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THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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Diocese Mourns Loss of Beloved Retired Priest

By Fernie Cenicerros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

The Reverend Monsignor David Gallego Fierro, 71, retired priest of the Diocese of El Paso was received into eternal life on Thursday, November 25, 2021. Msgr. Fierro, a native of Alpine, was born on February 18, 1950 to his father, †Mr. David H. Fierro and his mother †Mrs. Elodia Gallego Fierro.

Msgr. Fierro began his formation at St. Charles Seminary in El Paso. He then completed his priestly studies for major seminary at the Josephinum Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Sidney Metzger, STD, JCD (Bishop of El Paso from 1942-1978) on June 19, 1976. In his 45 years of priesthood, Msgr. Fierro served as Chancellor of the Diocese of El Paso, Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, Rector of St. Charles Seminary, Vocations Director, and pastor of many parishes around the Dis of Santa Rosa de Lima, Mother Cabrini, St. Matthew and Our Lady of the Light. Msgr. Fierro retired from active ministry in June of 2021.

Msgr. Fierro is survived by his brother-in-law Manuel T. Hernandez; nieces Sylvia Yanez and husband Frank, Lori Iverson and husband Christopher, Monica Fierro, and Anna Fierro; nephew Larry Hernandez of Midland. A very dear friend Ben Favela and family of El Paso. Great-nieces: Iliana Yanez, Lily Acosta, Izabella Fierro-Bolivar and Amelia Fierro-Bolivar. Great nephews: David Acosta, Javier Yanez, Orlando Yanez, and David Yanez; as well as many cousins from Texas and California.

Msgr. Fierro is preceded to eternal life by his Father, †Mr. David H. Fierro, his mother, †Mrs. Elodia Gallego Fierro, and his siblings, †David H. Fierro, Jr, †Fred G. Fierro, and †Evangelina Hernandez and niece Norma Jean Hernandez.



The Reverend Monsignor David Gallego Fierro, 71, retired priest of the Diocese of El Paso was received into eternal life on Thursday, November 25, 2021. Msgr. Fierro, a native of Alpine, was born on February 18, 1950 to his father, †Mr. David H. Fierro and his mother †Mrs. Elodia Gallego Fierro. *Photo Courtesy Diocesan Archives*

La Diócesis Lamenta La Pérdida Un Querido Sacerdote

Por Fernie Cenicerros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

El Reverendo Monseñor David Gallego Fierro, de 71 años, sacerdote retirado de la Diócesis de El Paso fue recibido en la vida eterna el jueves 25 de noviembre de 2021. Monseñor Fierro, nativo de Alpine, nació el 18 de febrero de 1950 de su padre, †Sr. David H. Fierro y su madre †Sra. Elodia

Gallego Fierro. Monseñor Fierro comenzó su formación en el Seminario San Carlos de El Paso. Luego completó sus estudios sacerdotales para el seminario mayor en el Seminario Josephinum en Columbus, Ohio. Fue ordenado sacerdote por el Obispo Sidney Metzger, STD, JCD (Obispo de El Paso de 1942 a 1978) el 19 de junio de 1976. En sus 45 años de

sacerdocio, Monseñor Fierro sirvió como Canciller de la Diócesis de El Paso, Rector de la Catedral de San Patricio, Rector del Seminario de San Carlos, Director de Vocaciones, y párroco de muchas parroquias en torno al Dis de Santa Rosa de Lima, Madre Cabrini, San Mateo y Nuestra Señora de la Luz. Monseñor Fierro se retiró del ministerio activo en junio de 2021.

A Monseñor Fierro le sobreviven su cuñado Manuel T. Hernández; sus sobrinas Sylvia Yáñez y su esposo Frank, Lori Iverson y su esposo Christopher, Mónica Fierro y Anna Fierro; su sobrino Larry Hernández de Midland. Un amigo muy querido Ben Favela y familia de El Paso. Sobrinas nietas: Iliana Yanez, Lily Acosta, Izabella Fierro-Bolivar y Amelia Fierro-Bolivar. Sobrinos nietos:

David Acosta, Javier Yáñez, Orlando Yáñez y David Yáñez; así como muchos primos de Texas y California. Monseñor Fierro es precedido a la vida eterna por su Padre, †Sr. David H. Fierro, su madre, †Sra. Elodia Gallego Fierro, y sus hermanos, †David H. Fierro, Jr, †Fred G. Fierro, y †Evangelina Hernández y su sobrina Norma Jean Hernández.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Faith of a Child

When I was 8-9 years old, I remember having a sleepover at my aunt's house on Christmas Eve. I distinctly remember my high anxiety because I wasn't home, and my thinking was, "How would Santa know where I am?"

My parents knew all too well what I was worried about, would then tell me what all parents, I'm sure, say to their kids. "Don't worry, Santa knows you're here, and he'll bring your gifts here."



Fernie Cenicerros

For me, that was enough. I had faith that he would know exactly

where to deliver my game-sized NFL football. Enough said, time for bed. And sure enough, the following day, Santa knew where to find me, and the football was all mine.

Fast forward almost 40 years to where I am today, the parent being asked the tough questions. Like, "Dad, why is there a star on the picture before Jesus is born, isn't that supposed to be how the wise men find the baby?" Which begs the question

in my mind, what do I say? It's such a daunting responsibility. But whenever a problem like this presents itself, sometimes it's just ok to smile and appreciate the simplicity of her thinking and say, "That's how Joseph and Mary find the Inn." And happily, she accepts my explanation.

It has become abundantly clear now as a parent why Jesus says to his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter

the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me." (MT 18:2-6).

So this Christmas, I would like to invite you to receive the newborn Jesus with the faith of a child. For me, it has been an absolute joy to experience that kind of faith through my young daughter.

La Fe de Un Niño



Cuando tenía entre 8 y 9 años, recuerdo que me quedé a dormir en casa de mi tía en Nochebuena. Recuerdo claramente mi gran ansiedad porque no estaba en casa, y mi pensamiento era: "¿Cómo sabrá Santa Claus dónde estoy?"

Mis padres sabían muy bien lo que me preocupaba, entonces me decían lo que todos los padres, estoy seguro, dicen a sus hijos.

