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# the Rio Grande Catholic

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March 2018

## Hundreds Climb Mt. Cristo Rey showing Solidarity with Migrants



Catholics joined Father Fabian Marquez for this year's Migrant Way of the Cross up Mt. Cristo Rey. For More Coverage, See Page 4. (Photo by Deacon Ignacio Torres)

## Brother Hansen Goes To Rome      The Bridge Launches Meatless Fridays



Brother Javier Hansen from Cathedral High School chosen for pre-synod conference in Rome on *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. For more coverage, See Page 6.



Vicar General Father Ben Flores samples lenten food prepared by Rulis Gonzalez, Chef and Owner of Rulis' International Kitchen. For more coverage, See Page 9.



# Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School -May God Bless & Guide You

Our Lady of The Valley Catholic School you are in my prayers. You treasure your school and the attention your children receive from the endearing OLV faculty who always inspire them, motivate them and teach them to live with God as their center.

Similar to your situation, last year meant the end of a tradition in my family too. As difficult as it was then to say goodbye, I can honestly say that this first year at a new catholic school has been a really amazing one. It has been only seven months since three of our children entered St. Patrick Cathedral School as the “new kids in the hallways” yet my family feels this school is now our home.

My kids are Irish and wear their new school colors proudly. They participate just as much, if not more, than in their previous school. I am blessed to have great teachers and the school is blessed to have strong parent involvement. St. Patrick parent participation is enthusiastic and healthy, built around fun family fundraisers. Mary is in cheerleading and Luka is taking piano, two extracurricular activities previously not offered to us.

Both my little ones have a large group of students that have quickly become their new best friends. My second oldest is in middle school and has not only kept his *old school* friends close but has also made good

friends with new St. Patrick boys.

New parents that started this year with us at St. Patrick’s have stayed closely knit together, as we come from the same fabric. At the same time my husband and I have been able to meet some other really great parents. We have enjoyed getting together for kids’ birthday parties outside of school and have developed new parent friendships over the past few months.

The experience has been a blessing for all of us and the change, in hindsight, was probably the best change for my kids.

One thing I have learned about God is that when he decides to make changes in our lives he

doesn’t do so subtly or even slightly. There is nothing the Lord grants us that is done quietly. The Lord makes a big noise in our life when he decides that a change is for us. He usually shakes the very foundation we stand on.

Change is difficult especially when God does not reveal to us the long term plan. Often change happens unexpectedly and without a reason (at least not one that we can immediately identify). Often we fight change and we get frustrated that God does not give us what we want. It is at this impasse with the Lord that He calls on us to look deep within and find our faith in order to be strong enough to follow Him and accept His will.



Nancy Ramos  
Director/Editor

The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you.

During Lent we are called to be transformed, to find a way to come back to God. What we don’t realize is that often our trials, our sufferings, our disappointments and our biggest losses are the ways God gets us to come back to Him. Jesus asks, “ Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23) This is a call of absolute surrender, to be willing to put to death our own ideas and desires for what should be. We are called to discipleship and this is the cost.

God’s will is at work for the future of your children’s education just as it was for mine. It is time to relinquish the need to know what His will is or even change it. It is time to follow and allow your faith in Him to lead you.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3: 5-6)





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# It's Not Too Late!

You are probably reading my column sometime in the beginning of March and I have good news for you. You still have time! You do! It really isn't too late. In a certain way it is never too late! It is of course better to start earlier than later. It is hard work and it usually takes time. But then, in another sense, it really is not your work and the One who works is able to accomplish His work whenever we open our hearts.


I am speaking, of course, about the work of conversion that this Lent is about. Even though Lent is

well underway God is still quite capable of assisting us to make a true change in direction for our lives; to leave those nagging habitual sins behind and to establish a new set of priorities. If you have been away from the Church or the Sacraments for a long time it is never too late for Jesus to welcome you back-----Never!


But time is wasting. Even the longest of journies begins with the first step. Of course it is hard to set a new direction. Even if we are sick and tired of the pattern that seems to have captured us and it seems impossible

to escape, don't forget that you are not in this alone. You have a mighty champion who is fighting for you, cheering for you, ready to receive you! He entered into our life and all of our experience so we could know that he understands our struggle. He entered a Passion for you! He even gave his life to raise you up!

Where do you start? The Sacrament of Confession can be an excellent place. Check your parish bulletin for the next Penance Service when many priests will be there to help or go to the regularly scheduled



***InSeitz Into The Faith***  
***By***  
***Bishop***  
***Mark J. Seitz***



time in your parish. It will be hard to take that step but you will feel like you are walking on air as you depart and you will have the powerful support of the grace of God as you move forward into your new life.

What do you have to lose???

What are you waiting for???

Easter Awaits!!!

Bp. Mark

# ¡No Es Demasiado Tarde!

Probablemente estarás leyendo mi columna en algún momento a principios del mes de marzo y tengo buenas noticias para ti. ¡Aún tienes tiempo! ¡Tú puedes! Realmente no es demasiado tarde. ¡De alguna manera, nunca es demasiado tarde! Por supuesto, es mejor comenzar antes que después. Es un trabajo duro y generalmente lleva tiempo. Pero luego, sin embargo, este realmente no es tu trabajo y Aquel que trabaja es capaz de llevar a cabo Su trabajo cuando

abrimos nuestros corazones. Estoy hablando, por supuesto, sobre el trabajo de la conversión de la Cuaresma. Aunque la Cuaresma está ya en marcha, Dios todavía es muy capaz de ayudarnos a realizar un verdadero cambio de dirección en nuestras vidas; dejar atrás esos fastidiosos pecados habituales y establecer un nuevo conjunto de prioridades. Si has estado alejado de la Iglesia o de los Sacramentos durante mucho tiempo, nunca es

tarde para que Jesús te dé la bienvenida de nuevo ----- ¡Nunca!

Pero el tiempo pasa. Incluso la más larga de las jornadas inicia con el primer paso. Por supuesto, es difícil establecer una nueva dirección. Incluso si estamos hartos y cansados del modelo de vida que parece habernos capturado y parece imposible de escapar, no olvides que no estás solo en esto. ¡Tú tienes un gran campeón que lucha por ti, te anima y está listo para recibirte! Él entró

en nuestra vida y en toda nuestra experiencia para que supiéramos que comprende nuestra lucha. ¡Él entró en una Pasión por ti! ¡Incluso dio su vida para levantarte!

¿Dónde inicias? El sacramento de la confesión puede ser un excelente lugar. Revisa tu boletín parroquial para obtener información del próximo Servicio de Penitencia, cuando muchos sacerdotes estarán allí para ayudar, o ve a la usual hora programada en tu parroquia. Será difícil dar este paso, pero sentirás que estás

caminando en el aire al salir de ahí y tendrás el poderoso apoyo de la gracia de Dios a medida que avanzas en tu nueva vida.

¿¿¿Qué tienes que perder??

¿¿Que estas esperando???

¡La Pascua espera!

Obispo Mark

InSeitz



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# El Via Crucis del Migrante 2018 es La Misma Cruz de Jesus

Por Marco Raposo, Director de Paz y Justicia Social

El sábado, 24 de febrero, 2018 centenares de Católicos se juntaron a Padre Fabian Marquez en la base del cerro de Cristo Rey y subieron el monte rezando el vía crucis de migrante. Este evento que se ha estado realizando por más de una década, es siempre organizado apropiadamente en este tiempo de cuaresma, tiempo de conversión – oración, sacrificio, y limosna.

Subimos el cerro rezando, uniendo nuestras oraciones, sacrificios, y limosna al sufrimiento de nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes y refugiados. Recordamos, como nos dice San Pablo, que completamos en nuestras vidas los sufrimientos de Jesucristo (Col 1, 24-25). LA cruz y sufrimiento de Jesus sigue presente hoy en día. Nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes y refugiados siguen experimentando la misma cruz de Jesus a medida que sufren tiempos aún más difíciles de discriminación y sentimientos anti-inmigrantes en nuestra nación hoy en día.

“No oprimas al extranjero, pues fueron extranjeros en el país de Egipto.” (Éxodo 23: 9). En las sagradas escrituras, el extranjero son los que hoy en nuestra nación llamamos inmigrantes y refugiados, especialmente los indocumentados que son los más vulnerables a abusos e injusticias. Mismo los que han logrado alguna forma de documentación temporal o a largo plazo, aún están vulnerables. Basta mirar a los DREAMers que esperan una resolución a su situación migratoria, pero que el Congreso se encuentra en un impasse incapaz de llegar a una solución justa. Los jóvenes de DACA que han demostrado ser un aporte al país por medio de sus estudios, trabajo duro,

haciéndose profesionales y contribuyendo a la comunidad, deberían recibir la oportunidad para ajustar su estatus migratorio. La Iglesia nos llama a seguir abogando por ellos, para que tengan su dignidad humana respetada y su futuro prometedor preservado (Para abogar vea al [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)).

Mientras subíamos el cerro, centos rezaban las estaciones de la cruz con cada estación enfocándose en una grave situación de los inmigrantes. La estación 4, “Jesus encuentra su madre”, ofreció una reflexión sobre la dura realidad de los jóvenes recipientes de DACA con la historia de Liliana, que es una joven que ha recibido la DACA. Liliana está estudiando mucho para recibirse de enfermera registrada con un diploma de la Texas Tech, pero que ahora puede perderlo todo que ha trabajado tan duro para lograr. Liliana es una joven que quiere trabajar en el área de la salud como proveedora de cuidados médicos, trabajo que es tan necesario en nuestro país hoy en día; aun así la falta de resolución para la DACA va probablemente impedir que Liliana logre su sueño y, como consecuencia, nos va negar esta tan necesaria proveedora de salud en nuestra comunidad.

Nuestro Obispo Seitz, en su carta pastoral “La Pena y la Aflicción terminarán,” una lectura excelente para cualquiera tiempo, pero aún más apropiado para este tiempo de cuaresma, nos anima a abrirnos nuestro corazón a nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes y refugiados cuando dice “Debemos continuar mostrando compasión y atendiendo a las necesidades materiales y espirituales de las decenas de miles de migrantes

indocumentados en nuestra diócesis y de aquellos que continúan llegando a nuestra frontera.” Esta carta pastoral, que estuvo disponible a todos los que participaron en la peregrinación del vía crucis de migrante este año, nos recuerda que debemos seguir orando y abogando por los migrantes y refugiados.

Ana Ramos de San Marcos nos comparte “Yo participo en este Vía Crucis de Migrante todos los años porque es otra grande oportunidad de orar y fortalecer mi compromiso de servir mis hermanos y hermanas migrantes, especialmente los niños y jóvenes que necesitan tanto cuidado y apoyo. Ruego a Dios que mueva a los corazones de los que pueden cambiar las leyes de inmigración y hacerlas más humanas y Justas para que respeten la dignidad de cada persona inmigrante entre nosotros.”

Las estaciones 5 y 6, respectivamente, “Simón Cirineo ayuda a Jesus cargar su cruz” y Veronica limpia el rostro de Jesus” ofrecieron reflexiones sobre los que en nuestras parroquia aquí en la frontera han estado recibiendo y sirviendo a los migrantes y refugiados por su ministerio. La estación 9, “Jesus cae por la tercera vez,” ofreció una reflexión sobre el peso del muro fronterizo en las vidas de los inmigrantes y de todos nosotros que vivimos aquí en la frontera, mientras que la estación 10, “Jesus es despojados de sus vestiduras,” ofreció una reflexión sobre los que buscan asilo, pero que son encarcelados en centros



Thank you to all our inspiring youth that braved the weather to join us.



Father Fabian takes a selfie with the Sisters from Father Yermo.

de detención abusivos. Todas las estaciones reflexionaron sobre los sufrimientos de los inmigrantes en conexión con los sufrimientos de Jesucristo.

David Cabral de Saint Joseph dijo “Me gusta participar este vía crucis del migrante porque me ayuda a mí a direccionar mis sacrificios cuaresmales hacia a mis hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes más vulnerables.”

El Vía Crucis del Migrante nos ayuda a conectar la cruz y sufrimientos de Jesucristo, que pasaron a más de dos mil años atrás con la

realidad del inmigrante que sufre hoy en día. Este vía crucis también nos recuerda que Dios nos llama a responder a estos sufrimientos de la misma manera que lo hizo Jesucristo: con perseverancia, compasión, y acción redentora.

Que este vía crucis subiendo el cerro de Cristo Rey en oración nos fortalezca nuestra conversión y nos mueva a un servicio más profundo a los inmigrantes, a medida que nos prepara el camino hacia a la Resurrección.

## Happy Birthday

Fr. Juan Victor Gamino Trejo, MNM  
Fr. Franciso Herrera  
Fr. Apolinar Samboni  
Fr Wilson Cuevas

March 20  
March 20  
March 25  
March 30

## Ordination Annivesary

Fr. Peter Koo, IL-MO  
Fr. Robert S. Kobe  
Fr. Emanuel Alcazar  
Fr. Roberto Alvarado  
Fr. Benjamin Mones

March 6  
March 9  
March 17  
March 17  
March 22

*MNM-Misioneros de la Natividad de Maria, OFM-Order of Friar Minors*



# Brother Javier Goes To Rome

By Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

“It was so random! I was teaching religion class at Cathedral High School and I got an email from my provincial superior in the Christian Brothers that said, ‘Would you be interested in a trip to Rome?’ I was already scheduled to go to the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress but in talking with Brother Nick about the options of Rome or L.A. there was really no contest!” That’s how 27 yr. old Brother Javier Hansen discovered that he had been nominated and selected as one of three U.S. delegates to participate in a pre-synod conference in Rome on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. “I didn’t really know what it was about until the press release came out. I was nominated by one of the U.S. Christian Brothers in leadership and approved by Bishop Mark.” The other two U.S. delegates include a married and a single person and Bro. Javier thinks that by selecting a young religious Brother the U.S. bishops were deliberately choosing to highlight one of the lesser known forms of consecrated life.

Brother Javier teaches six religion classes (freshman Old Testament and junior Morality) while also taking two classes

each semester at UTEP towards a Masters degree in Education. The desire to be a teacher was first in his heart when he enrolled at St. Mary’s College in Maraga, CA. He chose the school, sponsored by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, because he wanted to study in a place where he could also grow in his Catholic faith. Although his first impulse towards a religious vocation came during a confirmation retreat some years earlier, it was after a bible study his freshman year at college that he had his “St. Ignatius moment” when he began to seriously discern the call. Seeing the Brothers on campus he experienced their passion as educators fed by faith and community life. “They were human. I got to know them and gradually I joined in their community prayer. Then I invited myself over for dinner!”

After graduating from St. Mary’s, Javier entered the Christian Brothers. He taught at a Christian Brothers high school in San Francisco for one year before continuing his discernment in Philadelphia and Chicago. He made his first profession of vows in 2016 and renews those vows annually until making a perpetual commitment in five years. In the

meantime Brother Javier’s life is full with ministry, study and community. He finds time to run and play basketball when he is not teaching or studying.

