! How can sacrifice be even remotely related to showering someone with expressions of our love? Ah, but isn't that what love truly is – sacrifice? Or is it?

Years ago, I was told that true love involved some sacrifice. Marriage was not a 50/50 arrangement where each person gives or does half and expects as much in return. My

mother told me that a loving marriage meant a 100/100 split – and more. Husband and wife each gives their whole heart, their everything to the other person. She was right.

By giving everything that I have, all the I am to my husband – and he does the same – we actually realize that we have even more to give to each other. How could we have more to give if we truly gave everything? Because love is like that. When we hold back, give what is expected, offer only as much as the other delivers to us, then our love shrivels up and becomes selfish and greedy. However, when we surrender ourselves completely to our spouse, our love for each other grows abundantly and, surprisingly, we have even more to give to the other.

Love is weird like that. Not only the love of married couples, but especially the love of parent and child. A child is not an extra mouth to feed or an expense to be budgeted. A child is a treasure of love for whom we sacrifice everything just to be near.

We waited seven long years to become pregnant with our precious daughter. We both

had good-paying jobs but we chose the sacrifice of cutting our paychecks in half so that I could stay home to raise our little girl. Although that decision may not be right for everyone, it was perfect for us. We went from taking nice vacations and buying new cars, to watching our every penny. Was it a sacrifice? I guess it was, but the rewards far outweighed the costs.

Concerts and theaters dimmed in comparison with the radiant smile of our precious child as her daddy read a book to her. Giggles and laughter during a game of peek-a-boo compared to a night on the town like a diamond outshines a dirty pebble.

Then, our adorable son was born and, once again, joys doubled while the salary dwindled. With a four-year-old child and a three-week-old baby in the family, my husband was laid off and the company folded. More sacrifices on the horizon? Sure, but the bonuses kept coming, too.

Preschool field trips to a farm in the winter, even a mild Texas winter, with a newborn isn't high on my list of favorites. So, job hunting was forgotten as father and daughter walked hand-in-hand through fields, giggled

during the dusty hay ride, and sang on the bumpy bus trip. Years later, both daughter and father joyfully point out the little horse farm that made valuable memories long after paychecks are spent.

During budget-weary years, vacations became tent-camping weekends in state parks or simply baking chocolate chip cookies and picnics in the back yard. Did we miss the romantic evenings when just the two of us danced in the moonlight or were served fancy foods in expensive restaurants? Not at all. My favorite anniversary celebration was cheese-and-cracker appetizers in a church parking lot overlooking the lights of El Paso before returning home to a takeout dinner with the children and each other.

Parenthood always involves sacrifices, whether it be budgeting finances, managing time or setting priorities. Jobs and paychecks are important, but memories and time spent making those memories are priceless. In the same way, fasting from

**Sidewalk Jesus**  
by Janet M. Crowe

anything that prevents us from treating our children and family as the most precious part of life is the sacrifice that bears the best reward.

Love may involve sacrifice, but I prefer to think of those sacrifices as investments in the future. And the returns on those investments overflow with hugs, laughter, and joys that will last forever.

So, we will celebrate the beginning of Lent this year by reflecting on the ways we separate ourselves from God and from each other as well as how we can break down the walls that divide us and build bridges to reconnect instead. We will also remind ourselves that God has given us our wonderful family to love. We will celebrate that love either the calendar day before or after Ash Wednesday, and then do our best to celebrate our love on every other day as well.

# El Amor Significa Sacrificio y Recompensa

Rosas y cajas de chocolates en forma de corazón - símbolos típicos de ese día especial del año para expresar el amor eterno por esa persona especial. Pero, cariño, ¿cómo vamos a celebrar nuestro amor este año? ya que - horror de horrores ¿El día de San Valentín cae en miércoles de ceniza?

Oh, ¿cómo podremos vestirnos con ropa de fiesta cuando usaremos ceniza en nuestras frentes? ¿Cómo podremos mimar a nuestros seres queridos con dulces y comida de lujo cuando se supone que debemos ayunar? Palabra que no significa comer rápido, pero que significa negarnos a nosotros mismos los placeres de las indulgencias excesivas, restringir

la cantidad de comida y bebida con que normalmente, mimamos a nuestros seres queridos el día de San Valentín. ¡Sacrificar! ¿Cómo puede eso mostrar mi amor por alguien?

¡En efecto! ¿Cómo puede el sacrificio estar remotamente relacionado con rociar a alguien con expresiones de nuestro amor? Ah, pero ¿no es eso lo que realmente es el amor, el sacrificio? ¿O no? Hace años, me dijeron que el verdadero amor implicaba cierto sacrificio. El matrimonio no era un arreglo 50/50 donde cada persona da o recibe la mitad y espera tanto a cambio. Mi madre me dijo que un matrimonio amoroso significaba una división del 100/100 y más. El esposo y la esposa cada uno se

da el corazón entero, su todo a la otra persona, ella tenía razón.

Al dar todo lo que tengo, todo lo que soy para mi esposo y al hacer él lo mismo, nos damos cuenta de que tenemos aún más para darnos el uno al otro. ¿Cómo podríamos tener más para dar, si realmente le diéramos todo? Porque el amor es así, cuando nos retenemos, damos lo que se espera, ofrecemos solo lo que el otro nos brinda, entonces nuestro amor se encoge y se vuelve egoista y codicioso. Sin embargo, cuando nos rendimos completamente a nuestro cónyuge, nuestro amor mutuo crece abundantemente y sorprendentemente tenemos aún más para dar al otro.

El amor es raro así. No solo el amor de las parejas casadas, sino especialmente el amor de padres e hijos. Un niño no es una boca extra para alimentar o un gasto presupuestado. Un niño es un tesoro de amor por el cual sacrificiamos todo solo por estar cerca.

Esperamos siete largos años para quedar embarazada de nuestra preciosa hija. Ambos teníamos trabajos bien remunerados, pero elegimos el sacrificio de recortar nuestros cheques a la mitad para poder quedarme en casa y criar a nuestra hija. Aunque esa decisión puede no ser adecuada para todos, fue perfecta para nosotros.

Pasamos de tomar buenas vacaciones y comprar coches nuevos, a ver cada centavo. ¿Fue un sacrificio? Supongo que sí, pero las recompensas superan con creces los costos. Los conciertos y teatros se atenuaron en comparación con la radiante sonrisa de nuestra preciosa niña mientras su papá le leía un libro.

Risas y risas durante un juego de "peek-a-boo", (juego que se juega con un niño pequeño, que consiste en esconderse detrás de algo y reaparecer repentinamente, diciendo "peekaboo"), en comparación con una noche en la ciudad, es como un diamante que eclipsa a una sucia piedrita.

Entonces, nuestro adorable hijo nació y una vez más, las alegrías se duplicaron, mientras el salario disminuía. Con un niño de cuatro años y un bebé de tres semanas en la familia, mi esposo fue despedido y la empresa se retiró. ¿Más sacrificios en el horizonte? Claro, pero las bonificaciones siguieron llegando, también.

Las visitas preescolares a una granja en el invierno, incluso a un invierno templado en Texas, con un recién nacido, no ocupan un lugar destacado en mi lista de favoritos. Entonces, la búsqueda de empleo fue olvidada mientras padre e hija caminaban mano a mano por los campos, soltaban risitas durante el polvoriento viaje en el heno y cantaban en el bache lleno de baches. Años más tarde, tanto la hija como el padre, con alegría, señalan la pequeña granja de caballos que hizo recuerdos valiosos mucho después de que se gastaran los cheques de pago.