"No te preocupes, Papá Noel sabe que estás aquí y te traerá tus regalos". Para mí, eso era suficiente. Tenía fe en que él sabría exactamente dónde entregar mi balón de fútbol de la NFL del tamaño de un juego. Suficiente, hora de dormir. Y, efectivamente, al día siguiente, Papá Noel sabía dónde encontrarme, y el balón era todo mío.

Avancemos casi 40 años y

hoy soy el padre al que le hacen las preguntas difíciles. Como: "Papá, ¿por qué hay una estrella en la imagen antes de que nazca Jesús, no se supone que es así como los reyes magos encuentran al bebé?". Lo que me lleva a preguntarme qué debo decir. Es una responsabilidad tan desalentadora. Pero cuando se presenta un problema como éste, a veces está bien sonreír y apreciar la

simplicidad de su pensamiento y decir: "Así es como José y María encuentran la posada". Y felizmente, ella acepta mi explicación.

Ahora, como padre, está muy claro por qué Jesús dice a sus discípulos: "Os aseguro que si no os convertís en niños, no entraréis en el Reino de los Cielos. El que se humilla como este niño es el mayor en el reino de los

cielos. Y el que recibe a un niño como éste en mi nombre, me recibe a mí". (MT 18,2-6).

Por eso, en esta Navidad, quiero invitarte a recibir a Jesús recién nacido con la fe de un niño. Para mí, ha sido una alegría absoluta experimentar ese tipo de fe a través de mi hija pequeña.

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INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

Lessons from Christmases Past

Don't get me wrong, I have always liked to receive gifts as much as the next kid. In my childhood I would begin to hint, in not so subtle ways, about the present that would make my dreams come true. But as I reflect back now upon Christmases past, I have to acknowledge that the gifts I received, as wonderful as they were, are not what I most remember. My best and most lasting memories have less to do with the joy of receiving than with the joy of giving.

In my youth my capital resources were very limited, but the group to which I wanted to offer gifts was extended and growing in number, with what eventually became nine brothers and sisters, not to mention parents, grandparents and friends. My desire to give far outpaced my ability. This was, after all, be-

fore the days of easy credit. It would require very careful planning, a few closeout sales and a miracle or two, to be able to cover everyone on my list. I discovered that the key to the success of the whole project was, through delicate negotiations, to come to mutually acceptable pacts with my brothers and sisters, parents and friends. I would go in with Steve for Mary's stuffed animal, with Cindy for Kathy's doll; all of us kids would contribute to Bob's fire truck. I regret that this all took place before the age of computers, because we could have used an excel spread sheet to work out the intricate complexities regarding who was part of what gift and how much they were committed to contribute. In the end, things always seemed to work themselves out and my limited dollars would

multiply like loaves and fishes so that the multitude of family members all had a gift under the tree with my name included in the "from" category. Always struggling to make ends meet, my parents would ominously warn us children every year, "We won't have many gifts under the tree this year." Inevitably by Christmas morning the floor surrounding the tree would be piled high with colorfully wrapped presents. On Christmas morning we children would be awake at the crack of dawn. We only waited that long because we had been told that the presents were not going to be opened until it was daylight. With great anticipation we would gather at the top of the stairs and peer down. No sight could have delighted us more than to see that vast array under the tree.



Bishop Mark J. Seitz



It seemed like our parents would never awaken. (I later learned that they had been up to the wee hours finalizing their preparations.) When the time finally came we practically flew down the stairs. Gathering around the tree we first recounted the Christmas story; then we sang a few carols. As anxious as we were we didn't begrudge the new-born Savior his time too much.

Then, one by one, gifts were selected and names announced: "To Patrick, from Mark, Sue and Cindy," etcetera. We all crowded around to watch with as much anticipation as if each present were our own. Surely Jesus smiled as once again on Christmas heartfelt gifts were lovingly given—and received.

Enseñanzas De Las Navidades De Ayer



No me malinterpreten, siempre me ha gustado recibir regalos tanto como al siguiente niño. En mi infancia empezaba a insinuar, de forma no tan sutil, el regalo que haría realidad mis sueños. Pero al reflexionar ahora sobre las Navidades pasadas, tengo que reconocer que los regalos que recibí, por muy maravillosos que fueran, no son lo que más recuerdo. Mis mejores y más duraderos recuerdos tienen menos que ver con la alegría de recibir que con la de dar. En mi juventud, mis recursos de capital eran muy limitados, pero el grupo al que quería ofrecer regalos era amplio y cada vez más numeroso, con lo que finalmente llegaron a ser nueve her-

manos y hermanas, por no hablar de padres, abuelos y amigos. Mi deseo de dar superaba con creces mi capacidad. Al fin y al cabo, esto ocurría antes de la época del crédito fácil. Se requería una planificación muy cuidadosa, unas cuantas ventas por cierre y un milagro o dos, para poder cubrir a todos los de mi lista. Descubrí que la clave del éxito de todo el proyecto era, mediante delicadas negociaciones, llegar a pactos mutuamente aceptables con mis hermanos y hermanas, padres y amigos. Yo iría con Steve por el peluche de Mary, con Cindy por la muñeca de Kathy; todos los niños contribuiríamos al camión de bomberos de Bob. Lamento

que todo esto tuviera lugar antes de la era de los ordenadores, porque podríamos haber utilizado una hoja de cálculo Excel para resolver las intrincadas complejidades relativas a quién formaba parte de qué regalo y cuánto se comprometía a aportar. Al final, las cosas siempre parecían resolverse por sí solas y mis limitados dólares se multiplicaban como los panes y los peces para que todos los miembros de la familia tuvieran un regalo bajo el árbol con mi nombre incluido en la categoría "de". Siempre luchando por llegar a fin de mes, mis padres nos advertían ominosamente a los niños cada año: "Este año no tendremos muchos regalos bajo el árbol". Inevitablemente, en la