To prepare for the gathering in Rome Bro. Javier is doing his own homework. He is reading the preparatory document for the synod and frequently checks the synod page on the United States Bishops Conference website. He also hopes to read “Going, Going, Gone”, a new report on young adult Catholics who are leaving the Church. (<https://www.smp.org/product/5926/Going-Going-Gone/>). “As a brother I would love to go to different parishes to reach out to young adults, to gather data on their views,” he said. “I’m excited for the opportunities this trip can open up for me, working with youth and young adults.”

What would Brother Javier say to Pope Francis if he had five minutes? “We need to develop channels of communication with young people. What if every diocese had a permanent council of young adults to advise the bishop? We especially need to reach Catholics in their 20s and young married Catholics.” Brother Javier is enthusiastic about the possibilities. “Young adults need accompaniment



Brother Javier Hansen greets one of his students at his classroom door.

and affirmation for their faith journey,” he added.

Brother Javier’s first trip ever to Rome will include the Palm Sunday Mass at St. Peter’s with Pope Francis. The conference delegates will have prime seating on the steps of the basilica. He will have a few extra days in Rome to visit the generalate (international headquarters) of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

What a tremendous opportunity for Brother Javier! We in the Diocese of El Paso will pray for his safe travels and look forward to hearing about his experiences. The post-synod document on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment” will be of even greater interest to us because of our Brother’s part in the process.

# El Hermano Javier Va A Roma

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

“¡Fue tan aleatorio! Estaba dando clases de religión en Cathedral High School y recibí un correo electrónico de mi superior provincial de los Hermanos Lasallistas que decía: “¿Te interesaría un viaje a Roma?” Ya estaba programado para ir al Congreso de Educación Religiosa de Los Angeles pero al hablar con el hermano Nick sobre las opciones de Roma o Los Angeles, ¡realmente no hubo ninguna competencia! “Así es Hermano Javier Hansen de 27 años de edad descubrió que había sido nominado y seleccionado como uno de los

tres delegados de los EE. UU. para participar en una conferencia pre-sínodo en Roma sobre “Los jóvenes, la fe y el discernimiento vocacional”. “Realmente no sabía de lo qué se trataba hasta que salió el comunicado de prensa. “Fui nominado por uno de los Hermanos Lasallistas de los Estados Unidos en el liderazgo y aprobado por el Obispo Mark.” Los otros dos delegados de los EE. UU. incluyen un matrimonio y un hombre soltero. Y el Hno. Javier piensa que al seleccionar a un joven Hermano religioso, los obispos de los Estados Unidos eligieron deliberadamente

quisieron resaltar una de las formas menos conocidas de vida consagrada.

El Hermano Javier enseña seis clases de religión (Antiguo Testamento de primer año y Moralidad de tercer año) mientras que también toma dos clases cada semestre en UTEP hacia una Maestría en Educación. El primer deseo en su corazón era ser maestro cuando se matriculó en St. Mary’s College en Maraga, California. Eligió la escuela, patrocinada por los Hermanos Lasallistas, porque quería estudiar en un lugar donde también podría crecer en su fe católica. Aunque

su primer impulso hacia una vocación religiosa vino durante un retiro de confirmación algunos años antes, fue después de un estudio bíblico en su primer año en la universidad que tuvo su “Momento de San Ignacio” cuando comenzó a discernir seriamente el llamado. Al ver a los Hermanos en la ciudad universitaria, experimentó su pasión como educadores alimentados por la fe y la vida comunitaria. “Eran humanos. Llegué a conocerlos y poco a poco me uní a su oración comunitaria. ¡Entonces yo mismo me invité a cenar!

Después de graduarse de St.

Mary’s, Javier se ingresó a los Hermanos Lasallistas. Enseñó en una escuela secundaria patrocinada por los Hermanos en San Francisco durante un año antes de continuar su discernimiento en Filadelfia y Chicago. Hizo su primera profesión de votos en 2016 y renueva esos votos anualmente hasta hacer un compromiso perpetuo en cinco años. Mientras tanto, la vida del Hermano Javier estaba llena de ministerio, estudio y comunidad. En nuestro tiempo para correr y jugar basketball cuando estaba enseñando o estudiando.

Para prepararse para la reunión en Roma, el

Hno. Javier está haciendo su propia tarea. Está leyendo el documento preparatorio para el sínodo y con frecuencia visita la página del sínodo en el sitio web de la Conferencia de Obispos de los Estados Unidos. También espera leer “Going, Going, Gone”, un nuevo informe sobre jóvenes adultos católicos que abandonan la Iglesia. (<https://www.smp.org/product/5926/Going-Going-Gone/>). “Como hermano, me encantaría ir a diferentes parroquias para acercarme a los adultos jóvenes, reunir datos sobre sus puntos de vista”, dijo. “Estoy entusiasmado con las oportunidades que este viaje puede ofrecerme, trabajando con jóvenes adultos.”

¿Qué le diría el Hermano Javier al Papa Francisco si tuviera cinco minutos? “Necesitamos desarrollar canales de comunicación con los jóvenes. ¿Qué si cada diócesis tendría un consejo permanente de jóvenes adultos para asesorar al obispo? Necesitamos especialmente acercarnos a los católicos de más de 20 años y a los jóvenes católicos casados “. El hermano Javier está entusiasmado con las posibilidades. “Los adultos jóvenes necesitan acompañamiento y afirmación para su propio viaje de fe”, agregó.

El primer viaje del Hermano Javier a Roma incluirá la Misa del Domingo de Ramos en San Pedro con el Papa Francisco. Los delegados de la conferencia tendrán asientos principales en los escalones de la basílica. Él tendrá unos días extras en Roma para visitar el generalato (sede internacional) de los Hermanos Lasallistas. ¡Qué gran oportunidad para el Hermano Javier! Nosotros en la Diócesis de El Paso osaremos por sus viajes seguros y esperamos escuchar sus experiencias. El documento postsinodal sobre “Los jóvenes, la fe y el discernimiento vocacional” será de mayor interés para nosotros debido a la participación de nuestro hermano en el proceso.

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# Sorting Through “Solutions” to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic

Each year human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infects about 50,000 people in the United States, and more than two million worldwide. Reducing the number of infections with this virus, which causes AIDS, is a high priority for public health officials. Some strategies to reach this goal, however, raise significant moral concerns.

These concerns arise when experts seek to reduce infection rates by assuming that men and women lack the freedom to change their sexual behaviors or exercise self control, when they fail to acknowledge that self-restraint is possible and morally required, especially in the face of life-threatening disease.

One strategy for trying to control the pandemic includes “pre-exposure prophylaxis,” or PrEP, which involves an uninfected person taking a daily dose of the drug Truvada, an anti-retroviral medication. When someone takes the Truvada pill each day, and is later exposed to HIV through sex or injectable drug use, it can reduce the likelihood that the virus will establish a permanent infection by more than 92 percent. While the drug can have side effects, it is generally well-tolerated.

Many activists in the gay movement have argued that PrEP should be widely

available and promoted, though other activists strongly disagree. AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) founder Michael Weinstein has stressed, for example, that there are likely to be compliance issues. When someone is required to take a regimen of drugs every day in order to be protected, he argues, it is reasonable to expect that some will fail to do so. A 2014 article in The Advocate, a gay news outlet, notes that,

“When asked why so few people have started PrEP, experts give plenty of reasons — cost, worries about long-term effects, and lack of awareness about the regimen itself among both doctors and patients are chief among them. But one top reason is the stigma of using PrEP. Weinstein’s name and the name of his organization, AHF, have become synonymous with the stigma surrounding PrEP use. In an April Associated Press article, Weinstein declared that PrEP is ‘a party drug,’ giving license to gay and bisexual men to have casual, anonymous sex. He’s called it a ‘public health disaster in the making,’ as his oft-repeated argument is that the most at-risk people will not adhere to taking a pill each day.”

These compliance concerns have led some researchers and clinicians to

look into the possibility of one-time “disco dosing,” where an individual would take the medication, in a high dose, prior to each anticipated “risky weekend.”

There are other problems with PrEP as well. Some researchers have noted that once people start on the drug, their risk compensation changes, meaning they engage in more sex with “non-primary partners.” Even if PrEP reduces rates of HIV infection, as studies have suggested, the incidence of other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) may rise due to risk-compensation behaviors. PrEP can provide a false sense of security and encourage the lowering of inhibitions.

These kinds of approaches directed towards certain “at-risk populations” clearly raise concerns about sanctioning or supporting immoral behaviors. Medical professionals have raised objections of conscience when it comes to prescribing PrEP to HIV-negative men who indicate they are, or will be, sexually active with other men. They may raise similar objections to providing prescriptions for “disco dosing.” Writing such prescriptions means cooperating in, or facilitating, the evil actions of others.

Is pre-exposure prophylaxis always illicit? Not

## Making Sense Out of Bioethics

By  
Fr. Tad  
Pacholczyk



necessarily. For example, if a medical professional were to prescribe Truvada to the wife of a man who was infected through pre- or extramarital sexual activity, it would be for the purposes of protecting the wife from infection during marital relations, and would not involve the problem of promoting or facilitating unethical sexual behaviors.

STDs constitute a serious danger in an age where sexual behaviors are becoming ever more indiscriminate. STD outbreaks and pandemics often have their origins in unchaste behaviors and morally disordered forms of sexuality. The Centers for Disease Control notes that “men who have sex with men (MSM) remain the group most heavily affected by HIV in the United States. CDC estimates that MSM represent approximately 4 percent of the male population in the United States but male-to-male sex

accounted for more than three-fourths (78 percent) of new HIV infections among men and nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of all new infections in 2010.” We should not be supporting or facilitating behaviors involving multiple sexual partners. These sexual practices, in the final analysis, are not only immoral in themselves, but also reckless and clearly contributory to the spread of STDs.

**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)**

## Second Collections during Lent

### Collection for Catholic Relief Services

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, March 10 and Sunday March 11, 2018 for Catholic Relief Services.

This annual appeal, established more than 60 years ago, supports Catholic Church agencies that build international solidarity and relief efforts. Your support of this collection gives aid to victims of persecution and natural disasters, provides legal services to poor immigrants, and advocates for the powerless. Through your generosity, the following Catholic agencies will help Jesus as he bears the disguise of the vulnerable refugee, the immigrant family, and the poor

and marginalized.

- Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, has been saving lives and promoting human dignity around the world for over 60 years. Its programs alleviate suffering, foster community development, and help build more just and peaceful societies in 98 counties.
- Migration and Refugee Services, of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, resettles nearly one third of all refugees admitted to the United States.
- The Holy Father’s Relief Fund assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies

worldwide.

- Justice, Peace and Human Development (formerly Department of Social Development and World Peace), of the United States Catholic Conference shares and applies Catholic social teaching on major domestic and international issues, and promotes public policies that protect the poor and vulnerable and that advance peace and justice throughout the world.
- The Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church (SCDC), of the United States Catholic Conference, has as part of its mission the evangelization and pastoral care of immigrants, and refugees.

### Collection for Jerusalem and the Holy Land

There will be a Special Offering on Good Friday, March 30, 2018 for Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

This annual appeal, which is the oldest collection in the Church’s history, is to support Holy Places, but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Rhodes, Israel, and Egypt.

Imitating the Apostle Paul’s invitation to the communities founded by him

in Macedonia, Greece, and Asia Minor to assist the Mother Church of Jerusalem, several Roman Pontiffs over the centuries have recalled this important duty. Pope Paul VI called upon the faithful of all countries to give proof of continued solidarity with the Christians in the Holy Land. Pope John Paul II renewed this appeal, as did his holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

On the weekend of March 10 and 11 and on Good Friday, March 30, please be as generous as possible. Your support can make a great difference in the world. Thank you.

## Segunda Colecta durante La Cuaresma

### Colecta para Servicios Católicos de Emergencia

Habrà una Ofrenda Especial Anual el sàbado, 10 de marzo y el domingo, 11 de marzo del 2018 para Servicios Católicos de Emergencia.

Este llamado anual, establecido hace más de 60 años apoya a las agencias de la Iglesia Católica que edifica la solidaridad internacional y los esfuerzos humanitarios. El apoyo que le des a esta colecta ayuda a las víctimas de persecuciones y de desastres naturales, provee servicios legales a inmigrantes pobres y aboga por los indefensos. Gracias a tu generosidad, las siguientes agencias católicas ayudarán a Jesús cuyo rostro se refleja en el refugiado vulnerable, en la familia inmigrante y en el pobre y marginado.

- Servicios Católicos de Ayuda es la agencia oficial

humanitaria de la comunidad católica estadounidense en el ámbito internacional, ha salvado vidas y ha promovido la dignidad en todo el mundo, durante más de 60 años. Sus programas mitigan el sufrimiento, fomentan el desarrollo de comunidades, y ayudan a edificar sociedades más justas y pacíficas en 98 países.

- Servicios de Migración y Refugiados reasienta en sus hogares anualmente aproximadamente una tercera parte de todos los refugiados admitidos en los Estados Unidos y promueve políticas públicas justas para los recién llegados e inmigrantes, y responde a sus necesidades espirituales.
- El Fondo de Ayuda del Santo Padre ayuda a las víctimas de desastres naturales y otras emergencias alrededor del mundo.
- El Departamento de Justicia, Paz, y Desarrollo

Humano (anteriormente El Departamento de Desarrollo Social y Paz Mundial) está a cargo, comparte y aplica la enseñanza social católica sobre asuntos de justicia y paz internacional. El Departamento promueve políticas públicas que protegen a los pobres y vulnerables, y que fomentan la paz y la justicia en todo el mundo.

- El Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia está a cargo, como parte de su misión, de la evangelización y el cuidado pastoral de inmigrantes, y refugiados.

### Colecta para Jerusalén y la Tierra Santa

Habrà una Ofrenda Especial Anual el viernes santo, 30 de marzo 2018 para Jerusalén y la Tierra Santa.

Este llamado anual, que es la mas antigua de las Colectas

en la historia de la Iglesia, ayuda en el cuidado y la conversión de sitios santos así como el cuidado pastoral, caritativo, educativo y trabajos sociales para el bienestar de los Cristianos y a las comunidades en Siria, en Jordania, en Líbano, en Chipre, en los Rodas, en Israel, y en Egipto.

Imitando la invitación del Apóstol San Pablo a las comunidades fundadas por él en Macedonia, Grecia y Asia Menor de ayudar a la Iglesia Principal de Jerusalén, varios Pontífices Romanos por siglos han recordado este importante deber. El Papa Pablo VI dio inicio a una resonante campaña para todos los fieles de todos los países llamándoles a dar testimonio de su solidaridad con los

Cristianos de la Tierra Santa. Esta campaña fue renovada por el Papa Juan Pablo II y luego por el Papa Benedicto XVI.

En el fin de semana del 10 y 11 de marzo, y en viernes Santo, 30 de marzo por favor sean tan generosos como les sea posible. Su apoyo puede hacer una gran diferencia en el mundo. Muchas gracias. Gracias por su apoyo.