Durante los años de agotamiento presupuestario, las vacaciones se convirtieron en fines de semana de acampada en parques estatales o simplemente horneando galletas con trocitos de chocolate y picnics en el patio trasero. ¿Perdimos las tardes románticas cuando los dos bailamos a la luz de la luna o servimos comidas lujosas en restaurantes caros? De ningún modo. Mi celebración favorita

del aniversario fueron los aperitivos de queso y galletas en un estacionamiento de la iglesia con vista a las luces de El Paso antes de regresar a casa para una cena con los niños y el uno al otro.

La paternidad siempre implica sacrificios, ya sea presupuestar las finanzas, administrar el tiempo o establecer prioridades. Los empleos y los cheques de pago son importantes, pero los recuerdos y el tiempo dedicado a hacer esos recuerdos no tienen precio. De la misma manera, ayunar de cualquier cosa que nos impida tratar a nuestros hijos y familia como la parte más preciosa de la vida es el sacrificio que tiene la mejor recompensa.

El amor puede implicar sacrificio, pero prefiero pensar en esos sacrificios como inversiones para el futuro. Y los beneficios de esas inversiones se desbordan de abrazos, risas y alegrías que durarán para siempre.

Por lo tanto, celebraremos el comienzo de la Cuaresma este año al reflexionar sobre las formas en que nos separamos de Dios y entre nosotros, así como sobre cómo podemos derribar los muros que nos dividen y construir puentes para reconectarnos. También recordaremos que Dios nos ha dado a nuestra maravillosa familia para amar. Celebraremos ese amor el día calendario anterior o posterior al miércoles de Ceniza y luego haremos nuestro mejor esfuerzo para celebrar nuestro amor cada otro día también.

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# ¡La Familia, Una Bendicion de Dios!

Iniciamos el año nuevo y el mejor propósito que podemos plantearnos es no desperdiciar las bendiciones de Dios. Recordemos las palabras con que Aarón bendecía: "El Señor te bendiga y te guarde; haga resplandecer su rostro sobre ti y tenga misericordia, te engrandezca y te conceda paz". Cada palabra está llena de un contenido profundo, pues la bendición de Dios es infinita. Cada día de este año debemos pedir a Dios nos bendiga y también nosotros ser bendición para los demás: Que a todos los deseemos alegría, paz, salud y prosperidad.

Queridas familias, cada día ante tantas incertidumbres debemos desear que el rostro de Dios ilumine nuestra vida y que su luz brille en nuestro caminar; ese debe ser nuestro motivo de alegría: Manifestar el amor, la fe y esperanza en Dios. Comencemos este nuevo año con la bendición de Dios, dejemos a un lado las "maldiciones", los insultos, las miradas que "mata" hasta la acción que lastima; la mejor forma de vivir este año es evitando agudizar las cadenas de odio y en lugar sembrar amor y reconciliación.

La Sagrada Familia de Jesus, Jose y Maria, es el modelo de toda familia: Un niño necesita ser acompañado de sus padres, que se le hable de Dios y se le acerque a Él. En su Encíclica Lumen Fidei n. 53, El Papa

Francisco dice: "Es importante que los padres cultiven prácticas comunes de fe en la familia, que acompañen el crecimiento en la fe de los hijos. Sobre todo los jóvenes, que atraviesan una edad tan compleja, rica e importante para la fe, deben sentir la cercanía y la atención de la familia y de la comunidad eclesial en su camino de crecimiento en la fe". Los hijos no obedecen: Imitan, no hacen lo que les dicen, sino lo que ven que hacen sus padres. Ellos aprenden más de lo que ven hacer, que de las palabras...

Nosotros creemos que el mundo se salva desde fuera. El Señor nos dice lo contrario: Se salva desde dentro. Desde el seno de la familia. Nosotros inauguramos escuelas, construimos hospitales, formamos grupos financieros, sostenemos partidos políticos, promovemos instituciones culturales, fomentamos el deporte, ampliamos nuestro comercio exterior, hacemos nuevas leyes, defendemos la niñez desvalida, fortalecemos nuestras fronteras y pregonamos la globalización... ¿Y LA FAMILIA? ¡Está bien y gracias! podríamos responder, con formalidad, con lo cual defendemos la intimidad del hogar frente a los extraños. ¿Para que queremos edificar la sociedad comenzando por los techos. Queremos salir al encuentro de los problemas del hombre, cuando ya tiene 18 años. ¡Pero

antes, que le dio la familia?

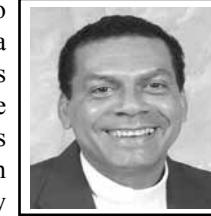
¿Cuántas son las entidades cívicas, sociales, económicas, culturales, aun religiosas, que tienen como objetivo educar a la familia en cuanto tal? Podríamos consolarnos pensando que todo lo social, contribuye a su manera, al bien de la familia. Pero quitémonos la máscara. No es así. Más bien se dan numerosos factores que conspiran contra la familia: La sociedad de consumo, los medios de comunicación, las campañas publicitarias, las ideologías foráneas, la manipulación de la mujer, etc.

¿Y yo, que hago por mi familia? Yo que soy político famoso, competencia industrial, eficaz constructor de edificios y casas, profesor tan sabio, sacerdote tan talentoso, profesional tan exitoso, prestante dama de la sociedad o mujer de tanta influencia social, medico con tantas especializaciones, dueño de varios de mega radios y canales de televisión, director de tantas famosas películas o programas de TV. ¿Qué he hecho por mi familia? "El Niño Jesus crecía y se robustecía y se llenaba de sabiduría y la gracia de Dios le acompañaba". ¿Por qué será que todos nuestros niños no les pasan lo mismo?

Un buen día, una pareja viene a ponerme la queja de su hijo adolescente: "No sabemos qué pasa, es una rebeldía total,

parece incluso que nos odia a nosotros sus padres, que se lo hemos dado todo". Sin compasión y tratando de no ser nada elegante pero si sincero les dije: "Ese es el problema, que se lo han dado todo. Para empezar señora, no lo llame mi bebé o mi niño, ya tiene 17 años. Además ustedes, le han satisfecho todo, hasta sus más mínimos caprichos. Y pretenden calmar su rebeldía y ganar su amor dándole cada vez más cosas, incluso ajustándose el cinturón, porque su niño o su bebé cada día exige cosas de más valor. Esta es la radiografía de muchos padres modernos, que creen amar a sus hijos y educarlos cediendo a todos sus caprichos, colmándolos de regalos y evitándoles el menor sufrimiento. La capacidad de sufrimiento de estos muchachos es nula, porque nada los ha contrariado en la vida y todo lo han tenido a pedir de boca y a la velocidad de una madre complaciente y sobreprotectora.

Cuando llegan ciertas contrariedades, cuya solución no se encuentra en regalos o cosas materiales, la idea del suicidio ronda y a veces se hace efectiva... Por ahí leí que el hombre es un aprendiz y el dolor es su maestro, el que no ha sufrido nada sabe. Y podríamos componer un refrán que



Vida del Espíritu  
por el Padre Wilson Cuevas

diga: "Dime cuánto has sufrido y te diré cuánto vales". Ahora debemos aprender el derecho que tienen los niños y los hijos a ser bien educados y formados. Y hay que prepararlos también para el sufrimiento y para las dificultades, que son partes importantes de la vida. Amar a los hijos a punta de concesiones y consentimientos es hacer de ellos seres débiles y convertirlos en tiranos de los demás y esclavos de sí mismos... Si les das gusto en todo, él o ella mañana los maldecirán, con casi todo derecho. O bien enséñales a resolver sus problemas, a que se esfuerzen por superarse y antes que llegue el día de mañana él o ella se lo agradecerá y ustedes no habrán vivido en vano. Propagamos que este nuevo año en nuestras familias exista un verdadero diálogo, que se viva el amor que es capaz de enseñar el valor del sufrimiento y de la frustración, que forma seres capaces de enfrentar, con certeza y generosidad, los difíciles caminos de la vida, guiados por Dios y con su bendición. FELIZ AÑO NUEVO 2018 y que el Señor llene de bendiciones sus vidas.