mañana de Navidad, el suelo que rodeaba el árbol estaba repleto de regalos envueltos en colores. En la mañana de Navidad, los niños nos despertábamos al amanecer. Sólo esperábamos ese tiempo porque nos habían dicho que los regalos no se abrirían hasta que fuera de día. Con gran expectación nos reuníamos en lo alto de la escalera y mirábamos hacia abajo. No había nada que nos gustara más que ver la gran cantidad de regalos que había bajo el árbol. Parecía que nuestros padres nunca se iban a despertar. (Más tarde supe que habían estado hasta altas horas de la madrugada ultimando los preparativos). Cuando por fin llegó el momento, prácticamente bajamos volan-

do las escaleras. Reunidos alrededor del árbol, primero contamos la historia de la Navidad y luego cantamos algunos villancicos. Por muy ansiosos que estuviéramos, no le negamos su tiempo al Salvador recién nacido. Luego, uno por uno, se seleccionaron los regalos y se anunciaron los nombres: "Para Patrick, de Mark, Sue y Cindy", etcétera. Todos nos apiñamos para observar con tanta expectación como si cada regalo fuera nuestro. Sin duda, Jesús sonrió cuando, una vez más, en Navidad, se entregaron y recibieron regalos con mucho cariño.



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Bishop Seitz Tapped To Head USCCB Committee On Migrants

By Christopher Velasquez
Staff Writer

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso was elected Chairman-Elect of the Committee on Migration and Refugee Services for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

“It was a beautiful affirmation of El Paso and the ministry of so many people here that have raised this issue to a visible place for us and also perhaps shown others around the country and even the world that a more generous, a more compassionate, a more gentle response in caring for those who arrive in the border is something that not only do we believe is willed by God but something that can be done,” Bishop Mark Seitz said regarding his election.

The Committee on Migration and Refugee Services works on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and sets broad policies and directions for the Church’s work in the area of migration. “When we speak of refugees in this context, we mean, in particular, those that have been in refugee camps in other parts of the world and who have been vetted through a long process. We have always taken a certain number of those who are unable to return home and unable to stay where they are; we have taken a number of those families and settled them in this country. It’s a task that the U.S. government has entrusted through contracts for many years to the Catholic Conference of



Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso was elected Chairman-Elect of the Committee on Migration and Refugee Services for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). *Photo Archive, Diocese of El Paso*

Bishops.” added Bishop Mark Seitz. The Committee takes on the role of overseeing and providing guidance to Migration and

Refugee services. Committee members and Migration Refugee Services staff periodically testify before

Congress and meet with Administration officials to advocate the bishops’ positions. Bishop Seitz will begin to

serve as Chair of the Committee on Migration and Refugee Services in November of next year.

El Obispo Seitz Es Elegido Para Dirigir El Comité De La USCCB Sobre Migrantes

By Christopher Velasquez
Staff Writer

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso was elected Chairman-Elect of the Committee on Migration and Refugee Services for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). “It was a beautiful affirmation of El Paso and the ministry of so many people here that have raised this issue to a visible place for us and also perhaps shown others around the country and even the world that a more generous, a more compassionate, a more gentle response in carrying for those who arrive in the border is something that not only do we believe is willed by God but something that can be done.” Said Bishop Mark Seitz regarding his election.

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Committee members and Migration Refugee Services staff periodically testify before Congress and meet with Administration officials to advocate the bishops’ positions. Bishop Seitz’s appointment takes office as President of the Committee on Migration and Refugee Services in November 2022.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Merry Christmas!

THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM,

“DO NOT BE AFRAID; FOR BEHOLD, I PROCLAIM TO YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.

FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU WHO IS MESSIAH AND LORD.” - LUKE 2: 10-11

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 Victim’s Assitance Coordinator, Mrs. Susan Martinez LCSW, at (915) 872-8465 or the Office of the Chancery, (915) 872-8407. The Church desires the healing of anyone that has been harmed.

La diócesis ofrece asistencia a las víctimas de abusos sexuales

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz invita a cualquier persona que haya sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o cualquier ministro de la iglesia, a contactar a la Coordinadora de Asistencia a las Víctimas, la Sra. Susan Martínez LCSW, al (915) 872-8465 o a la Oficina de la Cancillería, (915) 872-8407. La Iglesia desea la curación de cualquiera que haya sido dañado.

Annual Border Mass Honors Fallen Migrants and Provides Unity

By Christopher Velasquez
Staff Writer

The 24th Annual Border Mass celebrated this year at El Punto in Ciudad Juárez continued to remind us that Borders are places where we share each other’s journey. The long-standing tradition of the borderland diocese’s coming together to celebrate Mass arose from needing to honor and shed light on the numerous migrant lives lost attempting to cross into the United States. As it has become increasingly difficult for migrants fleeing dire situations to cross into the United States, the journey has become more dangerous, resulting in many deaths. Throughout the years, the Border Mass has coincided with All Souls Day, which commemorates the faithful departed on Nov. 2nd.

As the Border Mass has continued to generate attention over the years, participation has continued to grow, attracting faithful from various parts of the country who wish to stand united with their brothers and sisters across the border. Since 2003 the Border Mass has occurred with the permission of the Border Patrol and the borderland dioceses of El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM, and Juarez, Mexico. The location of the Border Mass has changed throughout the years, including its meaning as new challenges on the border continue to present themselves.

“The Border Mass came out of the reality of Migrants dying, and now we need to call for immigration reform and must denounce the anti-immigrant sentiment that exists.” Marco Raposo, Director of Peace and Justice at the Diocese of El Paso.

This year, the Border Mass had several faithful had several hundred participants from both sides of the border as well as a number



The Border Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D. Bishop of El Paso, the Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino, Bishop from Las Cruces, New Mexico and the Most Reverend José Guadalupe Torres, Bishop of Ciudad Juarez, who was the main celebrant. *Photo Courtesy of La Precencia*

of immigrants who are seeking refuge in the U.S. The Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz, D.D. Bishop of El Paso, the Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino, Bishop from Las Cruces, New Mexico and the

Most Reverend José Guadalupe Torres, Bishop of Ciudad Juarez, who was the main celebrant. “As a Bishop and a citizen of the United States, I ask for your forgiveness in my name and on behalf of my country. Because

we call ourselves a Christian country, but in reality, we are not acting in this manner here.” Said Bishop Mark Seitz during the Mass. The Mass was scheduled to take place in the middle of a

canal near the Santa Fe Street Bridge, which serves as a doorway between the U.S. and Mexico; however, present conditions did not permit it. Next year the Border Mass celebrates its 25th anniversary.