# An Irish Blessing

By Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

“May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.” So reads the traditional Irish blessing. The diocese of El Paso has three additional Irish blessings in the persons of Sisters Beatrice Donnellan, Rita Nealon and Rosaleen Harold. All three were born and raised on the “Emerald Isle” but came to the United States to enter religious congregations in San Antonio. It seems curious that so many congregations founded for service in Texas in the late 1800s recruited in Ireland. But the Sisters testify that Ireland has been a font of missionary vocations since the days of St. Patrick and St. Columban. Sisters Bea and Rita joined the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate. Sister Rosaleen entered the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. In all, the three have lived the consecrated life for 175 years!

Sister Rosaleen’s congregation recruited young women from the secondary schools in Ireland. “The missionary life was attractive,” she said. With nine other candidates Rosaleen sailed from County Cork to New York City in August 1961. “I was seasick the whole way!” They traveled by train without air-conditioning for three more days. “When I set foot in San Antonio it was over 100 degrees. I said, ‘I’m going to die’ and that’s all I remember!” Sister studied nursing, serving in hospitals in San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Paris, TX before being sent to

graduate school in preparation to become a nursing instructor at Incarnate Word College. “That spark of mission never left me. For three years I asked to be sent to Peru.” Finally in the summer of 1979 Sister Rosaleen went to Chimbote, 260 miles north of Lima, to experience the possibilities for mission. “I knew the moment I got there that it was the place for me.” She served in nursing, in parish ministry and in the formation of new local Sisters. It was a time of civil unrest and as Sister served with the base Christian communities (comunidades eclesiales de base or “CEBs”) in outlying areas, “You never knew when you went out if you would come back. It was touch and go for awhile,” she remembers. Still, her missionary heart was at home in Chimbote.

Sister Bea was taught by the Sisters of her congregation in County Galway, Ireland. “I always admired our Sisters. They would show photos of our Sisters teaching children under the trees in Texas. Our country has always been very missionary and so I said, ‘I’ll try it, too!’” Sister Bea was a teacher for twelve years and a school principal for another twelve years before being elected to congregational leadership. When refugees from El Salvador began arriving in San Antonio during the 1980s she felt a call to serve “the poorest people I could find- and those were the Latinos”. She went to Mexico to learn Spanish and she stayed for 28 years, eventually ministering in the state of Nayarit with the CEBs that had been well-established by the Jesuits in that area.

Sister Rita came to the U.S. in 1957, only slightly familiar

with the congregation that was founded in Texas by Margaret Mary Murphy Healy, another Irishwoman, to serve the pastoral and educational needs of freed slaves. “I had never really met any people of color,” Sister Rita said when asked about the cultural challenges she experienced. She became a teacher and after several assignments in the Catholic schools sponsored by her congregation, she was missioned to Nayarit, Mexico with Sister Bea. “I learned Spanish in the streets,” she said, “and used the Berlitz language course on records. I had a month in Guadalajara studying but mostly I visited the old ladies in the parish and they helped me learn Spanish,” she remembered with a smile. Besides parish ministry Sister Rita found her calling in pastoral care to those in jails and prisons of the area.

Sisters Bea and Rita returned to San Antonio in 2015. Sister Bea said, “I came back at age 80. I had energy and Spanish and while El Paso wasn’t really my first choice, I came and Ruben Garcia invited me to try it out. I was assigned to Casa Vides in July 2015 and I’ve loved it from the beginning. I love it when we receive the immigrants and see them come alive when they take the phone to talk with their sponsoring families or friends for the first time after their long journeys.” Sister Rosaleen agreed. She returned from Peru after 37 years, planning to be part of a new congregational team in Zambia. When that project “fizzled” another presented itself through Sister Bea who was recuperating in San Antonio from a fall at Casa Vides. Rosaleen was invited to visit during the



Sisters Beatrice and Rosaleen at Casa Vides.

Annunciation House “Voice of the Voiceless” fundraiser in May 2017. She felt, “I have to do something along the border associated with immigrants- even if it’s just something symbolic.” Having experienced the violence in Peru that caused internal forced migration Sister Rosaleen noted similar trauma in the stories of the refugees at Casa Vides. And so she moved to El Paso for ministry to the refugees later in 2017.

Sisters Bea and Rosaleen share community life with other full-time volunteers where they live on the second floor of the shelter. Rosaleen reflected, “The whole idea of this being a house of hospitality where the refugees can find peace, even if just for a few hours before they catch a bus across the country, makes it a special place.” The Sisters worry about what lies ahead for the refugees when they leave the shelter. But while the men, women and children are with the Sisters and volunteers at Casa Vides, they are safe and at home. Sister Rita’s services were

immediately in demand when she arrived in El Paso in the fall of 2015. She divided her time between Opportunity Center for the homeless and Centro Santa Catalina women’s sewing co-op in Juarez. Living with the Sisters and volunteers at the Grandview House of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Rita enjoyed sharing community with others passionate for the social ministries of the Church. In recent months she has initiated a Wednesday night bible study and joined the Saturday prison ministry at La Tuna Federal Correctional Institution in Vinton, TX.

Wherever they are, you can usually set your watch by the time the tea kettle starts to whistle at 3 p.m. Winter or summer, a hot cup of Irish tea is just the thing for Sisters Rosaleen, Bea and Rita. These Irish lasses, missionaries all, have found a home and made a home for others here at the U.S.-Mexico border. May Patrick, Brigid, Columban and all the saints of Ireland bless them!

# Una Bendición Irlandesa

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

“Que el camino se levante para encontrarte. Que el viento siempre esté a tu espalda. Que el sol brille cálido sobre tu rostro, y llueva suavemente sobre tus campos, y hasta que nos encontremos de nuevo, que Dios te sostenga en la palma de su mano “. Así lee la bendición irlandesa tradicional. La diócesis de El Paso tiene tres bendiciones irlandesas adicionales en las personas de las Hermanas Beatrice Donnellan, Rita Nealon y Rosaleen Harold. Las tres nacieron y se criaron en la “Isla Esmeralda”, pero vinieron a los Estados Unidos para ingresar a congregaciones religiosas en San Antonio. Parece curioso que tantas congregaciones fundadas para el servicio en Texas a fines del siglo XIX reclutaron en Irlanda. Pero las Hermanas testifican que Irlanda ha sido una fuente de vocaciones misioneras desde los días de San

Patricio y San Columbano. Las Hermanas Bea y Rita se unieron a las Hermanas del Espíritu Santo y María Inmaculada. La hermana Rosaleen ingresó a las Hermanas de la Caridad del Verbo Encarnado. ¡En total, los tres han vivido la vida consagrada durante 175 años!

La congregación de la hermana Rosaleen reclutó a mujeres jóvenes de las escuelas secundarias en Irlanda. “La vida misionera era atractiva”, dijo. Con otras nueve candidatos, Rosaleen navegó desde el condado de Cork a la ciudad de Nueva York en agosto de 1961. “¡Me sentí mareada durante todo el camino!”. Viajaron en tren sin aire acondicionado por tres días más. “Cuando puse un pie en San Antonio la temperatura sobrepasó más de 100 grados. Dije: ‘Me voy a morir’ y eso es todo lo que recuerdo! “La hermana

estudió enfermería, sirviendo en hospitales en San Antonio, Corpus Christi y Paris, TX antes de ser enviada a la escuela para graduados en preparación para convertirse en instructora de enfermería en Incarnate Word College. “Esa inspiración de misión nunca me abandonó. Durante tres años pedí que me enviaran a Perú “. Finalmente, en el verano de 1979, la hermana Rosaleen viajó a Chimbote, que son 260 millas al norte de Lima, para vivir las posibilidades de la misión. “Desde el momento en que llegué, supe que era el lugar para mí”. Se desempeñó en enfermería, en el ministerio parroquial y en la formación de nuevas Hermanas locales. Fue una época de inquietud civil y la Hermana sirvió a las comunidades cristianas de base (comunidades eclesiales de base o “CEB”) en las áreas afuera de la ciudad, “Nunca sabías cuándo si volverías. Fue arriesgado por un tiempo”, recuerda. Aún así, su corazón misionero estaba en Chimbote.

La Hermana Bea fue enseñada por las Hermanas de su congregación en el Condado de Galway, Irlanda. “Siempre he admirado a nuestras hermanas. Mostraban fotos de nuestras Hermanas enseñando niños debajo de los árboles en Texas. Nuestro país



Sister Rita working at Centro Santa Catalina in Juarez.

siempre ha sido muy misionero, así que dije: “¡Lo intentaré también!”. La hermana Bea fue maestra durante doce años y directora de la escuela por otros doce años antes de ser elegida para el liderazgo congregacional. Cuando los refugiados de El Salvador comenzaron a llegar a San Antonio durante la década de 1980, ella sintió un llamado a servir a “las personas más pobres que pude encontrar, y esos eran los latinos”. Ella fue a México para aprender español y se quedó por 28 años, eventualmente ministrando en el estado de Nayarit con los CEB que habían sido bien establecidos por los jesuitas en esa área.

La Hermana Rita llegó a los Estados Unidos en 1957, apenas

familiarizada con la congregación que fue fundada en Texas por Margaret Mary Murphy Healy, otra mujer irlandesa, para servir las necesidades pastorales y educativas de los esclavos liberados. “Nunca había conocido personas de color”, dijo la hermana Rita cuando le preguntaron sobre los desafíos culturales que vivió. Se convirtió en maestra y después de varias asignaciones en las escuelas católicas patrocinadas por su congregación, fue enviada a Nayarit, México, con la hermana Bea. “Aprendí español en las calles”, dijo, “y utilicé el curso de idiomas de Berlitz en los registros. Tuve un mes estudiando en Guadalajara, pero principalmente visité a las ancianas de la parroquia y me

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

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



ayudaron a aprender español “, recordó con una sonrisa. Además del ministerio parroquial, la Hermana Rita encontró su llamado en el cuidado pastoral a aquellos encarcelados y en las prisiones de la zona. Las Hermanas Bea y Rita regresaron a San Antonio en 2015. Hermana Bea dijo: “Regresé a los 80 años. Tenía energía y español, y aunque El Paso no era mi primera opción, vine y Rubén García me invitó a probarlo. Me asignaron a Casa Vides en julio de 2015 y me encantó desde el principio. Me encanta cuando recibíamos a los inmigrantes y los veíamos animados cuando hablaban por teléfono con sus familias o amigos patrocinadores por primera vez después de sus largos viajes “. La hermana Rosaleen estuvo de acuerdo. Ella regresó de Perú después de 37 años, planeando ser parte de un nuevo equipo congregacional en Zambia. Cuando ese proyecto “fracasó”, otro se presentó a través de la Hermana Bea que se estaba recuperando en San Antonio de una caída en Casa Vides. Rosaleen fue invitada a visitar durante la recaudación de fondos “Voz de los sin voz” de la Casa Anunciación en mayo

de 2017. Ella sintió, “Tengo que hacer algo en la frontera asociada con los inmigrantes, aun si sea algo simbólico”. Habiendo vivido la violencia en Perú que causó la migración forzada interna Hermana Rosaleen notó un trauma similar en las historias de los refugiados en Casa Vides. Y entonces se mudó a El Paso para ministrar a los refugiados más adelante en 2017. Las Hermanas Bea y Rosaleen comparten la vida comunitaria con otros voluntarios de tiempo completo en donde viven en el segundo piso del refugio. Rosaleen reflexionó: “La idea de que sea una casa de hospitalidad donde los refugiados puedan encontrar la paz, aunque sea por unas pocas horas antes de tomar un autobús el a través del país, se convierte en un lugar especial”. Las Hermanas se preocupan por lo que les espera a los refugiados al salir del refugio. Pero mientras los hombres, mujeres y niños están con las Hermanas y los voluntarios en Casa Vides, están seguros y en casa. Los servicios de la hermana Rita fueron inmediatamente solicitados cuando llegó a El Paso en el otoño de 2015. Ella dividió su tiempo entre Opportunity Center

para las personas sin hogar y la cooperativa de costura femenina Centro Santa Catalina en Juárez. Al vivir con las Hermanas y los voluntarios en la Casa Grandview de las Hermanas de San José, Rita disfrutó compartiendo comunidad con otras personas apasionadas por los ministerios sociales de la Iglesia. En los últimos meses, ella inició un estudio bíblico el miércoles por la noche y se unió al ministerio de las prisiones del sábado en la Institución Correccional Federal La Tuna en Vinton, TX. Donde sea que estén, generalmente puede configurar su reloj para cuando la tetera comience a silbar a las 3 p.m. En invierno o verano, una taza de té irlandés caliente es algo precisamente lo que hace falta para las Hermanas Rosaleen, Bea y Rita. Estas muchachas irlandesas, misioneras todas, han encontrado un hogar y han creado un hogar para otros aquí en la frontera de México con los Estados Unidos. ¡Que Patricio, Brigid, Columbano y todos los santos de Irlanda las bendigan!



Sister Bea and Sister Rita protesting against detention of immigrant mothers and children.



Sewing at Centro Santa Catalina in Juarez.

# The Bridge 1150am Launches Meatless Fridays

By Joe Garcia, Radio Program Director

The season of Lent has arrived and the Bridge 1150a invites you to tune in to our latest show called Meatless Fridays every Friday at 10:30a. As Catholics during Lent we are called to reflect and appreciate what Jesus did for us as he prepared to begin his ministry by praying, fasting and giving. During this time of reflection we fast and fasting includes restricting ourselves from meat on Fridays. What has developed from fasting during Lent is a plethora of traditional foods. I grew up in a Catholic home where during Lent we ate chile rellenos, enchiladas, tortas de camaron, fish soups and lentejas. All of these dishes are very good but also very much traditional. One of my loves and passions is cooking and Lent season lends itself to exploring new concepts and interesting challenges in the culinary world. At a young age I became part of the culinary world in mother and grandma’s


kitchen. As a young man I studied the culinary arts while living in Houston. Being part of the culinary world for such a long time led me to learn new and out of the box kind of recipes. While programming *The Bridge-El Puente* radio station I came across an idea of showcasing Lent with a 5-week show on the meaning of Lent. I wanted to also include the meaning of Lenten food and all the cooking that takes place during this time of our liturgical calendar, hence *Meatless Fridays* was born!! No meat on Fridays is our Catholic way to fast during the Lent season. Yet in my humble culinary opinion, fish and seafood should not be the only thing on the menu every year. There exist tons of alternative options now and I firmly believe we must learn how to be creative with our food. We should venture into uncharted waters and not be afraid to try new flavors of vegan and vegetarian Lenten

meals. Father Ben Flores, our Diocesan Vicar General and Pastor at Blessed Sacrament, co-hosts this show with me. Many local chefs and restaurant owners will visit to share their Lenten recipes with you, our listeners. *Meatless Fridays* explores new and familiar Lenten territories so your season of fasting can be filled with creative new dishes as well as some traditional favorites. Plus, Meatless Fridays helps promote local eateries and local talented chefs, so I invite you to listen in or watch us on Facebook live every Friday during Lent at 10:30am on The Bridge 1150am.



Father Ben enjoys no meat Sliders courtesy of Ruli’s International Kitchen.





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# A Temple of Living Stones

By Fr. Mark Salas, Pastor St. Thomas St. Joseph Church, Kemit, TX

“We are a temple built of living stones,” A family lost their house in a fire. They lost pictures, vehicles and bedrooms but everyone survived. Their “home” was untouched because what made their house a home was that they lived there as a family. Their hotel room becomes a home when everyone returns from school or work to have dinner while sharing stories and playing board games before going to sleep. Once their savings are depleted, the overpass or tent city becomes a home because this family lives there as a family. It is the love of family that makes our houses a home and its luster and beauty depend on the quality of communion that family shares.