# The Family, A Blessing from God!

We start the New Year and the best resolution we can set for ourselves is to not waste God's blessings. Let us remember the words with which Aaron blessed: "The Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine on you and have mercy, magnify you and grant you peace". Each word is profoundly meaningful, because the blessing of God is infinite. Every day of this year we must ask God to bless us and also to make us a blessing to others: May we wish everyone joy, peace, health and prosperity.

Dear families, every day in the face of so many uncertainties we must desire that the face of God illuminates our life and that its light shines in our path; that must be our reason for joy: to manifest love, faith and hope in God. Let us begin this new year with the blessing of God, let us leave aside the "curses", the insults, the look that "kills" and the actions that hurt. The best way to live this year is to avoid aggravating the chains of hatred and instead sow love and reconciliation.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, is the model for every family: a child needs to be accompanied by his parents, who speak about God and how to approach Him. In his Encyclical Lumen Fidei n. 53, Pope Francis says: "It is important for parents to encourage shared expressions of faith which can help children gradually mature in their own faith. Young people in particular, who are going through a period in their lives which is

so complex, rich and important for their faith, ought to feel the constant closeness and support of their families and the Church in their journey of faith." Children do not obey: they imitate, they do not do what they are told to do, but do what they see their parents do. They learn more of what they see, rather than what is said.

We believe that the world is saved from the outside. The Lord tells us otherwise: it is saved from within. From the bosom of the family. We inaugurate schools, build hospitals, form financial groups, support political parties, promote cultural institutions, promote sports, expand our foreign trade, make new laws, defend defenseless children, strengthen our borders and proclaim globalization AND WHAT ABOUT THE FAMILY? It's okay but thank you! We respond formally and with which we defend the privacy of the home in front of strangers. So we want to build society starting with the ceilings. We want to go out to meet the problems of man, when he is 18 years old. But before, what did the family give him?

How many are the civic, social, economic, cultural, even religious, entities that aim to educate the family in such a way? We could console ourselves thinking that everything in society contributes, in its own way, to the good of the family. But let's take off the blinders. It is not like that at all! Instead there exists numerous factors that conspire against the family: the consumer society, the media, advertising

campaigns, foreign ideologies, the manipulation of women, etc.

And me, what do I do for my family? I am a famous politician, an industrial competitor, an effective builder of buildings and houses, a wise teacher, a talented priest, a successful professional, a lady of society or a woman of social influence, a doctor with many specializations, a master of several mega radios and television channels, director of many famous movies or TV shows. What have I done for my family?

"The Child Jesus grew and became strong and filled with wisdom and the grace of God accompanied him." Why is it that all our children are not the same? One day, a couple came to me to complain about their teenage son. They said, "We do not know what's happening, he is a total rebel, it even seems that he hates us, his parents, we gave him everything." With little compassion but still trying not to be anything but sincere I said to them: "That's the problem, you have given him everything ... To start with, ma'am, do not call him my baby or my child, he's already 17 years old. You have satisfied him with everything, even his smallest whims. You try to calm his rebellion and win his love by giving him more and more things. You would even consider adjusting your waist lines to eat less so you can give him more, because your child or your baby demands more and more valuable things everyday.

This is the thought of many modern parents who believe they love their children and educate them by giving in to all of their whims, filling them with gifts and avoiding the slightest suffering for their children. The capacity of suffering for these boys is zero because they have had no disappointment in their life. They have had everything handed to them and done so quickly by appeasing and overprotective parents.

When certain setbacks arise for children today, whose solution is not found in gifts or material things, the idea of suicide comes into their minds and sometimes even takes place. Once I read, that a man is an apprentice and pain is his teacher. Those who have not suffered know nothing. We should actually compose a saying that says: "Tell me how much you have suffered and I will tell you how much you are worth".

Now we must learn the rights of children and our children have the right to be well educated. You have to prepare them also for suffering and for difficulties, which are

an important part of life.

To love children up to the point of making constant concessions is to make them weak beings and to turn them into tyrants of others and slaves of themselves. If you give them everything, he or she will curse you tomorrow and quite possibly has every right to do so. If you teach them to solve their problems, to strive to excel before tomorrow comes he or she will thank you and you will not have lived in vain. Let us propose that this New Year in our families there will be real dialogue, to live the love and to teach the value of suffering and frustration, which forms beings capable of facing, with certainty and generosity, the difficult paths of life, guided by God and with His blessing. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018 and May the Lord fill your lives with blessings.

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# This Lent, Give Up Your Smart Phones

By Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator

"And Your Father who sees in secret will repay you..."

During the holidays I gathered with a few friends in a local restaurant and while I was waiting for them I noticed six or eight people around me looking straight to their phones not talking to each other. Sheryl Turkle, a professor of psychology from the Massachusetts Institute for Technology mentions, "Without conversation we shortchange ourselves, our relationships with ourselves and others suffer." It seems that we are losing interest in talking to each other now that technology

and social media are the main activity for digital communication and entertainment.

As we are about to enter into a 40-day Lenten journey with Jesus on February 14, I would like to invite you to see the person next to you and leave behind what technology has to offer. Create a community of prayer, invite others to fast, explain the meaning of Lent, find out what are your parish financial needs, visit elpasodiocesefoundation.org and see the different ways you can help your local church.

Nowadays where the world

invites us to a life of self-centeredness and individuality, instead visit your neighbor during this Lenten season. Leave behind your smartphone, television and other tools of technology to enter into a relationship with Christ and your neighbor. This will give you a space for reflection and discernment on what to do this Lent. Mother Teresa said: "Even if you write a letter for a blind man, or just sit and listen to someone, or you take the mail for him, or you visit somebody or bring a flower to somebody, or wash clothes for somebody or clean the house –small things, God sees

everything great."

This Lent, by giving ourselves to the other through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we will encounter Christ and will give us the peace that our hearts need. "Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

I wish you a wonderful and communal Lent, and may God give you the wisdom to discern what to do best this Lent.



If you are interested or would like to learn more about Stewardship please call Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator for the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, at 915-872-8412 or at ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org

# Durante la Cuaresma, Haga a un Lado el Celular

Por Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator



"Y tu Padre que ve en lo secreto te recompensará..."

Durante las fiestas decembrinas me reuní con unos amigos en un restaurante local y mientras esperaba por ellos note a seis u ocho personas alrededor de mí viendo fijamente a su celular y sin hablar entre ellos.