La Misa Anual En La Frontera Honra A Los Migrantes Caídos Y Proporciona Unidad

Por Christopher Velasquez
Reportero, Rio Grande Catholic

La 24ª Misa Anual de la Frontera celebrada este año en El Punto de Ciudad Juárez continuó recordándonos que las fronteras son lugares donde compartimos el viaje de los demás. La antigua tradición de la diócesis de la frontera de reunirse para celebrar la misa surgió de la necesidad de honrar y arrojar luz sobre las numerosas vidas de los migrantes que se pierden al intentar cruzar a los Estados Unidos. A medida que se ha hecho más difícil para los migrantes que huyen de situaciones graves cruzar a los Estados Unidos, el viaje se ha vuelto más peligroso, con el resultado de muchas muertes. A lo largo de los años, la Misa de la Frontera ha coincidido con el Día de los Difuntos, que conmemora a los fieles difuntos el 2 de noviembre.

A medida que la Misa en la Frontera ha ido generando atención a lo largo de los años, la participación ha seguido

creciendo, atrayendo a fieles de diversas partes del país que desean permanecer unidos a sus hermanos y hermanas al otro lado de la frontera. Desde 2003, la Misa Fronteriza se celebra con la colaboración de la Patrulla Fronteriza y las diócesis fronterizas de El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM y Juárez, México. El lugar de la Misa Fronteriza ha cambiado a lo largo de los años, incluso su significado, ya que se siguen presentando nuevos desafíos en la frontera. “La Misa Fronteriza surgió de la realidad de la muerte de los migrantes, y ahora tenemos que pedir una reforma migratoria y debemos denunciar el sentimiento antiinmigrante que existe”. Dijo Marco Raposo, Director de Paz y Justicia de la Diócesis de El Paso.

Este año, la Misa Fronteriza contó con la participación de varios fieles de ambos lados de la frontera que se reunieron para honrar a los migrantes que perdieron la vida en su viaje a través de la frontera. La Misa fue celebrada por el Reverendo Mark J.

Seitz, D.D. Obispo de El Paso, el Reverendo Peter Baldacchino, Obispo de Las Cruces, Nuevo México y el Reverendo José Guadalupe Torres, Obispo de Ciudad Juárez, quien fue el celebrante principal. “Como Obispo y ciudadano de los Estados

Unidos, les pido perdón en mi nombre y en nombre de mi país porque nos llamamos un país cristiano, pero en realidad, aquí no actuamos así”. dijo el obispo Mark Seitz durante la misa. Estaba previsto que la Misa tuviera lugar en medio de un ca-

nal nuevo del puente de la calle Santa Fe, que sirve de puerta entre Estados Unidos y México; sin embargo, las condiciones actuales no lo permitieron. El año que viene la Misa de la Frontera celebra su aniversario.

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The Migrant Holy Family

By **Abi Ray**
Hope Border Institute

This Advent season, we are invited to contemplate the migrant experience of the Holy Family.

Yes, Jesus, Mary and Joseph were migrants.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn that King Herod of Egypt set out to kill the newborn Messiah, Jesus. In order to save their child’s life as well as their own, Mary and Joseph fled Egypt towards Galilee.

Mary and Joseph feared for their family. They feared persecution and needed to escape.

The story of the Holy Family’s flight to Egypt fleeing persecution is a reminder that families continue to live in dangerous and life threatening situations today. Just as the Holy Family was searching for safety, so do millions of people throughout the world today.

According to the United Nations, there are over 82 million people across the world who were forcibly displaced in 2021. This number includes individuals and families forced to relocate within their own country, people who were granted refugee status as well as those seeking asylum in other countries.

The Holy Family’s journey to Egypt also helps us to think in a new way about the families that have come from afar and are

now residing in Ciudad Juárez and other border cities across the southern United States. These families are asking for assistance, kindness and mercy.

By contemplating the struggles of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, we can come to recognize the parallels between the Holy Family and migrants at our doors today.

In his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis speaks of a love that “impels us towards universal communion”.

Love, given to us through the Holy Spirit, gives us an ability to be open to the stories and needs of others. This gift of grace, freely given by God, connects us all.

The Holy Spirit pushes us to a universal human fraternity, deepens our appreciation of mercy, and helps us think about how we might respond to those living the drama of forced migration today as it was lived by the Holy Family.

This season of joy, let’s reflect on how we are given the gift of love and share that with others, especially our migrant brothers and sisters.

After all, Jesus, Mary and Joseph were migrants.

Abi Ray is the director of formation and engagement at the Hope Border Institute. For more ways to get involved, visit www.hopeborder.org.



Refugees La Sagrada Familia. *Print by Kelly Latimore*



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LIVING THE LITURGY

Advent A Time To Reflect On The Two Comings Of Christ



Fr. Michael Lewis, STL

For the first 24 days of December, the Church will be observing the season of Advent as it prepares to celebrate the great feast of the Incarnation, Christmas. But Advent is more than just an opportunity to ready oneself, one’s home, or one’s church before Christmas. Rather, Advent is about prayerfully acknowledging the two comings of Christ. It is a time of diligent preparation, watchful

hope, and joyous expectation.

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means “to come to.” It originally referred to the day when the pagan gods were thought to come to visit their temples or, later, the day when important officials would come to visit upon their accession to office. In a certain way, it still has vestiges of these original meanings, as we now call “Advent” our season of preparation before we celebrate the First Coming of the Son of God — when the Divine Word came to dwell among us, when the promised Messiah came and was born.