This is what Peter is telling his community by reminding them that they are living stones for temples, homes and Holy Communion. It is a dwelling place of the heart that cannot be touched by fire, bankers, or civil unrest. Habitat for humanity built them a new house which became the family’s new canvas. A canvas to infuse the color of life lived in communion, a deeper, richer color realizing that they never ever lost their home in the fire, only the temporary structure that served to house their beautiful irreplaceable mementos. “Above all, guard the Unity of the Church,” In the town of Kermit, the Catholic community began as two parishes because of prejudice. Over our 68 year

history, the Unity of the Church has unfolded under the patronage of two great saints. Thomas the Apostle, who went to India baptizing into the One Church; and Joseph the Worker, who brought into his home the Blessed Mother pregnant with Jesus to become one family. We too have finally become a single parish achieving Pope Clement’s words to Corinth and will inaugurate our new office building, parish hall, rectory, and most importantly dedicate our Church on Sunday March 18th at 6pm CST! It breaks our heart to lose a beautiful Church building that with time has become too difficult to maintain, bring up to code and accommodate our elderly. For over fifty years

we have infused its walls with Sunday’s Eucharist, baptisms, weddings, and funerals—our faith lived out and shared. Through so many efforts, grants and hard work we realize a deeper and richer unity with our new facilities. This Church is our new canvas dedicated to God to house our altar. It will be a source of peace, strength and love. It is built on living stones who live out Communion as One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. If you cannot join Bishop Seitz in Kermit this dedication day, please pray to saints Thomas and Joseph for us.



Father Mark Salas stands next to the Tabernacle at new church

# Un Templo Construido con Piedras Vivas

Por PadrevMark Salas, Pastor de St. Thomas St. Joseph Church, Kemit, TX

“Somos un templo construido con piedras vivas”, una familia perdió su casa en un incendio. Perdieron fotos, vehículos y dormitorios, pero todos sobrevivieron. Su “hogar” no se tocó porque lo que hacía que su casa fuera un hogar, era que vivían allí como una familia. Su habitación de hotel se convierte en un hogar cuando todos regresan de la escuela o el trabajo para cenar mientras que comparten historias y juegan juegos de mesa antes de irse a dormir. Una vez que sus ahorros se agotan, el elevado sobre paso, o la ciudad de carpas se convierte en un hogar porque esta familia vive allí como una familia. Es el amor de la familia lo que hace que nuestras casas sean un hogar y su brillo y belleza dependen de la calidad de la comunión

que comparte la familia. Esto es lo que Pedro le está diciendo a su comunidad al recordarles que son piedras vivas para los templos, los hogares y la Sagrada Comunión. Es una morada del corazón que no puede ser tocada por el fuego, los banqueros o la agitación civil. Hábitat para la humanidad construyó una nueva casa que se convirtió en el nuevo lienzo de la familia. Un lienzo para infundir el color de la vida vivida en comunión, un color más profundo y más rico al darse cuenta de que nunca perdieron su hogar en el fuego, solo la estructura temporal que servía para albergar sus hermosos e irremplazables recuerdos.

“Sobre todo, proteja la Unidad de la Iglesia”. En la ciudad de Kermit, la comunidad católica comenzó como dos parroquias

debido a los prejuicios. Durante nuestros 68 años de historia, la Unidad de la Iglesia se ha desarrollado bajo el patrocinio de dos grandes santos. Tomás el Apóstol, quien fue a la India a bautizar en la Iglesia Única; y José el Obrero, quien trajo a su hogar a la Santísima Madre embarazada de Jesús para convertirse en una sola familia. También nosotros finalmente nos hemos convertido en una parroquia única que logró las palabras del Papa Clemente en Corinto e inauguraremos nuestro nuevo edificio de oficinas, salón parroquial, rectoría y lo más importante, ¡dedicaremos nuestra Iglesia el domingo 18 de marzo a las 6pm (5pm de El Paso)!

Nos rompe el corazón perder un hermoso edificio de la Iglesia y que con el tiempo se ha vuelto demasiado difícil de

mantener, llevar a cabo el código necesario para poder acomodar a nuestros ancianos. Durante más de cincuenta años hemos infundido a sus paredes con la Eucaristía del domingo, bautismos, bodas y funerales, nuestra fe vivida y compartida. A través de tantos esfuerzos, subvenciones y trabajo duro, nos damos cuenta de que tenemos una unidad más profunda y rica con nuestras nuevas instalaciones. Esta iglesia es nuestro nuevo lienzo dedicado a Dios y que alberga nuestro altar. Será una fuente de paz, fortaleza y amor. Está construido sobre piedras vivas que viven la Comunión como una, una Iglesia



New Church Altar

Santa, Católica y Apostólica. Si no puedes unirte al Señor Obispo Seitz en la Ciudad de Kermit este día de su dedicación, por favor, acompáñanos en oración ante los santos San Tomás y San José por, todos nosotros.

# Pastoral Studies Master and Certification

The Permanent Diaconate Office of the Diocese of El Paso along with the Tepeyac Institute has started a distance learning program for a master degree in Theology with the University of St. Thomas and St. Mary’s Seminary of Galveston-Houston. The program is formed by 12 classes that will be taken in

the course of four years. We never imagined that we could graduate in El Paso 25 Masters in Pastoral Studies that will be supporting the parishes, who would be spiritual directors for retreats, and in general be there to support their communities.

Two of these 25 students live in Pecos, Texas, and that

makes us so proud because we are going to be reaching the West Texas territory with formed pastoral masters.

Along with this program, we have another program named Diploma in Pastoral Theology (DIPL) and this is a bachelor’s level certification granted also by the University of St Thomas. This

program contains 16 classes but they are 2-credit-hour courses. In this program, we are proud to have 26 participants, eight of which are in the West Texas territory of the Diocese: six of them are in Pecos and two are in Monahans.

An important part of the education of all these participants

is covered by your generous donations to the Progress Campaign. Thanks you for your support to this program that will provide great benefits to our communities in the near future.

# Certificación y Maestría en Estudios Pastorales

La Oficina del Diaconado Permanente de la Diócesis de El Paso, junto con el Instituto Tepeyac ha iniciado un programa de aprendizaje remoto para un grado de maestría en Teología con la Universidad de Santo Tomas y el Seminario de Santa Maria de Galveston-Houston. El programa está formado por 12 clases que se tomaran en el curso de los próximos cuatro años. Nunca nos imaginamos que podríamos graduar en El Paso a 25 maestros

en Estudios Pastorales que apoyarán las parroquias, quienes serán directores espirituales para retiros, y en general, estarán allí para apoyar a sus comunidades. Dos de esos 25 estudiantes están localizados en Pecos, Texas, y eso nos llena de orgullo porque vamos a llevar a ese territorio del oeste de Texas a dos maestros formados pastoralmente.


Junto con este programa, tenemos otro programa llamado Diploma en Teología Pastoral

(DIPL) y esta es una certificación a nivel licenciatura otorgada por la Universidad de Santo Tomas. Este programa contiene 16 clases, pero son cursos de 2-horas-credito. En este programa, estamos orgullosos de tener 26 participantes, ocho de ellos en el territorio del Oeste de Texas de la Diócesis: seis de ellos en Pecos y dos en Monahans.

Una parte importante de la educación de todos estos participantes es cubierta con

las generosas donaciones a la Campaña de Progreso. Gracias por su apoyo a este programa que proveerá grandes beneficios a nuestras comunidades en el futuro cercano.





## 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



# What is Stewardship?

By Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator

Nowadays, the term “stewardship” can be easily misunderstood. When we think about stewardship we initially think of money or tithing. But stewardship is so much more than money.

**Stewardship means that we give back to God our time, talent and treasure in gratitude for the gifts that God has given to us.**

Stewardship is to live with a gratitude perspective that everything that we have comes from God. James teaches us in the

New Testament to not be tempted by our worldly desires. “Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters: all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change.” (James 1:16-18)

**Pray, Serve and Give**

Prayer is an essential part of living a stewardship way of life. Without prayer, service is only activism and giving to our Church is meaningless. First, pray to God that He shows you

how to pray. You can start with the Our Father and a Hail Mary to start recognizing God in your daily routine.

Service becomes love in action. God fills our hearts with tremendous love during prayer that naturally our response is to share that love with others, especially with the ones who suffer. Look for ways to help in your parish using the talents that God has given to you. If you are great with numbers and counting, maybe your parish needs a good money counter to assist after

Mass. Don’t be afraid to give to God your talents.

Give is to understand that we are one big family and some of our family members need our help. Sharing our financial resources with the needs of our parish gives us a sense of inclusion; it makes our hearts feel important in the work of God. Consider increasing by \$1 your Sunday donation. Ask your pastor what are the needs of the parish. There are always ways to help.

Start today and practice



the three pillars of stewardship and little by little you will encounter that God who has made us for greater things.

Follow us on Facebook as **Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso** to learn more about Stewardship and the ways you can help your local church.

# ¿Qué es Corresponsabilidad?

Por Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad

Ahora en día es común confundirnos con el significado del término “corresponsabilidad”. Cuando pensamos en la palabra corresponsabilidad, pensamos en dinero, distribución o diezmo. Pero, en realidad corresponsabilidad es mucho mas que dinero.

Corresponsabilidad significa que le damos a Dios nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro en gratitud por los bienes recibidos. Corresponsabilidad es vivir con una actitud de agradecimiento que todo lo que tenemos viene de parte de Dios. Santiago nos enseña en el Nuevo Testamento

que no nos dejemos engañar por nuestros deseos mundanos. “No se equivoquen, queridos hermanos: Todo beneficio y todo don perfecto viene de lo alto, del creador de la luz, en quien no hay ni cambios ni sombras. Por su propia voluntad nos engendró mediante la palabra de la verdad, para que fuéramos, en cierto modo, primicias de sus creaturas.” (Santiago, 1, 16-18)

**Orar, Servir y Dar**

Oración es una parte esencial de vivir una vida corresponsable, sin la oración el servicio es solo activismo y dar a nuestra Iglesia se convierte

en una actividad sin sentido. Primero, pide a Dios que te enseñe a orar, puedes comenzar rezando el Padre Nuestro y el Ave María para comenzar a reconocer a Dios en tu rutina diaria.

Servicio se convierte amor en acción. Dios llena nuestros corazones con tanto amor durante la oración que naturalmente nuestra respuesta es compartir ese amor hacia los demás, especialmente a los que sufren. Encuentra maneras sobre cómo ayudar en tu parroquia con los dones que Dios te ha dado. Si se te facilita el conteo de números tal vez tu parroquia necesita un

contador para ayudar después de Misa a contar la colecta. No tengas miedo de dar a Dios tus talentos.

Dar es entender que somos una gran familia y algunos de nuestros miembros necesitan de nuestra ayuda. Compartir nuestros recursos económicos a las necesidades de la parroquia nos da un sentido de pertenencia y hace que nuestros corazones sientan la importancia de dar al trabajo de Dios. La siguiente vez considera incrementar la colecta dominical por un \$1.00, tambien puedes preguntar al sacerdote cuales son las necesidades de la

parroquia, siempre hay maneras de ayudar.

Comienza hoy y practica los tres pilares de la corresponsabilidad, orar, servir y dar, poco a poco encontraras que Dios nos llama a hacer grandes cosas.

Síguenos en Facebook como Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso para aprender más sobre corresponsabilidad y otras maneras sobre cómo ayudar a tu iglesia local.

# Fourth Annual Mass of Atonement & Hope

By Diana Bulko, Safe Environment Coordinator

Bishop Mark Seitz will celebrate the fourth annual Mass of Atonement and Hope on Saturday, March 17 at 10 am in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The Mass of Atonement and Hope was initially offered for all the victims of sexual abuse by clergy. It was an acknowledgement that in the past the Church’s response to reports of sexual abuse by members of the clergy and other religious communities was often lacking, inappropriate, or nonexistent. As a result, there was a failure to respond appropriately to the needs of victims. Recognizing that sexual abuse exists in all areas of society and that there are other victims of sexual harassment, physical, domestic, and emotional abuse,

Bishop Seitz has chosen to offer this mass for all victims.

It is hoped that the Mass of Atonement and Hope will be a source of healing for the victims and will demonstrate the Church’s concern for their well-being. The members of the Church, especially pastors and other leaders, recommit themselves to assisting in the healing process for victims.

At times, experiencing sexual abuse may cause the victims to become separated from their faith in God and their Church, the very place that could provide them with comfort and solace. The Mass will provide a reminder to the victims that they have a place where they belong and where they can experience

God’s love and mercy.

All victims, family members, those who provide assistance and support to victims and all others are invited to attend the Mass of Atonement and Hope. We hope to see you there.

***If you have been a victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy, please contact Susan Martínez, Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of El Paso, at 872-8465***

***If you wish to participate in ministry or as a volunteer in your parish, please contact your parish Safe Environment Coordinator or Diana Bulko, Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of El Paso, at 872-8427.***



# Pax Christi features Babette’s Feast

Adapted from a novella by Isak Dineson, “Babette’s Feast” is about a 19th century French political refugee who becomes a housekeeper for two sisters in a remote village in Denmark. After a while, grateful for their acceptance of her, Babette prepares a French banquet for the entire village. The meal somehow changes everyone’s life!

El Pasoans can see “Babette’s Feast” at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 11, in St. Joseph School auditorium. All are welcome, and admission is free. This is

part of a monthly peace-and-justice film series presented by Pax Christi El Paso and the

Peace and Justice Ministry of the El Paso Catholic Diocese. Information: (915) 740-3962



**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**



# We, Too, Are So Human

More than two weeks into Lent and still I wonder whether my small efforts will produce any fruit in helping me to come closer to God. Give up something? Pray more? Abstain from what separates me from God? And whatever I do, I never make it through the entire forty days without failing once, twice, or more than I wish to admit. Do I pick myself back up or do I simply give up trying?

Then a glance at the calendar marking a saint's feast day this month and the Holy Week stories about someone else who made mistakes give me the strength to try again. St. Joseph, foster father of the Christ Child, patiently endured so much out of love for God. Imagine being the chosen protector and earthly father of the King of Kings! But wait, where is the palace and the riches designated for the king? Seriously, there is no better place than a stinky barn and an animal's food trough in which to lay the Savior of the world? How wracked with self-doubt and discouragement

Joseph must have often felt. Yet, never surrendering to despair, he continued doing his best to follow God's plan even though that plan so often had bumps and detours that he could not understand.