Sheryl Turkle, profesora de psicología del Instituto de Tecnología en Massachusetts menciona, "Sin conversación, nos menospreciamos, nuestras relaciones con nosotros y con los demás sufren." Parece que estamos perdiendo el interés en hablar el uno con el otro ahora que la tecnología y los medios sociales son el principal medio para la comunicación y el entretenimiento. Ahora que vamos a comenzar un camino con Jesús por 40 días este 14 de Febrero, me gustaría invitarlos a ver la persona que está enseñada de ustedes y dejar atrás lo que la

tecnología nos ofrece. Crean una comunidad de oración, inviten a otros a ayunar, expliquen el significado de Cuaresma, pregúntele sobre cuáles son las necesidades económicas de su parroquia, visite la página de elpasodiocesefoundation.org y vea las diferentes maneras en que usted puede ayudar a su iglesia local. Ahora que el mundo nos invita a vivir una estilo de vida de individualismo y egocentrismo, visite a su vecino esta temporada de Cuaresma. Deje atrás su celular, televisión, y otros medios de tecnología para entrar en una relación con Cristo y su vecino. Esto le dará un espacio para reflexión

y discernimiento en que hacer esta Cuaresma. La Madre Teresa decía: "Si por lo menos le escribieras una carta a un ciego/a, o te sentarás y escucharás a una persona solitaria, o si le llevas el correo, o si lo visitas y le llevas unas flores, o lavas la ropa a alguien, o lavas su casa – pequeñas cosas, Dios lo ve todo maravilloso." Esta Cuaresma, dándonos a nosotros mismos por medio de la oración, ayuno y ofrenda nos encontraremos con Cristo y esto nos dará la paz que nuestros corazones necesitan. "Y la paz de Dios, que es mayor de lo que se pueda imaginar, les guardará sus corazones y sus pensamientos en

Cristo Jesús." (Filipenses 4:7) Les deseo una maravillosa Cuaresma en comunidad, y que Dios les de la sabiduría para discernir que hacer durante esta Cuaresma.

*Si están interesados o les gustaría aprender sobre Corresponsabilidad llame a Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad para la Fundación para la Diócesis del Paso al 915-872-8412 o a ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org*

# Christ Child Society: To Work Is To Pray

By Maria Elena Schuerman, President Christ Child Society-Katherine Haninger Chapter

The Christ Child Society, a charitable organization, is dedicated to serving at-risk children regardless of race or creed. This dedicated group has been active nationally for over a hundred and thirty years. It was founded by Mary Virginia Merrick, who though confined to bed due to severe injuries, continued her work on behalf of needy children. The Katherine Haninger Chapter, here in El Paso, was founded in 1957 by Mrs. C. E. Graham, Jr., and Mrs. Thomas Reed and its members are active to this day.

The main activity of the El Paso Chapter is the distribution of layettes, a collection of items with essentials that a mother needs for her newborn - a special winter flannel blanket made by one of the members, a light blanket for

summer, a receiving blanket, a "onesie", diapers, milk bottle and other things for the baby. Along with these necessities the chapter adds a prayer in English and Spanish for babies which reads: "Thank you, dear God, for this blessing lying so still in my arms. Please take care of my baby and keep it safe from all harm." They also include a tiny blessed medal of the Christ Child, a book and a brochure on "Shaken Baby Syndrome" also in both languages.

Each month the women distribute the layettes to William Beaumont Army Hospital and University Medical Center. The members give their love and attention to all they prepare, conveying to the mothers who receive these layettes the loving spirit the chapter has for them. Members sew hems on gowns

during their meetings and some who cannot attend hand-crochet blankets and bonnets which are added to the layettes.

Necessary funds for this ministry are primarily from the main fundraiser, Silver Coffee, held in December. Silver Coffee is a special luncheon designed to attract new members, raise awareness of the organization and raise funds. The group has also raised money by selling "new-to-me" jewelry and setting up booths at church fairs.

To expand its ministry, the chapter has sent letters to all parishes in the Diocese informing them of the work the chapter does in El Paso, asking parish groups to get in touch with them to help mothers of newborns. Besides parishes, the letter will be sent to local groups which come in contact with mothers who may

need help in supplying their babies with necessary items which at times include books for young children.

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome declares the founder

Mary Virginia Merrick a Servant of God and preliminary steps have begun toward beatification and canonization. A prayer for the cause of beatification is said by the chapter members at the beginning of each meeting. The chapter works to continue the legacy of its founder and to demonstrate that "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."



For more information on this ministry, please call Maria Elena Schuerman at 915.218.8877 or email at marymel1@att.net

# Christ Child Society: Trabajar es Orar

Por Maria Elena Schuerman, Presidente Christ Child Society-Katherine Haninger Chapter

La organización caritativa, Sociedad del Niño Jesús, se dedica a servir a niños en peligro sin importar raza o credo. Este grupo nacional tan dedicado debe ser elogiado y admirado, sobre todo porque han estado activos por más de ciento treinta años. La Sociedad fue fundada por Mary Virginia Merrick, que aunque confinada a cama debido a graves lesiones, continuó su trabajo en favor de niños necesitados.

El Katherine Haninger Chapter, aquí en El Paso, fue fundado en 1957 por la Sra. C.E. Graham, Jr., y Sra. Thomas Reed y sus miembros son activos hasta el presente. El capítulo continúa el legado de su fundadora y vive el lema: "Nada es nunca demasiado hacer para un niño."

La actividad principal del capítulo en El Paso es la distribución de canastillas, una colección de objetos con

elementos esenciales que una madre necesita para su recién nacido - contiene, entre otros artículos, una cobija de franela especial para el invierno hecha por uno de los miembros, una cobija ligera para el verano, una mantilla de recibir, una camiseta, pañales, botella, y otras cosas para el bebé. Junto con estas necesidades, el capítulo añade una oración en inglés y español para niños que dice: "Gracias, querido Dios, por esta bendición que tengo el mis brazos. Por favor, cuida a mi bebé y manténgalo libre de todo daño". También incluyen una medallita bendita con el Niño Jesús, un libro y un folleto sobre "Síndrome del Niño Sacudido" también en ambos idiomas. Cada mes las mujeres distribuyen las canastillas al Hospital William Beaumont y al University Medical Center. Los miembros dan su amor y atención a todo lo que preparan, expresándoles a las

mamás que reciben estas canastillas el espíritu amoroso que el capítulo tiene para ellas. Miembros cosen dobladillos en los vestidos durante sus reuniones y algunas que no pueden asistir tejen juegos para bebé y cobijitas que se agregan a la bolsa. Este ministerio recaba fondos necesarios principalmente por medio del Café de Plata, que toma lugar cada diciembre. El grupo también ha levantado dinero vendiendo joyería "nueva-para-mí" y en las ferias de iglesias locales.

Para expandir su Ministerio, el capítulo ha enviado cartas a todas las parroquias de la diócesis informándoles del trabajo del capítulo, pidiendo a grupos de la parroquia que se pongan en contacto con ellas para ayudar a las madres de recién nacidos. Además de las parroquias, se enviará la carta a los grupos locales que entran

en contacto con madres que necesitan ayuda en el suministro de su bebé con artículos necesarios.

L a Congregación para las causas de los Santos en Roma declara a la fundadora Mary Virginia Merrick a un siervo de Dios y comienzan los pasos preliminares hacia la beatificación y canonización. Una oración por la causa de beatificación se reza por las capitulares al principio de su reunión.

Para mas información sobre este ministerio, llame a Maria Elena Schuerman al 915.218.8877 o envíe un correo electrónico a marymel1@att.net



**NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

Katherine Haninger Chapter is expanding its ministry and looking to come to your parish!