Yet, there is more to Advent than merely preparing to celebrate something that we’ve already celebrated before. For just

as we know of the First Coming of Christ as a baby born in Bethlehem, we also know of his promised Second Coming at the end of all time. This we call the *parousia*, which is the Greek translation of *adventus*. The *parousia* will mark the end of the present age, when Christ will appear in glory to judge the living and the dead, and the fullness of salvation will be complete. Since only the Father knows “the day or the hour” (Mk 13:32), Christ warns us in the Gospel of the First Sunday of Advent this year to remain watchful and vigilant. For if we are steadfast in faith, hope, and love, we need not worry when the Second Coming comes; rather we will be joyous that our redemption is at hand (Lk 21:28).

Advent, then, is when we recall the two comings of Christ and prepare our hearts two-fold — to devoutly celebrate his Incarnation, and to be ready when he comes again. The Gospel readings during the Sundays of Advent help to focus our reflection: The first Sunday, we are warned to keep watch. In the second and third Sundays, John the Baptist tells us to get ready. And in the fourth Sunday, we hear of the events that immediately prepared for the Lord’s birth. The First Readings support our preparation by recounting the prophecies that heralded the coming of the Messiah. And all our liturgical reading culminates in the seven days before Christmas, when our “expectant delight” reaches a crescendo as the cele-

bration of the Nativity becomes imminently near. Since Advent is a penitential season like Lent, one way we can actively participate in this time of preparation is with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is why so many churches have penance services this time of year. But, the most constant and consistent way we can celebrate Advent is by being “firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity,” as one of the season’s blessings prays. In this way, we will not only be ready to celebrate Christ’s First Coming in the past and be ready for his Second Coming in the future, we will readily herald Christ in the present in the way we live our lives.

Adviento Un Tiempo Para Reflexionar Sobre Las Dos Venidas De Cristo

Durante los primeros 24 días de diciembre, la Iglesia observará el tiempo de Adviento mientras se prepara para celebrar la gran fiesta de la Encarnación, la Navidad. Pero el Adviento es algo más que una oportunidad para prepararse uno mismo, su casa o su iglesia antes de la Navidad. Más bien, el Adviento consiste en reconocer en oración las dos venidas de Cristo. Es un tiempo de preparación diligente, de esperanza vigilante y de alegre expectación. La palabra “Adviento” viene del latín *adventus*, que significa “venir a”. Originalmente se refería al día en que se pensaba que los dioses paganos venían a visitar sus templos o, más tarde, al día en que los funcionarios importantes venían a visitarlos al acceder a su cargo. En cierto modo, todavía tiene vestigios de estos significados originales, ya que ahora llamamos “Adviento” a nuestra temporada de

preparación antes de celebrar la Primera Venida del Hijo de Dios, cuando el Verbo Divino vino a habitar entre nosotros, cuando el Mesías prometido vino y nació. Sin embargo, el Adviento es algo más que la mera preparación para celebrar algo que ya hemos celebrado antes. Porque, al igual que sabemos de la primera venida de Cristo como un niño nacido en Belén, también sabemos de su prometida segunda venida al final de todos los tiempos. Esto lo llamamos la *parusía*, que es la traducción griega de *adventus*. La *parusía* marcará el final de la era actual, cuando Cristo aparecerá en gloria para juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos, y la plenitud de la salvación será completa. Como sólo el Padre conoce “el día o la hora” (Mc 13,32), Cristo nos advierte en el Evangelio del primer domingo de Adviento de este año que permanezcamos vigilantes y atentos. Porque



si estamos firmes en la fe, la esperanza y el amor, no tendremos que preocuparnos cuando llegue la segunda venida, sino que nos alegraremos de que se acerque nuestra redención (Lc 21,28). El Adviento, por tanto, es el momento de recordar las dos venidas de Cristo y de preparar nuestros corazones en dos sentidos: para celebrar devotamente su Encarnación y para estar preparados cuando vuelva. Las lecturas del Evangelio durante los domingos de Adviento ayudan a centrar nuestra reflexión: El primer domingo, se nos advierte de que debemos vigilar. En el segundo y tercer domingo, Juan el Bautista nos

dice que nos preparemos. Y en el cuarto domingo, escuchamos los acontecimientos que prepararon inmediatamente el nacimiento del Señor. Las primeras lecturas apoyan nuestra preparación relatando las profecías que anunciaron la venida del Mesías. Y toda nuestra preparación litúrgica culmina en los siete días que preceden a la Navidad, cuando nuestra “expectación alegre” alcanza un crescendo al acercarse inminentemente la celebración de la Natividad. Dado que el Adviento es un tiempo de penitencia como la Cuaresma, una de las formas en que podemos participar activamente en este tiempo de prepa-

ración es con el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, razón por la cual muchas iglesias tienen servicios de penitencia en esta época del año. Pero, la manera más constante y consistente en que podemos celebrar el Adviento es siendo “firmes en la fe, alegres en la esperanza y eficaces en la caridad”, como reza una de las bendiciones del tiempo. De este modo, no sólo estaremos preparados para celebrar la Primera Venida de Cristo en el pasado y para su Segunda Venida en el futuro, sino que anunciaremos gustosamente a Cristo en el presente en la forma en que vivimos nuestras vidas.




HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. Cong Chi Vo	12/2
Fr. Jose Emilio Flores, OFM	12/5
Fr. Rolando Fonseca	12/3
Fr. Michael J. Gallagher	12/9
Fr. Victorino Lorezca	12/12
Fr. Jose Morales Feregrino OFM	12/18
Fr. Carl Quebedeaux, CMF	12/22

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Gleen Carpe	12/6/2014
Fr. Apolinar Samboni	12/6/2014
Fr. Juan Victor Gamino Trejo, MNM	12/8/1994
Fr. Francisco Herrera	12/11/1967
Fr. Allan Oluoch Alaka	12/14/2013
Fr. Antonio Mena	12/20/1981
Fr. Wilson Cuevas	12/20/1981



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Do Our Hearts Beat With God’s Love?



Janet M. Crowe

Ba-bum, ba-bum, ba-bum. Quickly and rhythmically, the key notes of a beautiful symphony echoed around the room. At the same time, the background melody – swish woosh, swish woosh, swish woosh – resonated in the small room, filling my heart with joy.

My husband and I gazed at each other as happy tears flowed from our eyes. It was true! Ba-bum, ba-bum, swish woosh, swish woosh. We were pregnant! Within my womb, an itty-bitty person’s tiny heart was beating and the blood was swooshing through the umbilical cord connecting this precious life to mine forever.