Can we do the same in our lives? An unwed mother feels she has nowhere to turn for help. Death opens its arms to her and lures her in with the seductive false promise of a quick fix. Can we pick up Joseph's staff and lead her away from the Herods who want to sacrifice her and her child on their altars of profit? We can if we just open our eyes to the precious gift of every child, whether they sleep in the hay or rest within their mothers' wombs. But, will we? Will we be faithful to God's call? How can we know what to do? That is why St. Peter is my favorite role model. St. Peter was so ... human. He messed up. Often. With true faith, Peter stepped out of the boat to walk to Jesus across the water, but then he doubted and immediately sank into the churning waters. However, when Jesus offered him

His hand, Peter was not too proud to accept his own failings as well as God's offer of another chance to strengthen his faith. Yet, later, when it mattered the most, Peter fell again. Although, he had once proclaimed his unwavering faith and love of Jesus, Peter cursed, denying even knowing the man whom he recognized as the Son of God.

How often have we slipped and fallen, denying Christ with our actions and our failures to act? Do we give up, run away and say we're only human? Or do we reach up to grasp the hand of Jesus who is offering His forgiveness and His love and, once again, another chance?

Will we continue to deny that each and every child, born and unborn, is a precious child of God who needs our help? Will we deny that we are followers of the one true God who loves every person even when they have made a mistake, fallen and desperately need us to reach out and help them up? Will we curse those who keep harping on the plight of the unborn and are constantly

prodding us to do something? Or, will the cock finally crow in our hearts so that we can see apathy as the evil it truly is?

Then, and only then, can we save ourselves from drowning by helping others. We can offer the pregnant mother hope, support and love so that she does not choose death for her child and a lifetime of regret for herself. We can show true forgiveness to those who suffer after denying the humanity of the unborn child and, thus, help them to also reach up to grasp the loving hand of Christ. Like Joseph, we don't always know what to do, but that shouldn't stop us any more than it stopped Joseph from rescuing Mary and Jesus. Like Peter, we make mistakes, but that shouldn't stop us from trying. However, we cannot sit back and hope others do it for us nor wait for divine intervention.

We are the people God



## Sidewalk Jesus by Janet M. Crowe

has placed in this world to do His work. We can be the instruments of His love in rescuing those who are led to slaughter. None of us can do it all, but each of us can do some.

When will we hear God's voice and set out to rescue His children from death? When will we stop denying Jesus living within all His children, born and unborn, and accept that we must do something to rescue the defenseless among us?

We can be Jesus on the sidewalks, in the stores and offices, in our homes and schools offering God's love through our prayers, words and actions to those who need Him the most. Will we? Today is a good day to begin.

# Nosotros También Somos Tan Humanos

Más de dos semanas en cuarenta y todavía me pregunto si mis pequeños esfuerzos producirán algún fruto ayudándome a acercarme más a Dios. ¿Renunciar a algo? ¿Orar más? ¿Abstenerme de lo que me separa de Dios? Y haga lo que haga, nunca superaré los cuarenta días sin fallar una dos o más veces de las que quisiera admitir. ¿Me vuelvo a levantar o simplemente renuncio a intentarlo?

Luego, una mirada al calendario que marca el día de la fiesta de un santo este mes y las historias de la Semana Santa sobre alguien más que cometió errores me dan la fortaleza para volver a intentarlo.

San José, padre adoptivo del Niño Jesús soportó pacientemente su amor a Dios. ¿Te imaginas ser el protector elegido y padre terrenal del Rey de Reyes! Pero espera, ¿dónde está el palacio y las riquezas designadas para el rey? En serio, ¿no había mejor lugar que un granero apestoso y un comedero de animales en donde poner al Salvador del mundo? Cuán atormentado por la duda y el desaliento que Jose

debe haber sentido a menudo. Sin embargo, nunca se rindió a la desesperación y continuó haciendo lo mejor que pudo para seguir el plan de Dios, a pesar de que ese plan a menudo tenía toques y desvíos que no podía entender.

¿Podemos hacer nosotros lo mismo en nuestras vidas? Una madre soltera siente que no tiene a dónde acudir en busca de ayuda. La muerte abre sus brazos hacia ella y la atrae con la falsa promesa seductora de una solución rápida. ¿Podemos recoger el bastón de José y alejarla de todos los Herodes que quieren sacrificarla a ella y a su hijo en sus altares de beneficio? Si, si podemos, si es que abrimos nuestros ojos al precioso regalo de cada niño, ya sea que duerman en el heno, o descansan dentro del vientre de sus madres. Pero, ¿lo haremos?

¿Seremos fieles al llamado de Dios? ¿Cómo podemos saber qué hacer? Es por eso que San Pedro es mi modelo favorito. San Pedro era tan... humano. Él cometió errores. A menudo. Con verdadera fe, Pedro salió del barco para caminar hacia

Jesús al otro lado del agua, pero luego dudó, e inmediatamente se hundió en las agitadas aguas. Sin embargo, cuando Jesús le ofreció su mano, Pedro no estaba demasiado orgulloso para aceptar sus propias fallas, así como la oferta de Dios de darle otra oportunidad para fortalecer su fe. Sin embargo, más tarde, cuando más importaba, Pedro cayó nuevamente. Aunque una vez había proclamado su fe inquebrantable y su amor por Jesús, Pedro maldijo, negando incluso, conocer al hombre a quien reconoció como el Hijo de Dios.

¿Cuántas veces hemos resbalado y caído negando a Cristo con nuestras acciones y nuestras fallas en actuar? ¿Nos damos por vencidos, huimos y decimos que solo somos humanos? ¿O nos lanzamos a alcanzar y tomar la mano de Jesús que está ofreciendo Su perdón y Su amor y una vez más, otra oportunidad?

¿Continuaremos negando que todos y cada uno de los niños, nacidos y no nacidos, sean un hijo precioso de Dios que necesita

nuestra ayuda? ¿Vamos a negar que seamos seguidores del único Dios verdadero que ama a todas las personas, incluso cuando han cometido errores, caído y necesitan desesperadamente que nos acerquemos y ayudemos a levantarlos? ¿Maldeciremos a los que siguen insistiendo en la difícil situación de los no nacidos y nos presionan constantemente para que hagamos algo? ¿O acaso el gallo finalmente va a cantar en nuestros corazones para que podamos ver la apatía como el mal que realmente es?

Entonces y solo entonces, podemos salvarnos de ahogarnos ayudando a otros. Podemos ofrecer a la madre embarazada la esperanza, el apoyo y el amor para que ella no elija la muerte de su hijo y una vida de remordimiento por sí misma. Podemos mostrar el verdadero perdón a los que sufren después de negar la humanidad del niño por nacer y así, ayudarlos a alcanzar la mano amorosa de Cristo.

Al igual que José, no siempre sabemos qué hacer, pero eso no debería detenernos más de lo que impidió que José rescatara

a María y a Jesús. Al igual que Pedro, cometemos errores, pero eso no debería impedirnos intentarlo. Sin embargo, no podemos sentarnos y esperar a que otros lo hagan por nosotros, ni esperar a la intervención divina. Nosotros somos la gente que Dios ha colocado en este mundo para hacer su trabajo. Podemos ser los instrumentos de su amor al rescatar a los que son llevados a la matanza. Ninguno de nosotros puede hacerlo todo, pero cada uno de nosotros puede hacer algo.

¿Cuándo escucharemos la voz de Dios y nos pondremos en camino para rescatar a Sus hijos de la muerte? ¿Cuándo dejaremos de negar a Jesús viviendo dentro de todos Sus hijos, nacidos y no nacidos, y aceptaremos que debemos hacer algo para rescatar a los indefensos entre nosotros? Podemos ser Jesús en las aceras, en las tiendas y oficinas, en nuestros hogares y escuelas, ofreciendo el amor de Dios a través de nuestras oraciones, palabras y acciones a quienes más lo necesitan. ¿Lo haremos? Hoy es un buen día para comenzar.



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# ¡Cuanto Cuesta Cambiar!

Vivimos en un tiempo de grandes cambios... En esta euforia de cambio, impuesta por el mundo que nos toca vivir, necesitamos un cambio de mayor consistencia que las olas que mueren en la arena; me refiero al cambio de nosotros mismos, a nuestro modo de sentir, pensar y actuar.

Hoy, todo sucede con rapidez. Parece que todo pasa de modo caótico, sin que tengamos la posibilidad de darnos cuenta de lo que sucede. Creemos que debemos aclarar, poner orden en nuestra vida. Sentimos la necesidad de un tiempo para “respirar”. En este tiempo que resalta la libertad nos vemos atrapados por formas sutiles de esclavitud: Algunos echan mano de liberaciones que resultan evasiones momentáneas, huidas, adormecimientos. Con frecuencia escuchamos una frase en nuestras conversaciones: “Estoy agotado, no puedo más”. Las vacaciones, las fiestas y los fines de semana no parece que consigan el efecto deseado. Necesitamos un descanso profundo y un silencio vivificante. Las relaciones tanto a nivel personal como social se han hecho complicadas, conflictivas, falsas, creando profundas dificultades.

Aspiramos a una mayor

claridad y serenidad, a superar el odio, a creer en la fecundidad del perdón, en la alegría de la reconciliación, del encuentro; a unirnos fraternalmente en el dialogo. Todo esto no son más que las facetas de una necesidad de salvación. Pero el hombre, todos los hombres juntos, es capaz de realizarlo?

Para el cristiano, la Cuaresma es un tiempo de verdadero cambio y renovación, un nuevo comienzo, tiempo para poner en orden tantas confusiones, para entablar relaciones auténticas, para restablecer diálogos rotos, para disfrutar del verdadero descanso... Todo para llegar a la salvación. Y esto no se lleva a cabo con un mero querer de la voluntad, ni es fruto de una inteligencia despierta; nace de esa decisión que nos pone a la escucha de Dios, de dejarse cambiar por El, de abandonar nuestros caminos para caminar por los suyos, de entrar en la dinámica de una historia de salvación. En la liturgia Cuaresmal Dios se hace el encontradizo con nosotros, con nuestras esperanzas, con nuestros dramas y nos anuncia lo que ha hecho y quiere hacer hoy por nosotros, por nuestra liberación. El cristiano recorre el itinerario cuaresmal dejándose guiar continuamente por la Palabra de Dios, haciendo

suyas las prácticas del ayuno, limosna, oraciones, que deben reinterpretarse según indica Pablo VI, en Pascua de 1967 “Cada uno examine su conciencia, que tiene una voz nueva en nuestra época (Populorum Progressio 47).

Para todo se necesita sabiduría: Para conservar y para innovar, para cambiar y para permanecer. Quien se cierra al cambio se cierra a la vida. Pero también se puede caer en la “rutina del cambio” que crea tanta inseguridad como el conservadurismo. Claro que lo más común en la persona no es la apertura al cambio sino la cerrazón al mismo. La sabiduría me dice cómo debo adaptarme y me impide absolutizar lo que es relativo o convertir en esencial lo que es secundario. Vivir es saber cambiar, porque sin cambio no hay vida.

Convertirse es ponerse en las manos del mejor cirujano que es Dios, entregarle la vida, apartarse del mal y aferrarse al bien. Es un cambio difícil que pide humildad. Es esa gracia que necesitamos, dejar de pensar que son los otros los que deben cambiar. Conocemos personas entre los amigos y familiares que con su ejemplo nos enseñan que si es posible cambiar, no de piel como la serpiente, sino de corazón. No es cambiar de lugar

sino cambiar de actitud como se solucionan las crisis. Hay un dicho popular que dice: “De poco sirve cambiar de lugar porque el diablo viaja en todos los trenes”. Esa transformación interior pide sencillez para reconocer las propias fallas y no vivir culpando a los demás. Es necesario un firme compromiso que se traduzca en acciones nuevas y positivas. Nunca es tarde para cambiar y renacer.

Muchas personas se quejan de una soledad que ellas mismas han creado con sus quejas y sus reproches. No hace mucho charle con una pobre mamá que durante todo el tiempo solo expresaba amargura y resentimiento. Era una mamá víctima que se estaba consumiendo con el cáncer del rencor. Un récor agravado por sus constantes lamentos. Sus hijos me contaron que visitarla era un tormento porque todo el tiempo esta quejándose y sacando en cara lo que había dado. Fue inútil conversar con ella porque estaba “feliz” haciéndose daño y no quería cambiar. Ni el mismo Dios puede hacer algo con aquel que no acepta ayuda. Qué triste ver a una persona de 60 años,



Vida del Espiritu  
por el Padre Wilson Cuevas

llena de vigor físico pero enferma espiritualmente. No me extraña que pronto este con cáncer u otra dolencia grave porque no hay cuerpo sano en un espíritu enfermo.

Por eso es tan importante insistir en el amor a sí mismo como raíz del amor a los demás. Esa mamá va a misa y reza pero para nada le sirve, porque no se quiere y ha elegido estar muerta en vida. Y no es la única! Hay muchos más. Que fácil es complicarse la vida.!

Las personas felices viven abiertas al cambio y son creativas y positivas. Su felicidad depende de estas tres actitudes que cultivan sin cesar: Creatividad, apertura y optimismo. Son personas cuya apertura de mente de corazón se refleja en una atrayente tolerancia; un respeto que les permite convivir con el distinto y acercarse al distante. Acepta la nueva vida que Dios te ofrece: Ef. 4,17-32. Quien decide? Yo... Cuando? Ya.

## How Much Does It Take to Make Change!

We live in a time of great changes... In this euphoria of change, imposed by the world in which we live, we need a change of greater consistency than the waves that die in the sand; I mean a change in ourselves, our way of feeling, thinking and acting.

Today, everything happens so quickly. It seems that everything happens in a chaotic manner, without us having the ability to realize what is happening. We believe that we must clear everything, to bring order to our lives. We feel the need to take time to ‘breathe’. During this time that freedom stands out, we are trapped by subtle forms of slavery: some make use of releases resulting in momentary respites, escape, and numbness. Frequently we hear a phrase in our conversations: “I’m exhausted, I can’t anymore”. Holidays, festivals and weekends do not seem to achieve the desired effect. We need repose and life-giving silence. Both our personal and social relationships have become complicated, conflicting, false, or creating deep difficulties.

We aspire a greater clarity and serenity, to overcome hatred, to believe in the fruitfulness of forgiveness, in the joy of reconciliation, of the encounter; to meet fraternally in dialogue. All these are the only facets of our need for salvation. But is man, all men together, capable of realizing it?

For the Christian, Lent is a time of true change and renewal, a new beginning, time to put in order so many confusions, to establish authentic relationships, to re-establish broken dialogues, to enjoy true rest... Everything to reach salvation. And this is not carried out with a mere want of will, nor is it the result of an awakening intelligence; It is born of that decision that makes us listen to God, to allow ourselves

to be changed by Him, to abandon our ways to walk through His, to enter into the dynamics of a history of salvation. In the Lenten liturgy, God finds himself with us, with our hopes, with our dramas and announces to us what He has done and wants to do for us today, for our liberation. The Christian goes through the Lenten journey, letting himself be continually guided by the Word of God, adopting the practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayers, which must be reinterpreted according to Paul VI, at Easter 1967 “Each one examines his conscience, has a new voice in our time (Populorum Progressio 47).

Wisdom is necessary for everything: to preserve and innovate, to change and to persevere. Whoever is not open to change, is closed to life. But one can also fall into the “routine of change” that creates such insecurity as conservatism. Of course, the most common thing in a person is not the openness to change but the closure to it. Wisdom tells me how I should adapt and prevents me from absolutes what is relative or become essential to what is secondary. To live is to know how to change, because without change there is no life.