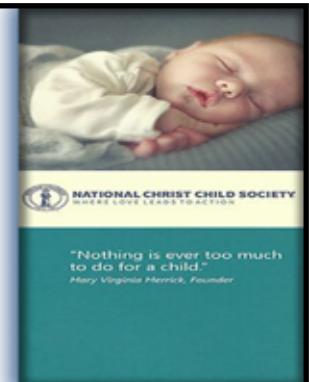
*Join us and live the joy of bringing needy mothers with newborn babies layettes filled with everything they need to provide for their little ones.*

For questions & information on this ministry

please call Maria Elena Schuerman

915.218.8877 or email

marymel1@att.net



"Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

Mary Virginia Merrick, Founder

# News Around Catholic Schools

## Cathedral High School



Luis Reynoso -Four years of morning workouts, countless hours of studying, and multiple state championships have defined Luis' career and universities have taken notice. As of today, Luis has received letters of acceptance to Baylor University, St. Mary's University, St. Edward's University, UTEP, Fordham, Loyola University of Chicago, St. John's University, Trinity University, and the University of Arizona. In addition to his letters of acceptance, Luis has received over \$460,000 in college scholarships and designation as a Coca-Cola Foundation Semifinalist. It's a great day to be an Irishman!



Alex Guevara -In 1998 Roberto Guevara graduated from Cathedral High School and later matriculated to the University of Texas at Austin. Now, 20 years after his graduation from La Cate, Alex Guevara, Roberto's brother, has committed to attend the University of Texas at Austin, as his brother did two decades ago. Pictured above is Alex pointing to the picture of his brother that adorns Irish Hall, located on the first floor of Cathedral. Congratulations to Mr. Guevara who in addition to his UT acceptance has received letters of admission to Trinity University, Baylor University, St. Mary's University, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, UTEP, and Sam Houston State University. Alex has also received a total of \$276,500 in college scholarships. It's a great day to be an Irishman!

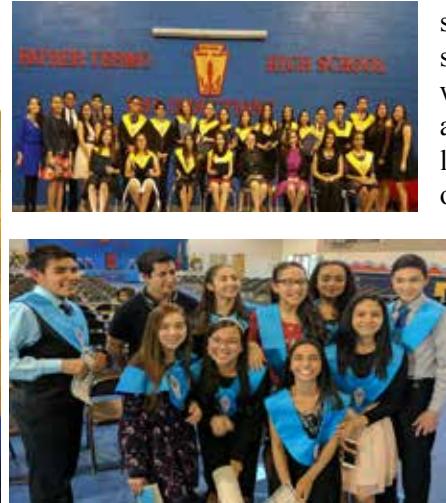
Sports blurb-Congratulations to the Cathedral Irish Soccer team who earned 2nd place in the Cathedral/EPISD tournament. Additionally, the Tennis team is currently ranked 2nd in the city and boasts a

litany of upperclassmen and underclassmen. The dominant Irish Swimming team, holder of 32 consecutive state championships heads to regionals.

## Father Yermo Catholic School

### FATHER YERMO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK

Father Yermo School always celebrates in a very special way Catholic School Week. This year, the theme for Catholic Schools Week is: "Many gifts, one nation." The week will be filled with different important activities. Monday: Prayer Day. Tuesday: Installation of new members for the National Honor Society at the high school and National Junior Honor Society at the middle school level. Wednesday: participation of Liturgy at St. Patrick's cathedral with all Catholic schools of El Paso and Teacher Appreciation



Day. Thursday, Junior Ring Ceremony at the high school and Grandparents Appreciation Day for elementary and middle school grades. Friday: Student Appreciation Day.

In preparation for Catholic School week, the School Science Fair for middle and high school levels took place on January 24, 2018. The Open House will take place on February 5th. Registration for the school year 2018-2019 will start the same day.



## Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School

### OLV SCHOOL LIBRARIAN RETIRES



Janice Cook, OLV School Librarian, retires after 26 years of service. Mrs. Cook began her OLV School journey as a Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten teacher which she did for two years after she was initially hired. She was then given the position as the school librarian. As librarian, she was faced with only having fifty books in the library and having to serve almost three hundred students. She had the tremendous task of filling the library with books which took time but was finally accomplished. After being able to accumulate about 1,500 books, she was provided with a computer a few years later. She found herself again facing a time-consuming task of having to enter all the books into the new computer system but she was able to get the job done.

Mrs. Cook also had other roles at Our Lady of the Valley School. She frequently substituted for the teachers from Pre-Kinder to 8th grade during her twenty-four years at the school. For twenty-four years she performed lunch duty supervising the students at the field and playground during recess. While performing this task, she would occasionally play with the students and go down the slide of the playground equipment. She recalled one time when the eighth-grade students asked her to play football with them but she said drew the line on football. She also overlooked the school's book fairs and she always dressed up depending on the theme. Students thoroughly enjoyed watching her in her get-ups. During her time at OLV School, Mrs. Cook would also work weekends on school activities and assist the parish by opening and

closing the school building for confirmation classes when they were held during the week.

Mrs. Cook was a firm believer of Catholic education and she helped put her five grandchildren through school at Our Lady of the Valley. Two of them are currently at the school in third and fourth grade. Through her twenty-six years of service, Mrs. Cook made many friendships. One of her fondest memories of the school was being able to see the eighth-grade classes graduate and seeing these students in later years when they return to visit or when she runs into them in the community.

Mrs. Cook will be greatly missed but she will always be a part of the OLV family.

## St. Raphael Catholic School

The beginning of the year has been off to a great start with a few school activities! On January 5th, we celebrated St. Raphael's Class of 2008 10 year reunion. The reunion went well with Student Council helping to organize the event with Ms. Vazquez. The reunion consisted of a Welcome Back Mass, enjoying breakfast afterwards, going around talking to students from 4th grade to 8th grade about their experiences, and talking with former teachers. We would like to thank Paul Eric Bautista, Tony Montenegro, and Stephanie Vazquez for coming out. It was great to see our former students come back and walk the halls. We would also like to recognize Paul Bautista as he is the Alumni of the month for January. You can read his biography on our school's website at <http://www.straphaelpaso.org>.

On January 10th, we held our annual Science Fair for our 7th and 8th grade students. We would like to thank our students for working hard all semester on their individual projects



with all their research and preparation. We would also like to recognize and thank our judges who took time out of their day to look at our students' projects, to our tally people who counted all the points on each individual project, and to Mrs. Arriola, our Science teacher, for organizing everything as she does every year. Congratulations to our

winners in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in their categories. We would like to recognize Grace Morrison, Richard Vallejo, Annette Valdez, Moises Salazar, Christopher Gross, Nicholas Cobos, Marco Tejada, and Mya Sepulveda for placing 1st. These students will advance on to the Sun Country Science Fair.

As we go on past January we move along to the month of February in which we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. As a school we are very proud of our Catholic Identity because we form future generations of leaders who are grounded by faith and Gospel values. We are excited to announce that we will have a guest speaker who will talk to our students about the different vocations that the church offers. Our students in the Annex and Lower Hall create posters on "Why I like a Catholic Education" while our Upper Hall students write an essay on their experiences of having a Catholic Education. We love our students, their willingness to learn about God, and to use him as an example in their everyday lives.

Along with that we also have our annual Alumni get together which we are holding on February 2nd organized by Mrs. Arriola, NJHS and Ms. Vazquez. We are inviting High School Seniors, College Students, and beyond to come join us. They are planning on having an Alumni Mass with breakfast afterwards and having the Alumni talking to the current 8th graders about their experiences. This is a great way for our 8th graders to get ready for High School, College, and life after by receiving advice from a variety of Alumni who are in different stages in life. We are having an Open House on February 2nd after the 8:15a.m Mass for new families interested in checking out the school and registering their child with us. There will be information on our school about our curriculum and student life. We look forward to seeing you there and joining us for the morning.