Moving the ultrasound wand, the doctor explained, “This is the sound of your own heart beating.” A slower but steady beat tapped out a typical tempo which struck me as odd since I felt like my heart was about to burst with delight. “And, once more,” continued the doctor, moving the wand again, “this is your baby’s heart beating at four times the rate of your own heart.”

“It sounds like a herd of zebras,” my husband whispered, in

an awed hush.

“Yes,” laughed the doctor, “the baby is developing so quickly and growing so much that his little heart is just tippy-tapping a happy little song for you.”

“His?” we asked together in surprise.

“Well,” the doctor winked and said, “I guess I should say either his or her heart because even from the moment of conception the baby is not an ‘it,’ but we’ll wait a while to find out that little surprise.”

Elated, we floated out of the office. We were only about four or five weeks pregnant. I had not even missed my second period. The baby was the size of a small pea, the petite pea variety. How could something so tiny fill our hearts with so much joy? I could hardly breathe; my heart was threatening to explode like fireworks in the sky. Little did we know that our initial excitement and joy was just a sample of the happiness and delight we would experience in the coming years.

Days and weeks passed. I treasured the moment at each doctor’s appointment when I would hear those amazing “ba-bum, swish woosh” sounds again. Before too long, we were able to feel and even see our baby moving, wiggling, leaping and hiccupping while still inside my ever-growing tummy. Those were magical moments. No, those were miraculous moments!

With our second child, the pregnancy experience was just as magical, but we also had the fun



of watching our young daughter’s innocent excitement. Laying her head upon my expanding tummy, she would listen for the baby’s heartbeat and talk quietly to him about how much fun they would have once he was born. Such wonder and awe on her angelic little face only increased my own amazement at the miracle occurring within my body.

As Christmas approached during my pregnancies, I often silently shared my joy with our Blessed Mother at being pregnant. Sometimes, as my baby somersaulted in my womb and sent me rushing to the bathroom, I thought there could not possibly be room for him or her to grow any more. Then I recalled the night of Christ’s birth when there was no room for Him in the local inns.

How stressful it must have been for Mary and Joseph as they searched for any type of lodging

so that Mary would be protected from the wind, the cold, the dust and the crowds. Today we are fortunate to have sterile birthing rooms where most children are born and mothers can obtain the care they need, safe from infection. Joseph must have been frantic in his search for a safe place for Mary to bring God’s Child into the world. Can you imagine his relief and yet severe disappointment to only be able to secure a barn and an animal feeding trough for the birthplace of the Son of God and his own foster son?

Joseph’s heart must have ached with sadness when no one would take his pregnant wife into their hearts and have pity on the struggling family. Imagine the rapid beating of Joseph’s heart as he was turned away time and again at every door he approached. Picture the anxious expression on his face as he turned to look at

Mary who probably gazed at him with encouragement and love even though she was experiencing the pains of childbirth. How Joseph’s heart must have broken with sorrow.

It is understandable that every lodging place was actually filled with travelers, but surprising when the innkeepers hardened their hearts against a pregnant mother in her hour of desperate need. Could they not have found a little bit of room in their hearts, just a corner in their establishments for this woman about to bring a child into the world? Or maybe, as in most stories in the Bible, “no room in the inn” reflects our own hearts and actions.

Over two thousand years later, do we have any room in the inn of our hearts? There are still pregnant women, babies yearning to be born, who need our help. Do our hearts beat quickly with joy at the upcoming birth of one of God’s children? Or are our hearts hardened against someone who needs help but is an inconvenience to our routine and our own comfort? Is there room today in our hearts for God’s child?

Ba-bum, ba-bum, swish woosh. A baby’s heart is beating with a melody more beautiful than any angelic choir. Do we hear God’s heart beating with love for this child? God’s heart also beats with hope that we will answer His call to open our hearts to His children in need. Will we?

New Cures from Embryonic Stem Cells?



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

A recent article in the New York Times by Gina Kolata chronicles the remarkable story of a patient who for many years suffered from type 1 diabetes. After receiving a newly-developed form of embryonic stem cell infusion, he became able to live insulin-free, apparently cured of his blood sugar imbalances.

It was largely a matter of time, funding and elbow grease before cures of this kind would start to appear. That makes it urgent for us, as a society, to confront and address the ethical questions arising in the wake of these up and coming therapies.

We can formulate the ethical question this way: Is it wrong to develop treatments that rely on the direct destruction of fellow human beings who are in their embryonic stages?

It should go without saying that it is always wrong to take the life of one human being to harvest body parts, even to save the life of another human being. Such medicine is fundamentally exploitative and immoral, and ought to be summarily rejected.

Many people are beginning to ask, however, whether receiving a treatment for diabetes developed from embryonic stem cells is really that different from getting vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine developed using abortion-derived cell lines?

The two cases are, in fact, quite different.

When it comes to abortion-derived cell lines and their use in developing some of the COVID-19 vaccines, the wrong that was committed involved taking somatic cells (not stem cells), such as kidney cells or retinal cells, from an aborted fetus and working them up in order to prepare a special “cell line” for use in research or vaccine development. The abortion, it should be noted, was not performed in order to obtain research material, and the evil of this “corpse raiding” was compounded by not having obtained valid informed consent.

What makes embryonic stem cell-based therapies ethical-

ly worse is that a very young human being, still in his or her embryonic stage of existence, is being targeted and intentionally killed in order to obtain the desired stem cells that stand at the center of that medical treatment.

Why, then, would it be morally allowable to receive a vaccine prepared using abortion-derived cell lines, but morally unacceptable to receive a diabetes treatment developed from embryonic stem cells?

Because the type of moral offense and its gravity are different in kind and degree. Directly killing someone to obtain their cells for treatment is different in kind and worse than the wrongdoing involved in taking cells from a corpse, even from a young human whose life was unjustly ended for an unrelated reason. It is always wrong to steal, even from a cadaver. But it’s much worse to kill in order to take.