Put yourself in the hands of the best surgeon, who is God; give Him your life, depart from evil and cling to good. It’s a difficult change that asks for humility. It is that grace that we need to stop thinking that others must change. We know people, including friends and family who, with their example, teach us that it is possible to change, not like the skin of a snake, but our

heart. It is not a change of place but a change of attitude that will solve a crisis. There is a popular saying that says: “It’s useless to change locations because the devil travels on all trains.” This inner transformation calls for simplicity to recognize one’s faults and no to live blaming others. A firm commitment is necessary that translates into new and positive actions. It is never too late to change and be reborn.

Many people complain about loneliness that they themselves have created with their complaints and their criticisms. Not long ago I spoke with a poor mother who during the whole time expressed bitterness and resentment. She was a victim who was consumed

with cancer, resentment and a bitterness aggravated by her own constant cries. Her children told me that visiting her was very difficult because she was always complaining and throwing it in their face everything she had given them. It was useless to talk with her because she was “happy” hurting herself and did not want to change. Not even God Himself can do anything for the one who does not accept help. How sad to see a person, 60 years old, filled with physical force but spiritually sick. I would not be surprised if this cancer or other grave medical condition would soon appear in a healthy body because there is no healthy body in a sick spirit.

That is why it is so important to insist first on self-

love as the root of the love of others. That Mom goes to mass and prays but feels no hope, because she does not love herself and chooses to be dead in life. And she is not the only one! There are many more. How easy it is to complicate your life! Happy people live open to change and are creative and positive. Your own happiness depends on these three attitudes that grow without ceasing: Creativity, openness and optimism. They are people whose openness of heart is reflected in extending tolerance; a respect that allows them to live with the other and to the approach those that are distant. Accept the new life which God offers you: Eph. 4, 17-32. Who decides? I do... If so, when? Now.

## Peregrinación Tierra Santa y Egipto

Del 14 al 27 de mayo

### Tierra Santa

Tras las huellas de Jesús  
**Visitando:** Caná, Mar de Galilea, Nazareth, Rio Jordán, Jerusalem, Santo Sepulcro, Belén y más.

### Egipto:

**Cairo:** Visitando las pirámides, museo y más.  
**3 Noches Crucero:** navegando por Luxor, Karnak, Valle de los Reyes y más.  
Nos acompaña como guía espiritual el Padre Hugo Muñoz

\*\*Pregunta por nuestro descuento de San Valentín

Cupo limitado

**Informes: Blanca Rios (915) 867-62-19**



# Alumni Spotlight-Lizeth Vasquez

**Name:**  
Lizeth Vasquez  
**Current Occupation/Job Title:**  
Federal Employee/Staff Officer,  
Linguist  
  
**Company/Organization/School:**  
Department of Defense  
  
**Interest, Activities, Clubs, and Professional Organizations:**  
Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.

**Greatest Professional Accomplishment:** Successfully recruiting NMSU and UTEP interns for my agency. Being selected to serve on an agency wide Hispanic Heritage Month Panel. Traveling around the country and world interpreting.

**What Catholic school(s) did you attend?**  
Father Yermo Schools (K-12)  
  
**What was the most valuable lesson – inside or outside the classroom – you learned while attending Catholic school(s)?**  
Friendship. My dearest friend whom I have known since Kinder will be the Man of Honor in my upcoming wedding.  
  
**What teacher/staff member/classmate most influenced you?**  
Mr. Palacios, he instilled a love for politics and history that led me to major in Political Science.  
  
**How did your Catholic School Education prepare you for what**

**you are doing today?** Catholic School Education instilled in me a sense of family and how important it is remember where you came from.  
  
**Why do you think Catholic Education is so important?**  
I think Catholic Education is important because it helps mold an individual to be caring and willing to assist others in need.  
  
**How are Catholic Schools shaping the future? (When you think about the future, how do you see catholic school alumni and students helping to shape that future? And, perhaps more specifically, how do you envision Catholic schools affecting our**

**community?)** They are preparing a new cadre of individuals who will help make this world better and more empathetic.  
  
**What advice do you have for current students? (What advice do you have for students getting ready to graduate during these difficult times?)**  
Stay true to yourself and always stand for what is right even if you are the only person doing it.  
  
**What was your favorite Catholic School experience/moment?**  
As a senior we were paired with freshmen to be their big brother or sister. The big reveal was awesome, and everyone had a great time.



## News Around Catholic Schools

**Cathedral High School**  
Cathedral High School students and parents worked together to host a Benefit Concert for Aaron



Cobos in early February. Aaron is a CHS senior who collapsed late last semester and sustained brain damage. He is currently receiving intensive rehabilitation therapy and showing steady progress in Austin, Texas. The concert was to celebrate Aaron and to raise funds to help the family with the high costs of treatment. Student acts from Cathedral and Loretto Academy signed up and the Espino family donated the use of professional lighting and an amazing sound system for the evening. The Maes family organized the event with many student and faculty volunteers. The performers were: Albert Yoshimoto, The Loretto Academy Show Choir, Dominic Palisoc and Regina Hernandez accompanied by Nathan Villalobos, Victoriano Castillo, Nico Maes, Sebastian Martinez, Moses Ramirez, Doorstop Enigma Group (Nathan Villalobos, Tom Chavez, and Dominic Palisoc), and Belts on Beds Group (Emiliano Reyes, Mario Gonzalez, Joseph Furlong, Michael Ruiz, and Jacob Magallanes). Senior Victor Gallardo, good friend of Aaron, was an excellent Master of Ceremonies. The event was standing-room-only and exceeded our expectations. Thanks to our extended community’s generosity, over \$3000 was raised in one night!

**Father Yermo Catholic School Spartan Run 2018**  
Father Yermo Inaugural 5K and Fun walk-The Inaugural Father Yermo 2018 Spartan Run/Fun Walk is right around the corner on March 24, 2018, will be held at 6900 Ascarate Park. This race is to benefit the Father Yermo Capital Campaign used for the betterment of the schools. Runners may register at [www.raceadventuresunlimited.com](http://www.raceadventuresunlimited.com) for only \$25 or with a Team (5+) for \$15. The pre-event will be at the Rudolph Miles Multipurpose Center located at 220 Washington St.on March 23, 2018 from Noon to 6 p.m. where you can pick-up your race packet and t-shirt as well as enjoy some dance moves with a fun Zumba class. We still have sponsorships available.

**Science Fair Winners Jesus Olivares Sophomore at Father Yermo Earthquake Resistant Homes**  
What prompted my project was mainly that I was concerned with the situation in Mexico and other countries that are vulnerable to earthquakes,



especially the Earthquake in Mexico City in September. I wanted to create a house that would at least resist a magnitude 8 earthquake, and avoid the death of many people. It is very frustrating to see thousands of people die each year because of Earthquakes. Therefore, I created this project, and investigative techniques that could improve the resistance of a house. At the beginning my hypothesis was wrong, but eventually it was successful by joining 2 different techniques that I discovered after long investigation. Ultimately, I got the design for a real house model, we would only need financial sponsorship.

The main hypotheses were mainly to use “X” shaped beams on the walls, I suspected that bricks and these types of beams would be the answer to make an earthquake resistance home. But it all depended on the foundation of the house, if it is too rigid, cannot move and is just one with the ground, the house will fall, no matter how strong the wall is.

I have been working on this project since September, but most testing took place in November. It took place mostly in my house in Juarez. Right now I am trying to work on different materials that I can work with in order to give the judges a good example. I am very excited and blessed.  
**Sofia Olvera Senior at Father Yermo Prosthesis Efficiency**

I did a service in an immigration center about 7 months ago and it really impacted my life to see 3 people that were struggling with their lives because they had lost a limb. Now their lives were much more complicated. At that time I was looking for something to do as a science project and I thought I have to do something for them. That is how the idea for my science fair project came about.

The hypothesis and purpose was to find a reliable, efficient comfortable and affordable prosthesis model that people could use. I created two models, one from recycled bottles and one from PVC pipes. One was PVC pipes and a wooden foot. Designed specifically for each participant and I would let them try the models and they would tell me which one they preferred. As it turns out, the prosthesis made out of PVC and a wooden foot was chosen as the most reliable and efficient by the participants.

I think this project could move on, I actually want to do something like that in the future. I plan to pursue a career in either biomedical engineering or in the medical field. I want to continue helping people improve their lives with these types of prostheses .

Both Jesus and Sofia will move on to the Texas Science and Engineering Fair in San Antonio March 23-25 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention. Congratulations!

**Most Holy Trinity Catholic School**  
Upgrading Technology



Most Holy Trinity technology is receiving a face-lift. Our school has invested in new hardware and Internet support to enhance the learning environment for our students. The move began this summer when 17 iMacs were obtained through EPISD Title I funds. The new units replaced older units in our computer lab. In addition to this, 17 iPads were purchased from OLA School. The iPads provide accessibility and versatility as they can be taken out of the lab and used

in other areas of the building. 4th grade was using the iPads to research Sweden, their theme country for International Cultural Day. The students were looking for information about Swedish games, food and the internationally famous Ice Hotel in Jukkusjarvi. Brandon Salazar talked about what he learned: “The hotel is made of ice and snow and the beds are made of wood. Each year they celebrate that winter is over and spring is coming. It sounds neat. Now I want to go there on vacation.”

All the new hardware has led to a need to upgrade the Internet as the current system did not provide enough power to support all the hardware in use. A whole new system including hot spots and fiber optic wiring has been installed. The Internet strength is now equally strong throughout the building.

Our teachers were recently trained on Project Based Learning, which emphasizes research and group work. Our new technology capabilities will enhance instruction for our students.

**St. Pius X Catholic School**  
Students at St. Pius X Catholic School celebrated National Catholic School Week in a variety of ways honoring the parish, community, those in vocation, and our nation. This year the students chose the



Transitional Living Center (TLC) as their community project. The Sara McKnight Transitional Living Center (TLC) is a residential shelter for homeless women and their children. The TLC offers a supportive living environment and counseling services to help homeless women make the transition to independent living. The facility serves up to 39 women and their children at a time and our intensive case management program helps residents’ progress

toward a self-sufficiency plan. Students put together over 200 individual welcome bags, filled with toiletries form women and children. Each bag was tagged with a spiritual message of love and hope.

**St. Raphael Catholic School**  
The month of February has been a time of faith and love. We celebrated Catholic School’s Week with many activities throughout the week. Our A Honor Roll students went over to Cathedral to celebrate Catholic School’s Week; our 4th graders dressed up as Catholic Historical figures, and we had a great turn out for our Alumni gathering. We are excited that Father Cong was our guest speaker on Vocation Day. He talked to our students about the marriage or single, the ordained life, and consecrated life.

We want to thank Cassandra Dreka, Ghicel Nunez, Eric Bustamante, Carmen Kersteins, Josh Duran, Juan Escamila, Thomas Eekels, Alejandro Veliz, and Celeste Ledesma for visiting our current 8th grade students. We also want to thank NJHS and Ms. Vazquez for putting the Alumni event together. 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 would like to recognize Ms. Yapor, Mrs. Arriola, and Mr. Donahue for attending the S.T.E.M training in Galveston, TX. This Annual STEM Education Conference theme was “The Maker Space.” The overall concept was to provide science and math teachers with the knowledge of implementing the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) through upgrading their content. This will encourage all students to engage more in interesting, relevant, experiential, and meaningful science learning experiences.

Recently our 5th, 6th,





# News Around Catholic Schools

7th, and 8th grade Team Quest teams competed in an academic competition at Adventures in Learning. 5th grade placed 20th out of 27, 6th grade placed 7th out of 17, 7th grade tied for 15th out of 23 and 8th grade placed 18th out of 23 in Texas History. Our 6th grade team will move on to the State Competition in May at Wacky World.

Our Stallion Cheerleaders competed in a Non-mount Middle School at America's Cheer Cup Competition. Congratulations



to our Stallion Cheerleaders for placing 3rd!

As we leave the month of February we enter the month of March already well into the Lenten season. Our students from 4th to 8th grade celebrate Lent by putting on our annual Lenten program on March 22nd at 1pm in the church. We want to commemorate the life of Jesus and the sacrifice he made for us so we could enter the gates of heaven.

March is kick-off start to our Book Fair which is Disco



themed where our kids will do some groovy reading. It will take place from the 5th to the 9th of the month with early dismissal to follow. Sounds groovy!

### St. Joseph Catholic School

The end of January 2018 kicked off Catholic Schools Week; and what better way to begin this special week than with a mass dedicated to the St. Joseph school community. St. Joseph families, faculty, and staff were invited to attend the 9 O'clock mass on Sunday, January 28th. Afterwards, all were invited to enjoy some refreshments in the school cafeteria. The St. Joseph's Home and School Association sponsored our annual Scholastic Book Fair. SJS parents dedicated much of their time and talent to make our book fair a wonderful success. Their awesome decorations and activities were



true to this year's Western theme. Raffles and contests were held throughout the week, making the book fair a great success. Thank you HSA and parents!

Tuesday January 28th was Parents' Day at St. Joseph's School. Parents were invited to our school gym to enjoy a lovely breakfast. After breakfast, parents were invited to attend their child's classroom program. Grades Pre-K to 5th gradeworked hard to present wonderful programs for

their parents. Students work was beautifully displayed throughout the school.

The 8th graders attended the annual Catholic Schools Week mass celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral on Wednesday, January 31st. Dressed in "Eagle Standard", our St. Joseph 8th graders proudly represented our school.

Catholic Schools Week ended on Friday, February 2, with our traditional celebration of "Grandparents Day".



Our school community came together to honor our wonderful grandparents with the celebration of a special mass and classroom presentations and performances. Later, they gathered in the gym to enjoy a catered luncheon.

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, and students that made this a very special and memorable day.



A shout out goes to the St. Joseph's Cheerleaders. They spent many hours to prepare for their first ever cheerleading competition held at Americas High School on February 11, 2018. St. Joseph school is proud of our cheerleaders!

St. Joseph's School will proudly host the Diocesan Carnival on



March 3, 2018. The diocesan raffle is traditionally held at this event. Most of our Catholic schools will participate and provide fun games, great snacks and delicious food. Entertainment will be provided by cheerleaders, school bands, choirs, dance groups, and various musical groups.

Our Home and School Association is hard at work preparing for this spring's kick off game for the Chihuahuas as well as our annual St. Joseph's



Night at Western Playland.

St. Joseph school is currently hard at work promoting the school for new enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. Call 566-1601 for a tour or information for out next Open House.

**St. Patrick Cathedral Community's Bazaar**

To commemorate the school's 95th anniversary, the St. Patrick Cathedral Community

is planning a Church Bazaar to celebrate the school's anniversary. The bazaar will be held on Saturday, March 17, and Sunday, March 18. Vendor booths will be set-up on the school's outdoor basketball court, as well as on the parking lot across the street. Arizona Street between Stanton and Mesa will be closed off for pedestrian traffic to walk back and forth. The bazaar will be from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. the first day and



10 a.m. to 10 p.m. the second day. The bazaar will include food booths, drinks, game booths, prizes and musical entertainment both days. Tickets to purchase items at the bazaar will be sold for \$1 and proceeds from the event will benefit St. Patrick Cathedral School. Items being sold at the bazaar will include: raspas, papas locas, aguas frescas, popcorn, corn-in-a-cup, burgers, hot dogs, enchiladas, gorditas. The event will also include loteria, cakewalk, laser tag, and a fishing pond, among other game booths. The public is invited to the event with a special invitation being extended to alumni and friends of the school. For information,



please contact the school at 915-

532-4142.