Ms. De Jesus and Ms. Yapor celebrated the one year anniversary of The Bridge Diocesan radio station.



# Lenten Campaign for Vocations

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Vocation Office

In this Lenten Season, thousands of people in parishes across the diocese will make a commitment to support Vocation Promotion in the Diocese of El Paso. Their commitment is spiritual and also financial. We are blessed with an increase in seminarians who are feeling a calling to the priesthood. Currently, the Diocese of El Paso has 28 seminarians who are in formation at different levels (introductory level, college/philosophy level, graduate/theology level). There are also many young women who are expressing an interest in entering religious life. The Dominican Sisters of the Christian Doctrine, in our region, have experienced an increase in the number of postulants who are beginning a journey of discernment and formation. While there is hope that the Church is responding to God's calling, there continues to

be a need to promote vocation awareness among our community at large. It is necessary to help the Church remember that it belongs to God and that God is calling it to himself as he chooses each man and woman to serve him in a particular way.

The Vocation Office seeks to do this as it gathers people to celebrate masses for vocations, as it visits different youth groups and ministries at parishes to speak of vocations, as it responds to youth who are seeking advice and counsel as they begin to hear God's voice, and through varied retreats and spiritual gatherings. Some activities sponsored by the Vocation Office are strictly for the youth who are discerning what to do with their life, while there are also many other activities for all members of the Church to reflect on how they can support the youth on their vocational journey.

The Lenten Campaign

for Vocations consists of the distribution of Lenten Calendars and boxes. Persons interested in supporting vocation promotion may request an envelope that contains a calendar within it. The calendar has a prayer intention for vocations for each day of Lent. These include a prayer intention for each seminarian of our diocese and several general prayers for vocations. At the end of Lent, the faithful may make a donation in the envelope and return it to their parish, or mail it to the Vocation Office. Lenten boxes (similar to the Lenten Cans distributed other years) are also available; these function as "piggy banks" in which children are invited to support vocation awareness as they deposit coins from their allowance or from whatever they are able to collect from their family members. As the children make an offering, they are to offer a prayer for vocations in general

and for their own vocation. Through this activity they learn the importance of maintaining a generous spirit at so many different levels.

Through your participation in the Lenten Campaign, you have the opportunity to become part of the effort of our youth who are on a process of saying "yes" to God. As your gifts provide funding for the vocation office, different activities in which youth experience God's calling take place. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends hear a message they share with others who are deciding whether they should serve God as a priest, sister, brother, married person or single person. Contact your parish or the vocation office for more information about how to become an active part of this effort (915) 872-8403.



**The Lenten Campaign from the Vocation Office supports collaborative efforts with religious sisters in which the youth hear about all of the vocations of the church.**

## Campaña Cuaresmal por Vocaciones

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Oficina de Vocaciones

En esta Temporada Cuaresmal, miles de personas en las parroquias de la diócesis harán un compromiso de apoyar la Promoción Vocacional dentro de la Diócesis de El Paso. Su compromiso es espiritual y también financiero. Estamos bendecido con un aumento de seminaristas que sienten el llamado al sacerdocio. Actualmente, la Diócesis de El Paso tiene 28 seminaristas en formación en diferentes niveles

(introductorio, universidad/filosofía, estudios de maestría/teología). También hay varias mujeres jóvenes que expresan un interés en la vida religiosa. Las Hermanas Dominicas de la Doctrina Cristiana, en nuestra región, han experimentado un aumento en el número de postulantes que comienzan una jornada de discernimiento y formación. Mientras hay esperanza de que la iglesia está viviendo el llamado de Dios,

continua habiendo necesidad de promover concientización vocacional en la comunidad en general. Es necesario ayudarle a la Iglesia recordar que le pertenece a Dios y que Dios la está llamando hacia sí mismo al escoger a cada hombre y mujer a servirle de una manera particular. La Oficina de Vocaciones busca hacer esto al invitar a la gente a la celebración de misas vocacionales, al visitar diferentes grupos y ministerios

vocacional pueden pedir un sobre que contiene un calendario. El calendario tiene una intención de oración por cada día de la Cuaresma. Estas incluyen oración particular



**Seasonal events, like the Posada Vocacional, are supported by your contribution to the Lenten Campaign for Vocations.**

### Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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

**Cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo**

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

**Facilities and Services**

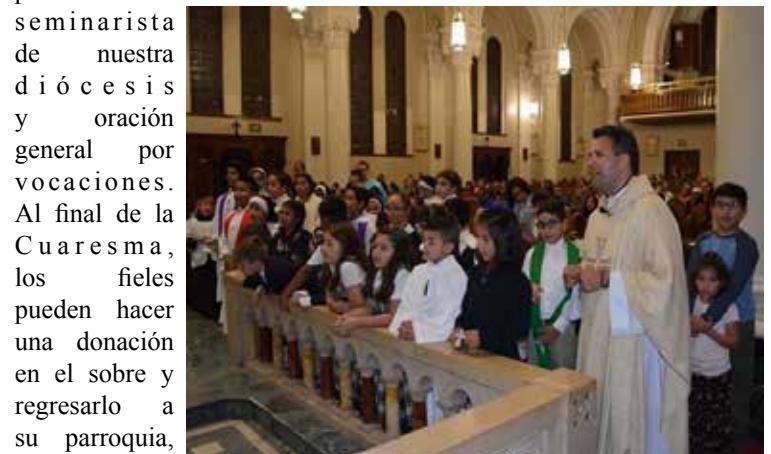
Our Lady of Mount Carmel offers a full range of options:

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

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

401 S. Zaragoza Rd • Ph. 860-0606

One in a series of informational presentations



**The Lenten Campaign of the Vocation Office allows for young children to hear the message of Vocations at their level and to discover that God is calling them to himself.**

jóvenes que están en un proceso de decirle que "sí" a Dios. Al proporcionar fondos para la oficina de vocaciones, ustedes ayudan a que se realicen actividades en que nuestros jóvenes viven el llamado de Dios. Padres de familia, abuelos, tíos(as), y amigos(as) escuchan el mensaje y lo comparten con otros que están decidiendo si le servirán a Dios como sacerdotes, hermanas(os), personas casadas, o personas solteras. Comuníquese con su parroquia o con la oficina de vocaciones para más información sobre cómo ser parte activa de este esfuerzo (915) 872-8403.

Al participar en la Campana Cuaresmal, usted tiene la oportunidad de convertirse en parte del esfuerzo de nuestros

# Scouting a Youth Ministry in the Catholic Church

By Rick Armendariz, Catholic Committee on Scouting

Scouting and the Catholic Church have a 100-year history in the United States. Both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have programs that enrich their faith, through the "Duty to God" component. Each program dedicates a date on the calendar to promote Duty to God; such as Scout Sunday. Duty to God in scouting means a scout is reverent and faithful to his religious duties. This year in the Catholic Diocese of El Paso we celebrate our scouts on March 3, 2018. This celebration gives us an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of all our boy and girl scouts.

It is important to celebrate these scouts because these boys and girls are ultimately our future leaders; not just in our churches but also in our communities, companies, small businesses, government, sports teams and volunteer organizations. Experienced leaders also look for bright and talented young men and women to mentor. Our very own Catholic Diocese and church communities are also looking for great leaders. The future members of our Altar Society and Knights of Columbus

learn to volunteer and lead when they are scouts. Leaders in all areas are not born they truly are made.