In one case the researcher himself becomes the executioner who procures cells and tissues from the individual he has just directly and purposefully killed; in the other case, the researcher shows up at the morgue or the abortion clinic following the death, and procures cells or tissues from the individual’s body (with the death having occurred

at the hands of others and the researcher afterwards profiting from the resultant cadaver). This latter case would not raise ethical concerns at all if researchers were to derive the needed cells from a miscarriage instead of a direct abortion. If an unborn baby girl, for example, were to die of natural causes, her parents could validly grant informed consent for the use of tissues and cells from her body, in effect donating her body to science.

These kinds of distinctions are important, because receiving a diabetes treatment produced with embryonic stem cells signals a willingness on our part to tolerate the killing of younger human beings in order to benefit others who are older. Meanwhile, receiving a COVID-19 vaccine produced using abortion-derived cell lines does not indicate a willingness on our part to tolerate killing for research (since the killing was not done for research, but for some other unrelated motive), and instead indicates a willingness to tolerate cells and tissues that were unethically taken from a corpse.

Should we always avoid using therapies that are produced using embryonic stem cells taken from young humans who were killed in order to obtain the cells?

Yes, such therapies are unethical because killing one human being for the purpose of healing another crosses a fundamental moral line.

But the fact that the question is being raised reminds us of the slippery ethical slope that arises whenever we try to use parts of human beings derived from abortions: legally permitting abortion only makes the confusion worse. Hence, there is an urgent need to encourage the use of alternative, non-embryo-derived cell sources by researchers, including cells derived from miscarriages, adult stem cells, or embryonic-type alternatives such as induced pluripotent stem cells, which can be obtained by genetically manipulating adult human skin cells. These approaches open a path forward in the direction of ethical research and medical therapies.

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Dentro De Ti Esta El Secreto



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Busca dentro de ti la solución a todos los problemas, hasta de aquellos que creas más exteriores y materiales. Dentro de ti esta siempre el secreto; dentro de ti esta todos los secretos. El secreto de sanarte de las enfermedades, el poder de crear, la alegría de vivir, el sentido de las cosas que pasan dentro de ti o en tu entorno, la capacidad de pensar y decidir con liberta y con la verdad; el poder de perdonar y de reconciliarte con Dios y con los demás; la capacidad de amar, de servir y de ser generosos. Dentro de ti hay tendido todos los puentes. Están cortadas dentro de ti las malezas y las lianas que cierran los caminos.

“Todas las arquitecturas están ya levantadas dentro de ti. Pregunta al arquitecto escondido el te dará sus formulas. Antes de buscar el hacha de más filo, el piquete más dura, el taladro más fuerte, las palabras o decisiones más terribles, entra en tu interior y pregúntate... Y sabrás lo esencial de todos los problemas y se te enseña la mejor de todas las formulas y se te dará la nas solida de todas las herramientas. Y acertara constantemente, porque dentro de ti esta la luz misteriosa de todos los secretos” (Amado Nervo)

Después de un día extenuante, Fito, camina sin rumbo fijo y sin proponérselo termina llegando al atrio de una pequeña ermita,

donde un anciano sacerdote le está dando de comer a unas palomas. Saludo al sacerdote y se quedo observando cómo las palomas se lanzaban al vuelo en busca de las semillas. Me gusta alimentarlas; siempre están dispuestas a recibir, pienso que los hombres deberíamos ser como las aves. A que se refiere? Padre, pregunto Fito.

En esta ciudad somos un montón de desconocidos, donde mucha gente sufre por causas diversas: hambre, indiferencia, enfermedad, soledad, vicios, discriminaciones, escases de recursos económicos y muchas otras. Pero pocos son aquellos que emprenden el vuelo y tratan de cambiar sus vidas, pocos son aquellos que recogen la semilla divina para alimentar sus mentes, sus almas y sus corazones. El hombre de este tiempo sufre diversas enfermedades: La enfermedad de la indiferencia, de la apatía, del fracaso, del miedo y de los vicios, de la sexualidad desenfrenada, del odio, de la avaricia, de la falta de valores, de conciencia moral y ética y de tantas otras cosas que no le permiten encontrar el camino hacia la vida eterna. Y este es el resultado que la gente de hoy se pasa buscando la felicidad donde nunca la encontrarán.

Que es lo que me quiere decir con todo eso, Padre? pregunto Fito. A lo que el Padre le respondió: Fito, en ti existe un hombre feliz, lleno de amor, un ser con un potencial incalculable, solo tiene que buscarlo en tu interior e ir quitando todo aquello que no te permite ver con claridad tu verdadera esencia.

Y cuál es el secreto para descubrir mi verdadera esencia? pregunto Fito. Debes compren-



der que las riquezas no deben ser jamás el objetivo de tu vida. La verdadera riqueza es la que emana de tu corazón, la que brota de tus palabras y da vida a tus acciones y no la riqueza de tu billetera. Esfuérzate por ser feliz y procura con todo tu corazón encontrar la paz y la armonía con Dios y con todo lo que Él ha creado... Define los propósitos de tu vida, disfruta las cosas que más te gustan hacer, si te gusta cocinar, escribir, conversar, cantar, pintar, viajar o contar chistes... Conviértete en el mejor cocinero, en el mejor pintor, en el mejor conferencista...Toma riesgo; lo peor sería no intentarlo, porque si no lo intentas nunca sabrás de lo que estas hecho y lo que eres capaz de lograr. Inténtalo, toma riesgo, repetía el anciano sacerdote.

Como puedo saber que voy por el camino correcto? volví a preguntarle Fito. Lucha por

construir un mudo mejor con lo que tú haces. Sirve a los demás y todas las fuerzas del universo conspiraran para que alcances prosperidad y casi sin darte cuenta lo habrás logrado. En realidad, la única diferencia entre aquellos que han fracasado y aquellos que han triunfado reside en sus hábitos y pensamientos. Los buenos hábitos son la clave del éxito. Los malos hábitos son la puerta abierta al fracaso. Si estas obteniendo resultados negativos con tu actuar, cambia de camino, se creativo, actúa diferente. No existe una sola forma de hacer las cosas. Las justificaciones son solo para los fracasados y tú no eres un fracasado. No te justifiques cambias tus hábitos en todos los aspectos de tu vida: Cuerpo, mente y espíritu, dando un poco más. Da la milla extra en la carrera de la vida, sacando lo mejor de ti y descubre tu potencial infinito. Escucha y se curioso,

abre tu mente y experimenta nuevas posibilidades para alcanzar lo que deseas. Convéncete de lo que puedes lograr, material y espiritualmente conectado con tu conciencia y con Dios.