**St. Patrick Cathedral School celebrates Catholic Schools Week**



The week of January 28-February 3 was filled with events for students, parents and faculty/staff to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. The week began with a Mass on Sunday morning at St. Patrick Cathedral with a special blessing for the students and staff members in attendance. After Mass, students handed out cookies to parishioners. The week-long celebration included a



pep rally on Monday, an ice cream social on Tuesday, an all-schools Mass on Wednesday, which was attended by all the Catholic schools in the diocese and hosted by us in the St. Patrick Cathedral, a fundraiser night at Peter Piper Pizza on Balboa on Thursday, and, finally, the traditional cookout on



Friday. The celebration was a huge success and students, parents, community members and faculty/staff enjoyed the time to thank everyone for all they do in support of Catholic school education.



### Registration for 2018-2019 school year is open

The decisions you make today will have a lasting impression on your children. Please consider giving them the gift of a Catholic education at St. Patrick Cathedral School. Since its establishment in 1923, by the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross, St. Patrick Cathedral School has been the only school in the Catholic Diocese of El Paso directly related to the St. Patrick Cathedral. Our students excel in academics, and achieve high test scores; receive Gifted and Talented instruction; enjoy quality instruction enriched by technology, sports, art, music, and theatre; have the opportunity to participate in the only mariachi program in the Diocese; earn and enhanced quality education with real-world application; and most importantly attain a strong faith formation that is integral to their spiritual and social development.

St. Patrick Cathedral School is now registering students in grades 3K to 8th grade. We offer discounts for multiple student families, referrals, first responders and active military. For more information, visit us at 1111 N. Stanton or call 915-532-4142 or visit our website at [stpatrickelpaso.org](http://stpatrickelpaso.org).



"This last year at Loretto, I saw how my classmates began growing into stronger, powerful, independent women. As a Loretto student, I have been taught not to be a bystander to racism, inequality, sexism or any other type of discrimination. I am grateful for all my teachers, as they have set the example to always speak up and to follow the Loretto values. No matter where I go, I will always follow the Loretto values: Faith, Community, Justice, and Respect."

Guillermo Muñoz Calanche, 5th Grade Class of 2017

**Catholic Environment**

**Academic Excellence**

**Fully Accredited**

**Certified Teachers**

**Small Classes**

**STEM/FIRST Robotics**

**Before and After School Program**

**LORETTO ACADEMY**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**PRE-K 3 THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**• BOYS AND GIRLS •**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, March 3, 2018**

**9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON**

**(915) 566 – 8400 • 1300 Hardaway • El Paso, TX 79903 • [www.loretto.org](http://www.loretto.org)**



# Lenten Campaign for Vocations:

## An Opportunity to be a Part of God’s Calling for Others

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Vocation Office

This Lenten Season the Diocesan Vocation Office began its annual Lenten Campaign for Vocations. The campaign is an opportunity to acknowledge that God is actively pursuing the hearts of our children and youth in a specific way as he calls them to be holy as priests, sisters, brothers, married people or single people one day.

God’s calling is discovered often in adulthood and steps are taken in adulthood to respond to the calling of God, yet the calling of God begins since we come into the world. He has made each person with a special charism, or gift. He calls each person to discover their giftedness in life. As the baptized discover their giftedness, they also discover the way in which God is asking them to serve the Church and the world. The gift of the Vocation Office is that we are dedicated to helping the baptized respond to a divine calling that comes from beyond this world

and will give fruits in eternity.

People who participate in the Lenten Campaign unite themselves to the Vocation’s Office work of acknowledging this transcendental giftedness and calling of God’s holy people. In past years, the Vocation Office distributed folders in which people were invited to insert coins each day of Lent and to offer a prayer for vocations each day of Lent. This year, the vocation office distributed calendars inside offering envelops. The calendars contain a picture of each seminarian of our diocese, and some additional prayer intentions for vocations, for each day of Lent. The faithful are invited to see the seminarians they are praying for and to place the vocation calendar on their refrigerators, prayer spaces or bibles. At the end of Lent they may keep the calendars and send their generous offering to the Vocation Office in the offering envelop (they may do this by

depositing the sealed envelop in their collection basket at the parish they attend or by mailing it directly to the Vocation Office. If you would like to access the calendar electronically, it is also available on the Vocation Office social media pages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (the name of the pages is “epvocations”).

These contributions, and prayers, are dedicated especially to the efforts of promoting vocation awareness, receiving new seminarians, and sustaining the Vocation Office. We are also grateful for your contributions to the Progress Campaign; the portion of funds we receive is mostly dedicated to paying for the tuition of our seminarians.

The Vocation Office has been blessed this year to plant many seeds in our children and youth. The Children’s Vocation Mass this past September was a joyful time in which many children heard the message of

how God is calling them to live with him as either priests, religious, married or single people. The altar server mass, this past February 10th at Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, was attended by 600 altar servers who want to serve God at this point in their life. They were invited to keep this desire in their hearts for their entire life. At the moment there are ten candidates who are applying for seminary with the Diocese of El Paso and several more who are interested.

The numerous visits to parishes, youth groups talks, and vocation masses that are celebrated by the Vocation Office are inviting many to approach the Lord with humility and to seek to follow his ways.

Thank you for supporting all of these and many more efforts. We look forward to many more blessings!



Lenten Campaign Materials are available at your parish and the Lenten Calendar for Vocations is available electronically on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at “epvocations”.

# Campaña Cuaresmal por Vocaciones:

## Una Oportunidad Para Ser Parte del Llamado De Dios Para Los Demás

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Oficina de Vocaciones

Esta Temporada de Cuaresma la Oficina Diocesana Por Vocaciones comienza su Campaña Anual por Vocaciones. La campana es una oportunidad para reconocer que Dios esta activamente buscando los corazones de nuestros niños y jóvenes al llamarlos de una manera particular a ser santos, ya sea en el sacerdocio, vida consagrada, matrimonio o vida soltera.

El llamado de Dios se descubre frecuentemente cuando la persona llega a ser adulto y entonces se toman pasos para responder, sin embargo, el llamado de Dios comienza desde que venimos a este mundo. Él nos ha hecho con un carisma (don) especial. Cada persona debe descubrir su carisma en la vida. Al descubrir su carisma, los fieles descubren la manera en que Dios les llama a servir en la Iglesia y en el mundo. Es un privilegio para la Oficina de Vocaciones estar dedicada a ayudarle a los bautizados a responder a un llamado divino que viene desde más allá de este mundo y que dará frutos para la eternidad.

Las personas que desean participar en la Campana Cuaresmal por Vocaciones se unen a la labor de la Oficina de Vocaciones al reconocer estos dones trascendentales y el llamado de Dios en la vida de su Pueblo Santo. En los años pasados, la Oficina de Vocaciones ha distribuido carpetas en las cuales se les invitaba a colocar una moneda cada día de la Cuaresma y orar por vocaciones cada día. Este año, la oficina de

vocaciones distribuyó calendarios cuaresmales dentro de sobres de ofrenda. Los calendarios contienen una foto de cada seminarista de nuestra diócesis y algunas intenciones especiales por vocaciones, para cada día de la Cuaresma. Los fieles pueden ver la imagen del seminarista por el que rezan y pueden colocar los calendarios en sus refrigeradores, espacios de oración, o biblias. Al final de la Cuaresma se pueden quedar con el calendario y mandar su generosa ofrenda a la Oficina de Vocaciones en el sobre de ofrenda (pueden hacer esto al depositar el sobre sellado en la colecta parroquial o al enviarlos por correo directamente a la Oficina de Vocaciones. Si gusta tener acceso electrónico al calendario, está disponible en las redes sociales de la Oficina de Vocaciones en Twitter, Facebook e Instagram (el nombre de las paginas es “epvocations”).

Estas contribuciones, y oraciones, son dedicadas de manera especial por la concientización vocacional, para recibir nuevos seminaristas y para patrocinar la Oficina de Vocaciones. También, estamos muy agradecidos por sus contribuciones a la Campana de Progreso; la porción de estos fondos que recibimos esta principalmente dedicada a cubrir la colegiatura de nuestros seminaristas.

La Oficina de Vocaciones ha tenido la bendición de sembrar semillas vocacionales en nuestros niños y jóvenes. La Misa Vocacional para Niños este pasado septiembre fue un

tiempo gozoso en que los niños escucharon sobre como Dios los está llamando a vivir con el como sacerdotes, religiosos, matrimonios o en la vida soltera. La misa de monaguillos, este pasado 10 de febrero en Santa Francisca Xavier Cabrini, contó con la participación de 600 monaguillos que desean servirle a Dios en este momento de sus vidas. Se les invito a guardar este deseo en sus corazones para siempre. En este momento hay diez candidatos que están aplicando para entrar al seminario con la Diócesis de El Paso y varios otros que expresan un interés.

Las numerosas visitas a parroquias, charlas a grupos de jóvenes, y misas vocacionales que celebra la Oficina de Vocaciones están invitando a muchos a acercarse al Señor con humildad y a buscar seguir sus sendas.

Gracias por apoyar todos estos, y muchos otros esfuerzos. ¡Anticipamos muchas bendiciones más!



Members of the Diocesan Vocation Ministry prepare the materials that will be distributed at the parishes of the diocese this Lent.



600 altar servers and their family gather for the Annual Altar Server Mass with the Bishop at Mother Cabrini Parish.



# Get to Know the Ministries Supported by Your Progress Gifts

## Tepeyac Institute Trains Ministers for Your Parish

Tepeyac Institute is one of the 17 ministries supported by the Progress Campaign. Tepeyac was founded in 1988 and since its founding, the Institute has served more than 20,000 parishioners through formation programs and retreats. As a diocesan center, it is funded by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, course fees, grants, and an endowment fund.

Tepeyac Institute offers a variety of formation and certification programs for all types of ministers including those in

parishes, Catholic schools, and at the diocesan level. The main purpose of the Institute is to help individuals discern their gift for ministry and to assist parishes in the formation of needed ministries. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish, at the Pastoral Center and at parishes throughout the Diocese.

Some of the classes offered include:

- Catechists for Baptisms, First Holy Communion,

- Confirmation, Quinceañeras, Marriage Preparation
- Ministers for Parish Bereavement Programs
- Parish Music Liturgy Programs
- Bible Study in Spanish
- Deacon Academic Formation Program
- Summer Institute for Certification and Personal Enrichment



## Catholic Campus Ministry

The mission of the Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) is to support the faith and ministry development of Catholic students, faculty and staff at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and Sul Ross State University by offering theological reflection and pastoral care opportunities, including liturgies, retreats, confessions, and pastoral counseling as well as ministry training and faith formation.

Catholic Campus Ministry gives Catholic students a friendly and welcoming place to come and practice their faith as well as meet students who share their love of God and Church.

Between both campuses, CCM serves 2,000 students with activities that are not only limited to Mass and prayer services but include leadership training, retreats and allowing the students to be involved in social justice

projects. The students also take field trips and serve at diocesan events such as the annual Chrism Mass.

Catholic Campus Ministry promotes the goals of the Church’s mission in higher education and the goals of the Church’s mission of social action.



## Make Your Donation Today

Donations to the Bishop’s Ministry Appeal help ensure that we are able to serve our community of faith. Please make your donation today by visiting [www.progress2018.org](http://www.progress2018.org) or calling the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso at 915.872.8412.

# Conozca los Ministerios Sostenidos por sus Donativos a Progreso

## El Instituto Tepeyac

### Capacita a los Ministros Para su Parroquia

El Instituto Tepeyac es uno de los 17 ministerios que sostiene la Campaña de Progreso. Tepeyac fue fundado en 1988 y desde su fundación, este ha servido a más de 20,000 feligreses, a través de programas de formación y retiros. Como centro diocesano, se financia por medio de la Campaña Anual del Obispo, cuotas de cursos, subvenciones y un fondo en dotación.

El Instituto Tepeyac ofrece una variedad de programas de formación y certificación para

todo tipo de ministros, incluidos los de las parroquias y escuelas católicas, a un nivel diocesano. El propósito principal del Instituto es ayudar a las personas a discernir su don para el ministerio y ayudar a las parroquias en la formación de los ministerios necesarios. Las clases se ofrecen en inglés y español en el Centro Pastoral y en las parroquias de toda la Diócesis.

Algunas de las clases que se ofrecen incluyen la capacitación para:

- Catequistas para Bautismos, Primera Comunión, Confirmación, Quinceañeras y Preparación Matrimonial
- Ministros para Programas de Duelo Parroquial
- Programas de Liturgia de Música Parroquial
- Estudio de la Biblia en Español
- Programa de Formación Académica para Diáconos
- Instituto de verano para la certificación y el enriquecimiento personal.

## Ministerio Católico en Campus

La misión del Ministerio Católico en Campus (CCM) es apoyar la fe y el desarrollo ministerial de los estudiantes, profesores y personal católico en la Universidad de Texas en El Paso (UTEP) y la Universidad Estatal de Sul Ross, ofreciendo oportunidades de reflexión teológica y cuidado pastoral, incluyendo liturgias, retiros, confesiones y consejería pastoral, así como capacitación ministerial y formación en la fe.

El Ministerio Católico en Campus les brinda a los estudiantes un lugar amigable y acogedor para que vengan y practiquen su fe, así como también para que conozcan estudiantes que comparten su amor por Dios y la Iglesia.

Entre ambos campus, CCM presta sus servicios a 2,000 estudiantes con actividades que no solo se limitan a los servicios de misa y oración, sino que incluyen capacitación en liderazgo y retiros, además

de permitir a los estudiantes a que participen en proyectos de justicia social. Los estudiantes también toman excursiones y sirven en eventos diocesanos como la Misa Crismal Anual.