Scouting teaches our children to set goals but more importantly it also teaches them to reach them. Merit badges and rank advancement are vessels to teach this important lesson. Community service and volunteerism is another primary element taught in scouting and is an invaluable experience. Scouts learn that in giving, they in turn receive so much more. Every year scouts provide over 100,000 hours of community service to organizations around the country.

In serving their communities they gain exposure to different leadership styles.

One of the key lessons learned in scouting is echoed in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This lesson is also echoed in our Catholic faith as in Matthew 7:12 we read, "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you." In Luke 6:31 it says, "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you". Scouts learn to be helpful,

friendly, courteous, considerate, caring and reverent.

Our communities can always use good leaders that have good values. John 13:34 commands us to love one another, to be good to one another, to respect one another. Our society can sometimes cast a shadow on being a good person. Many times being good can carry with it a negative connotation like when you hear someone say, "Oh he is such a boy scout." Yet good people, like scouts, are always the people that we want to hire, that we want to be friends with and that we want our son or daughter to marry.

Scouts in the Catholic Diocese of El Paso learn and perform Corporal Works of Mercy (we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, we clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and visit the sick) and Spiritual Works of Mercy (we instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the afflicted, we teach forgiveness, and pray for the lonely and dead). The Corporal works for Mercy are performed through community service hours doing things like hosting food drives and visiting Veteran

homes. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are experienced through Catholic retreats, praying the Rosary series and learning about different saints that also serve as great role models to scouts.

The families of scouts also reap the benefits of having their kids participate in scouting. Many scout families develop close bonds with other scout families as they make memories and bond over the values they wish to instill in their children. Scout experiences become some of the most treasured memories for scouts and their families.

This year join us as we celebrate our scouts in the Catholic Diocese of El Paso.

*Boy Scout Oath: Oh my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people at all time and obey the scout law. I will keep myself mentally awake, morally straight, and physically strong.*

*Boy Scout Law: A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.*

*Girl Scout Promise: On my honor I will try to serve God and*

*my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.*

*Girl Scout Law: I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely and make the world a better place, and be a sister to every scout.*

## Upcoming Scout Events Include:

**February 10, 2018- Scouting for Food collection and can be delivered to your local church.**

**February 14, 2018-April 1, 2018 4 activities with 'Rosary Series' taking place during Lent.**

**For more information about the Girl & Boys Scouts in the Catholic Diocese of El Paso please contact Rick Armendariz, Chairman for the Catholic Committee on Scouting, at 915.244.5815 or e-mail: rick@444-uic.com.**

## Eduardo Fernandez-Men of Cathedral Series

I have had several cousins graduate from Cathedral. As I watched them grow up and attend this school it became increasingly important for me to follow in their footsteps with the hope of somehow transforming what I learned from them into success for myself.

As a freshman, I thought I would graduate

from Cathedral without much emotional attachment. But as I finish my last year here and the number of times I will walk these halls as a student gets to be fewer and fewer, I am overcome with the joy of knowing that I will graduate in May with others I call brothers and from a school that I deeply care about.

I will be most proud

of how I finished my time at Cathedral; trying new things and reaching the goals I set four years ago. This year I joined football and despite my apprehension, as the final seconds ticked down to zero during our state championship game, the decision, though fear inducing at first, reminded me that the confrontation of fear is what allows for success and greatness. When it came to basketball, my longest commitment while at Cathedral, I'm proud of sticking with the process despite the highs and lows that have been part of my time on the court.

Most importantly, I will be proud of the individual relationships I have with my classmates that includes appreciating their personalities, quirks and bonding in class and the hallways. I did not intend to form such deep relationships when I first entered Cathedral. Now, at the end, I am proud I made the effort to get to know my classmates.

I want to thank Brother Nick, my parents and whole family, all the teachers throughout the years, Mr. Vazquez, Coach Hurt and Mr. Miles, who made Cathedral a possibility for me with his generous scholarship.

I am deeply grateful to Brother Nick and Mr. Vazquez. For two to three weeks early along in my high school career, my grandmother was suffering from an illness and very few were aware of what I was going through. Brother Nick, who I had confided in, made it a point to make sure I was okay and that my morale while at school remained high. His care and devotion, even if at the moment I was unable to express my gratitude, was never lost on me.

My junior year of high school I considered quitting basketball. I was frustrated with my progress and trajectory and at the time it seemed like the best decision. Now, as I play in the last games of my high school career as a member of the Cathedral Varsity team I realize how big of a mistake that would have been. I would have left a sport I love plus staying in basketball has influenced me greatly. As I

weighed my decision, Mr. Vazquez talked me through it, explaining the different outcomes of each decision, forcing me to examine the rationale behind my thoughts. Without the conversations we shared, I would have spent a great portion of this year angry at myself for quitting rather than enjoying these last games playing for Cathedral.

Cathedral provided me with the skills that will help me in life and beyond, whether it was learning how to manage my time and priorities during Brother Nick's class or recognizing the importance of being around people who want nothing more than to see you succeed, Cathedral made the difference.

Eduardo Fernandez  
Class of 2018

**Men of Cathedral is Series of Student Testimonies about the experience of Cathedral High School that is featured on school website and social media.**



### Mass of Atonement and Hope

Bishop Mark Seitz will celebrate a Mass of Atonement and Hope for the victims of abuse of any kind, whether the abuse occurred within the church, in the family, or society.

**When:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** St. Patrick's Cathedral

**Who:** All are invited to attend.

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

For more information please call the

Safe Environment Office

at 915-872-8427



# Celebrating San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado



The San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Reliquary arrives to St. Patrick Cathedral on December 22, 2018.



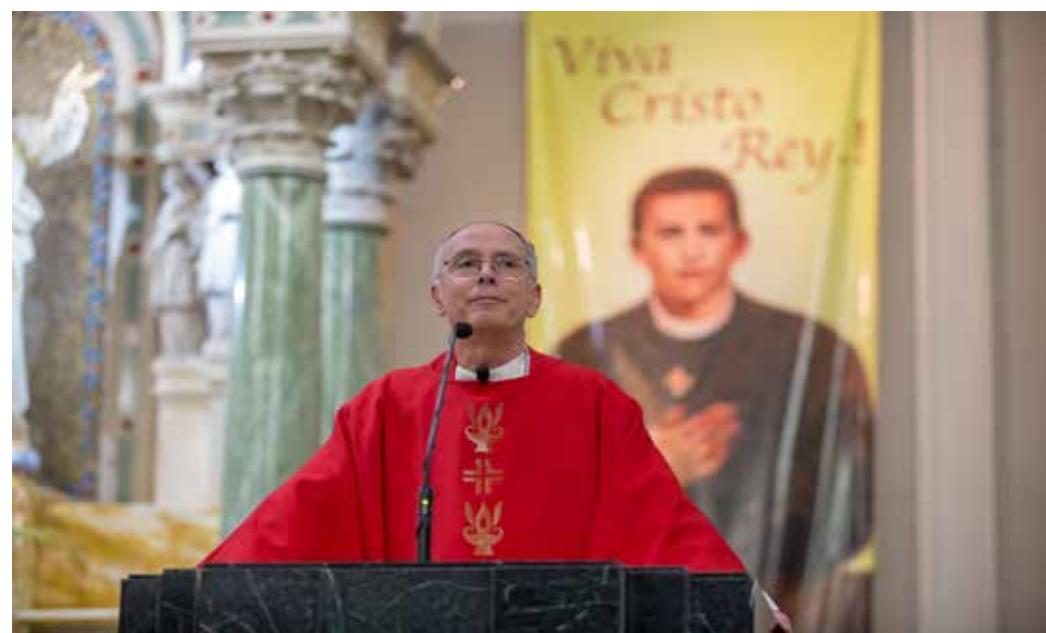
Bishop Mark J. Seitz addresses the hundreds gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral on December 22, 2018 for the return of the Saint.



A Musical based on the life of the Saint was performed by Tepeyac Institute at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts on January 23, 2018



A documentary produced by Diocese of El Paso videographer Joe Najera is debuted and a panel consisting of the Saint's family members, clergy from the Archdiocese of Chihuahua and Survivors of the Cristero Era give testimony to the life of the Saint on January 24, 2018.



Bishop Mark J. Seitz delivers an inspiring homily during the mass commemorating the 100th Anniversary of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado's Ordination on January 25, 2018.



Father Fernando Zapata Maldonado, Grandnephew of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado, waves to the congregation on January 25, 2018 at St. Patrick Cathedral where 100 years before the Saint was ordained to the priesthood.



Juan Lopez and Lee Ann Beck stand by the San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Reliquary they were commissioned to build.



Father Fabian Marquez, Bishop's Liason to Youth Ministry & Pastor at El Buen Pastor holds up a gift of appreciation presented to him by the family of the Saint on January 25th, 2018.



Father Fernando Zapata Maldonado holding the Blessed Sacrament while leading Holy Hour on January 26, 2018

# Cathedral High School Hunt Family Foundation Scholars: Champions On and Off the Field

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

In August 2013, the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso received a five-year, \$125,000 grant from the Hunt Family Foundation to provide funds dedicated to scholarships for economically disadvantaged and at-risk elementary, middle and high school students currently not enrolled in Catholic school. The Foundation chose a Hunt Scholar to represent each Catholic school. We know that education changes lives, the Hunt scholarship opportunities for

Alec's mom dreamed about him going to Cathedral and everyone in the family was willing to pitch in to make it happen. When their house burned down and they lost everything, it seemed it would never happen. The Hunt Scholarship changed Alec's life, something he is thankful for every single day. In addition to winning Cathedral's 2nd Football State Championship, being named Academic All-State and 2nd Team All-State Linebacker, Alec has also

excellent example of how a Catholic education can enrich a child's life and is truly thankful to be a recipient of the Hunt Scholarship. Julio is thrilled about attending Cathedral as a Hunt Scholar. "The Hunt scholarship has had a big impact. It if wasn't for the Hunt scholarship, I wouldn't be here. My mom told me that since I've been given this wonderful gift I

to excel in his academics and personal religious life. He thoroughly enjoys attending Mass and pep rallies with the entire student body. "I'm very excited to be able to continue my education, especially here at Cathedral because this is one of the most prestigious high schools in the nation. I hope to be one of the Hunt success stories."



**Frank Alec Chacon with David Otero from Hunt Family Foundation**



**Frank Alec Chacon**



**Julio Hernandez**



**Diego Perales**



**Texas Association Parochial and Private Schools Division 5 State Champs, 2016**

Catholic schools are truly transforming lives.

Three of the Hunt Family Foundation Scholars are at Cathedral High School this year and they all play on the football team. Cathedral High School won the Texas Association Parochial and

should make the most of it. She is really hoping I can do well and go off to college."

Diego Perales is a freshman at Cathedral who attended St. Matthew Catholic School as a Hunt Scholar during his middle school years. Diego is on the football team and spent the majority of the year on the junior varsity team before being moved up to varsity for the playoffs. Diego continues

In 2017, Cathedral High School's football team was featured in Nike's "Football Has No Borders" video.

For more information about the Catholic Foundation and our work and to make your gift to a scholarship fund, visit [elpasodiocesefoundation.org](http://elpasodiocesefoundation.org).

*You can reach Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at 915.872.8412 or [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto: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.*



**Texas Association Parochial and Private Schools Division 5 State Champs, 2017**

Private Schools (TAPPS) Division 5 Title for the second year in a row, a first in El Paso's history. Hunt Scholar and senior Frank Alec Chacon is the team captain.

Frank Alec Chacon has been a Hunt Scholar since his freshman year at Cathedral High School.

is the brotherhood that you get here. It's a connection not only with your fellow classmates but with alumni, underclassmen, kids who will be coming soon. It's definitely a strong bond that you hold for the rest of your life."

Julio Hernandez comes to "La Cate" from Our Lady of Assumption Catholic School where he was a Hunt Scholar. As a freshman he played on the state championship winning team and expects to make the honor roll his spring semester. Julio is an



**Cathedral High School Football Team**

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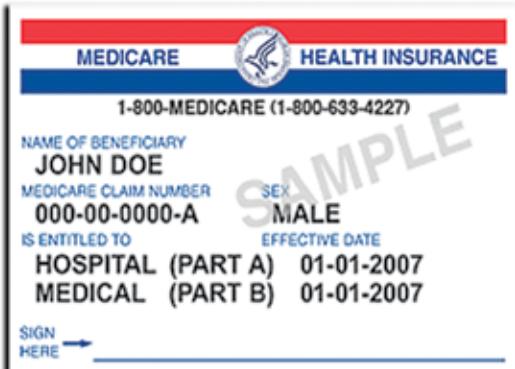
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**Steps of St. Paul**  
Includes 3-Day Aegean Cruise  
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**\$3,995 Per Person**  
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Delphi - Ephesus - Patmos  
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Father Tony Celino

**Rome & Southern Italy**  
Includes Papal Audience  
**Sept. 17 - 27, 2018**  
**\$4,299 Per Person**

Rome - Vatican City - Sorrento  
Isle of Capri - Pompeii - Loretto  
San Giovanni (Padre Pio) - & More!  
Father Frank Lopez



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Renew your baptism in Jordan River  
**October 1 - 10, 2018**  
**\$4,146 Per Person**  
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Tiberias - Sea of Galilee  
Holy Sepulcher - Mt. Tabor & More!  
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**Wonders of Egypt**  
Includes Nile River Cruise  
**October 14 - 23, 2018**  
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Egyptian Museum - Pyramids  
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And so much more!  
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**\$3,698 Per Person**  
Thessaloniki - Philippi - Corinth  
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Papal Audience & Vatican City  
Fr. Saul Pacheco  
Fr. Mariano Lopez

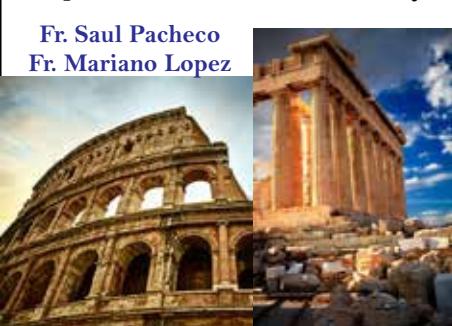
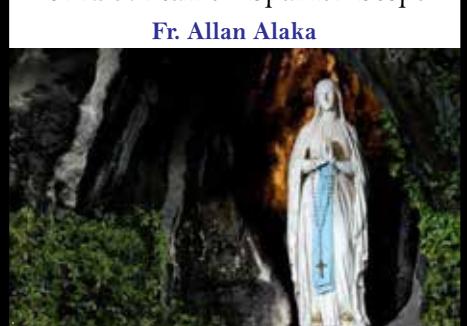
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**INCLUDES:**

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- Saint Agustine

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