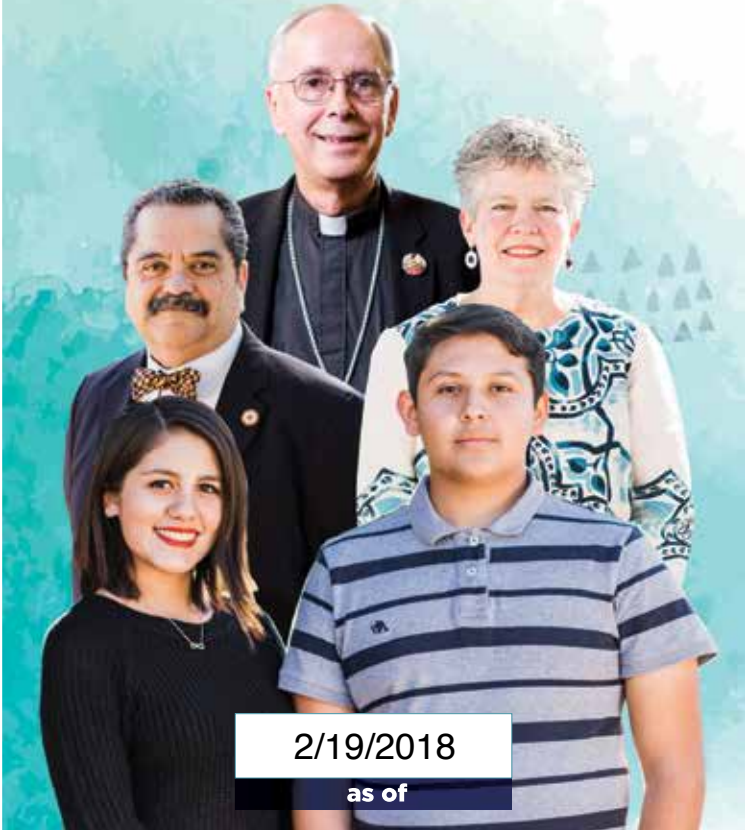
El Ministerio Católico en Campus promueve los objetivos de la misión de la Iglesia en la educación superior y los objetivos de la misión de acción social de la Iglesia.

## Haga Su Donación Hoy

Las donaciones a la Campaña Anual del Obispo para los Ministerio ayudan a garantizar que podamos servir a nuestra comunidad de fe. Haga su donación hoy mismo visitándonos en: [www.progress2018.org](http://www.progress2018.org) o llamando a la Fundación para la Diócesis de El Paso al 915.872.8412



\$	2,200,000	goal
\$	370,660	pledge
\$	157,032	paid




2/19/2018

as of



# Alumni Give Back to Cathedral High School

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



CATHEDRAL  
HIGH SCHOOL

parochial school in 1924 and in 1925 the Christian Brothers came to El Paso from Louisiana to run the high school for boys after Mother Praxedes suggested the girls be moved to the newly opened Loretto Academy. On September 8, 1925, the

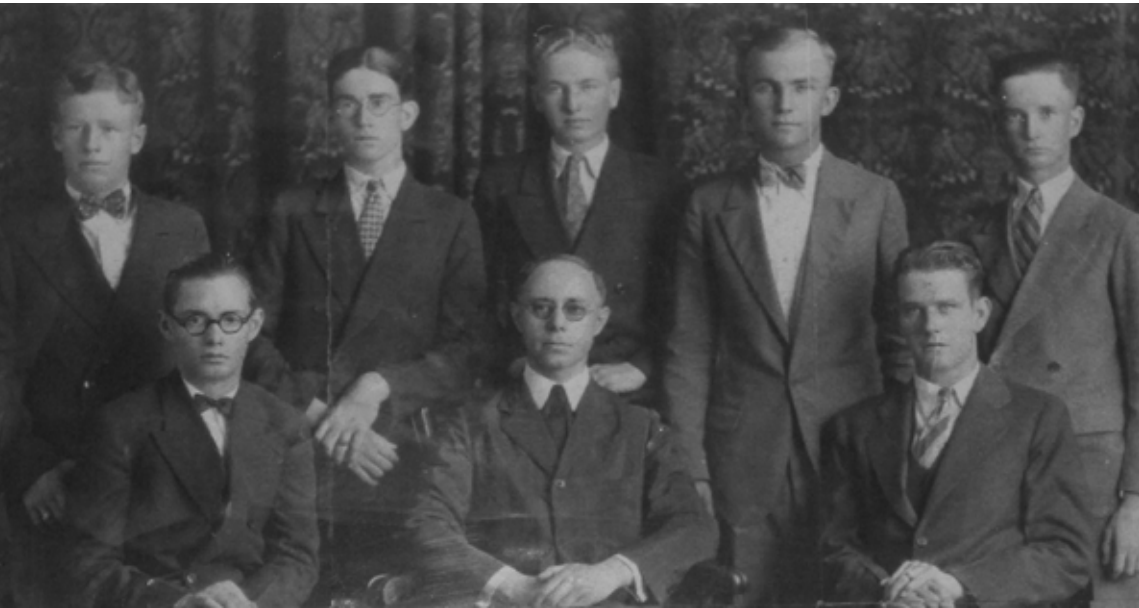
If you’ve ever met a Cathedral High School graduate, you know that their love for Cathedral and their Cathedral brothers is boundless. They also have a great desire to give back to the school that formed them.

St. Patrick Cathedral School was built in 1921 in conjunction with “the Community Center” under the direction of Father Malachy O’Leary, the new rector at St. Patrick Cathedral. The building was constructed on the corners of River and Stanton Streets and housed 16 classrooms, a roof garden used for dances and movies, playgrounds, an indoor swimming pool and running track, gym, and a theater. It was consecrated by Bishop Anthony J. Schuler, S.J., in 1923. The Sisters of Loretto opened the co-ed

renamed Cathedral High School opened with forty-five boys and was run by Principal Brother Ernest Cocagne, FSC, Brother Edward Bernard, FSC and Brother Charles Frieden, FSC. Cathedral’s graduated its first class of seven men in 1927 and by 1933 the enrollment had grown to 200.

It is said that the Cathedral High School Alumni Association was established by the first graduating class in 1928.

Today, the Cathedral High School Alumni Association seeks to continue the tradition of Lasallian brotherhood and leadership by bringing alumni together, recognizing the achievements of the alumni community, and raising scholarship funds for deserving and committed students. Their



Cathedral High School’s first graduating class of just seven young men in 1927

mission is “to bring alumni back home—in body and in spirit—to the school that helped shape the men we are today.”

The Cathedral High School Alumni Association meets on the first Saturday of every month. They begin their gatherings with breakfast and prayer at 8:30am



Cathedral High School’s Gates Millennium Scholars pose with Chief Justice Richard Barajas (Ret.)

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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

### Cementerio de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo


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

### Facilities and Services

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

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

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



401 S. Zaragoza Rd \* Ph. 860-0606

One in a series of informational presentations

who would not otherwise be able to attend Cathedral High School. To learn more about the Catholic Foundation’s work and to donate easily and securely to the Cathedral High School Alumni Association or to become a Friend of the Foundation by making a recurring gift, visit [elpasodiocesefoundation.org](http://elpasodiocesefoundation.org). You can reach Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin directly at [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org) or 915.872.8412 with any questions.

Cathedral High School is a Catholic college preparatory school conducted in the three-century old Lasallian tradition begun by Saint John Baptist De la Salle to give a human and Christian education to the young by observing five core principles: Faith in the presence of God, concern for the poor and social justice, respect for all persons, a quality education, and an inclusive community. Br. Nick Gonzalez, FSC, a 1980 Cathedral High School graduate, serves as president of the school.

Cathedral’s graduating classes have earned upwards of \$10 million in scholarships and financial aid annually from colleges and universities since 2010. The Class of 2016

received an astronomical \$41 million, a city record. Cathedral High School has been designated as the high school with the most Gates Millennium Scholars in history with 59, and for three years in a row—2014 through 2016—set or tied the national record for most Gates Millennium Scholars in a year.

For more information about Cathedral High School visit [cathedral-elpaso.org](http://cathedral-elpaso.org) or call 915.532.3238. If you’re interested in joining the Cathedral High School Alumni Association, just attend any of the Saturday meetings and speak to one of the members about getting involved.

**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. Visit our website at [elpasodiocesefoundation.org](http://elpasodiocesefoundation.org).**



# What’s It All About?

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

It was during a very busy afternoon twenty-five years ago working another 12-hour day as a supervisor hiring mostly factory workers at a Kelly Services branch on the east side of El Paso when someone calling in on one of our 10 phone lines asked, “What’s it all about?” No Hello, I was wondering, or What is Kelly Services? These were the days when instead of



Sister María de Jesús Munguía  
President, Father Yermo Schools

answering hundreds of emails a day, we talked to employees and customers until our ears burned from hours of having the receiver pressed to the sides of our heads. It was the busiest Kelly branch in the nation, the telephone rang nonstop, and we had to work and act quickly. I have to admit that at first I was a little irritated. What does that even

mean? But as I thought about it, I realized just how brilliant and all-encompassing the question actually was. You can ask yourself this in relationship to just about anything—what does our organization do, how does God want us to use our gifts, why are we here, what is our role, how can we better serve, how does our faith drive our personal and professional lives...What’s it all about?

The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is an independent 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization established in 2001 to support the growing needs of the Catholic community. It did not begin with a large gift or a bequest, it started with an idea to create a Catholic Foundation, an idea driven by the desire to provide for the Church for generations to come. What the Foundation has today has essentially been raised one dollar and one gift at a time. The Foundation supports the annual and long-term needs of the parishes, schools, ministries and charities of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, which includes 55 parishes, 20 missions and 17 ministries in 10 counties of far West Texas. Since 2001, the Foundation has raised \$14 million for endowment, raises approximately \$2 million each year through the Progress Appeal and \$1 million annually from outside grants. What’s it all about? It’s about continually supporting the growing needs of the Catholic community inviting you to be a part of making an idea a

reality.

Today, the Foundation manages five programs. The Catholic Legacy Fund is the Foundation’s endowment program—the Foundation manages 87 separate permanent, endowed funds—the Foundation also manages Progress, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal which provides operational funds for 17 diocesan ministries, and the Grants Development Office which seeks foundation and corporate grants for ministries, schools, and parishes. In addition, there is the Foundation’s Scholarship Program, which supports the education of Foundation Scholars every year. For the 2017-2018 school year, the Foundation awarded 186,775 to 81 students. Finally, and at the heart of all we do, the Foundation promotes Stewardship as a way of life and the principles “Pray, Serve, Give” through training and materials for schools and parishes.

So What’s it all about for you? What do you want your legacy to be and how can we help realize that? The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is your partner in charitable giving. Contact us by phone. Visit our website. We can answer questions, walk you through the establishment of an endowed fund, provide you with information on ways to give to your charity, ministry, parish, or school, share resources on topics as varied as the changing tax laws to end of life decisions, and



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

discuss your desire to leave a gift in your will. No gift is too small! Remember, the Catholic Legacy Fund has grown to over \$14 million one gift at a time.

I’m in my 5th year as the major gifts officer at the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso. I’ve had incredible opportunities to work on major gifts, planned gifts, development, events, and communication. Our donors are generous, loyal, and faithful, and I spend a lot of time thinking about how to best guide them through the giving process, how to help them honor their loved ones and leave a legacy, and how to inspire donors to give and

continue giving. If you’ve never read McDonald’s 10 Commandments, take a look some time. My favorite is #3: A customer is not an interruption of our work, he’s the purpose of it. You are the reason I’m here.

**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. Visit our website at [elpasodiocesefoundation.org](http://elpasodiocesefoundation.org).**

**Photo Credits: Joe Najera & Alejandra Saldaña**



## Leave Your Legacy

Our Catholic faith is very important to us. The Catholic Legacy Fund was established to help Catholics pass along their faith to future generations through endowment funds and planned gifts. Here are a few reasons for leaving your legacy with the Catholic Legacy Fund.

- Flexibility to donate your funds to your charitable interests
- No out-of-pocket expenses to establish or maintain an endowment fund
- Sound financial management
- Protection and fulfillment of donor intent
- Access to the Catholic Legacy Fund’s professional staff for guidance on charitable giving
- Savings on administrative, investment management, and grant activity costs since funds are combined into larger pools
- Fewer restrictions and less paperwork than other private foundations
- Tax benefits: Cash contributions are fully deductible. Gifts of appreciated securities and/or property are deductible.
- No capital gains taxes on gifts of appreciated securities and/or property.
- Satisfaction of knowing your charitable interests will be supported for generations to come



## Way To Give

The Foundation established the Catholic Legacy Fund to help individuals and families

### Ways To Give

- Bequest
- Appreciated Securities
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Life Insurance
- Real Property
- Retirement Plans

within our parish community create a legacy for the Church. The Foundation accepts gifts and pledges of current assets and planned gifts including life insurance, charitable gift annuity, appreciated securities, retirement plans, real property, and charitable remainder trusts.

Donors can create a Named Fund with a minimum contribution of \$10,000 over a five-year period. Donors may designate their gifts to the ministry, parish or school

of their choice.

El Paso’s Catholic Foundation makes a measurable impact on the lives of thousands of people in our community and we have our donors to thank for that. Join us for the remaining 2018 planned giving seminars. They are free and open to the public.

An Evening with the Bishop: Faithful Stewards of God’s Gifts seminars are set for Monday, April 9 at Most Holy Trinity Parish from



6-8pm, Monday, November 26 at St. Matthew Parish from 6-8pm, and on Monday, November 19, Our Lady of Peace in Alpine from 6-8pm

**For more information contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at 915.872.8412 or [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org).**

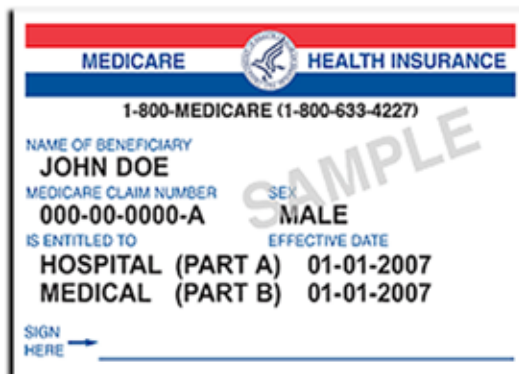


# Increase your monthly Social Security check by **\$104.90** or more!

If you qualify for the Medicare Savings Program you may be eligible to have your **PART B** premium back and paid by the state. Depending on when you took **PART B** you could increase your Social Security check up to \$134.00 a month.

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**Single under \$1,357**  
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**Rome - Lourdes - Fatima  
 Barcelona & More**  
**October 1 - 12, 2018**  
**\$4,446 Per Person**

Vatican City - Papal Audience  
 Sagrada Familia - Lourdes Baths  
 Trevi Fountains - Spanish Steps +  
**Fr. Allan Alaka**



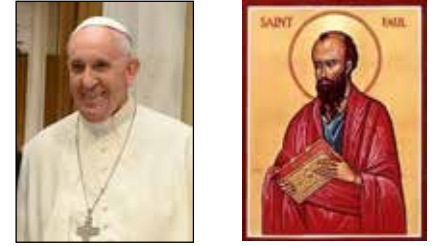
**Rome & Southern Italy**  
 Includes Papal Audience  
**Sept. 17 - 27, 2018**  
**\$4,299 Per Person**

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



**Greece & Rome**  
 Featuring the Steps of St. Paul  
**Sept. 18 - 27, 2018**  
**\$3,698 Per Person**

Thessaloniki - Philippi - Corinth  
 Delphi - Athens - Rome  
 Papal Audience & Vatican City  
**Fr. Saul Pachec & Fr. Mariano Lopez**



**Wonders of Egypt**  
 Includes Nile River Cruise  
**October 14 - 23, 2018**  
**\$3,295 Per Person**

Cairo - Luxor - Aswan - Nile River  
 Egyptian Museum - Pyramids  
 Tutankhamun's Tomb - Sphinx  
**Round Trip Air NOT Included**  
**This is NOT a pilgrimage.**



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 Markets River Cruise**  
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*"The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only one page".*

- Saint Augustine

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