El anciano sacerdote dejo de alimentar a las palomas, cerro la bolsa de papel y la puso en las manos de Fito. Toma el riesgo y decide a triunfar en la vida, le dijo con una dulce sonrisa y dando la bendición, se despidió y con cierta dificultad para caminar se fue alejando lentamente. Quedaron resonando en la mente de Fito, las palabras de aquel anciano sacerdote: Lucha por construir un mundo mejor con lo que haces; persiste hasta vencer las dificultades. No te vayas a dormir hasta conquistar una victoria. Sueña con lograr lo imposible, porque para ti no existen límites. Si de algo estoy seguro, es que lo lograras!

The Secret Is Within Yourself

Seek within yourself the solution to all problems, even those that you believe to be the most external and material. Within yourself is always the key; within you are all the secrets. The secret of healing you from illnesses, the power to create, the joy of living, the meaning of things that happen within you or in your environment, the capacity to think and decide with freedom and truth; the power to forgive and to reconcile with God and with others; the capacity to love, to serve and to be generous. Within you there are all the bridges. The weeds and the vines that close the roads are cut within you.

“All the architectures are already erected within you. Ask the hidden master builder and he will give you his formulas. Before looking for the sharpest axe, the hardest pickaxe, the strongest drill, the most terrible words or decisions, go inside yourself and ask yourself.... And you will know the essence of all problems and you will be taught the best of all formulas and you will be given the most solid of all tools. And you will constantly get it

right, because within you is the mysterious light of all secrets” (Amado Nervo).

After an exhausting day, Fito walks aimlessly and without intending to, he ends up arriving at the atrium of a small hermitage, where an old priest is feeding some pigeons. He greets the priest and watches the pigeons take flight in search of seeds. I like to feed them; they are always ready to receive, I think that men should be like birds. What do you mean? Father, Fito asked.

In this city we are a bunch of strangers, where many people suffer from different causes: hunger, indifference, illness, loneliness, vices, discrimination, lack of economic resources and many others. But few are those who take flight and try to change their lives, few are those who gather the divine seed to nourish their minds, their souls and their hearts. The man of this time suffers from various diseases: The disease of indifference, of apathy, of failure, of fear and vices, of unbridled sexuality, of hatred, of greed, of lack of values, of

moral and ethical conscience and of so many other things that do not allow him to find the way to eternal life. And this is the result that people today spend their time looking for happiness where they will never find it.

What do you mean by all that, Father? asked Fito. To which the Father answered: Fito, in you there is a happy man, full of love, a being with an incalculable potential, you only have to look for it inside yourself and remove everything that does not allow you to see clearly your true essence.

And what is the secret to discover my true essence? asked Fito. You must understand that riches should never be the goal of your life. True wealth is that which emanates from your heart, that which springs from your words and gives life to your actions, not the wealth in your wallet. Strive to be happy and try with all your heart to find peace and harmony with God and all that He has created.... Define your life’s purpose, enjoy the things you like to do the most, whether you like to cook, write,

talk, sing, paint, travel or tell jokes? Become the best cook, the best painter, the best speaker... Take a risk; the worst thing would be not to try, because if you don’t try you will never know what you are made of and what you are capable of achieving. Try, take a risk, the old priest repeated.

How do I know I’m on the right path? asked Fito again. Strive to build a better world with what you do. Serve others and all the forces of the universe will conspire for you to achieve prosperity and before you know it you will have succeeded. In reality, the only difference between those who have failed and those who have succeeded lies in their habits and thoughts. Good habits are the key to success. Bad habits are the open door to failure. If you are getting negative results with your actions, change your ways, be creative, act differently. There is not only one way to do things. Justifications are only for failures and you are not a failure. Don’t justify yourself, change your habits in all aspects of your life: Body, mind and spirit,

giving a little more. Go the extra mile in the race of life, bringing out the best in you and discover your infinite potential. Listen and be curious, open your mind and experience new possibilities to achieve what you desire. Convince yourself of what you can achieve, materially and spiritually connected with your conscience and with God.

The old priest stopped feeding the pigeons, closed the paper bag and put it in Fito’s hands. Take the risk and decide to succeed in life, he said with a sweet smile and giving his blessing, he said goodbye and with some difficulty walking he slowly walked away. The words of that old priest echoed in Fito’s mind: Fight to build a better world with what you do; persist until you overcome the difficulties. Do not go to sleep until you conquer a victory. Dream of achieving the impossible, because for you there are no limits. If there is one thing I am sure of, it is that you will succeed!

Advent Calls for Hope and Generosity

By **Christie Rodriguez**
Captial Campaign Coordinator

As we continue preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ, the Gospel reminds us to reflect on the many blessings God has bestowed and to spread His love with the world around us. The Diocese of El Paso continues to embrace this through the We Are the Body of Christ campaign. As we lean into the Advent season, our campaign initiatives embody the candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Hope for the future of our Catholic community with the investment of Seminarian/ Diaconate Education and Formation; Peace among us as we share our Catholic Education and Religious Formation; Love for our brothers and sisters in need of our Parish Emergency Assistance funds; and Joy in Strengthening our Local Parishes. God is good and has provided each of us with so many gifts, it is our duty to be good stewards and to share our giftedness with those who need it most.

Parishioners across our Diocese have been incredibly generous as the We Are the Body of Christ campaign relaunched. In the last month, Fr. Ralph Solis at Corpus Christi church surpassed the parish’s campaign goal by 106%! To date, they have raised \$424,570 to support upgrades to their building including a new walk-in freezer and garden equipment. Without the support and transformational commitments from parishioners, families, and friends, Fr. Solis and Corpus Christi would not



have been able to achieve this incredible accomplishment. Another joyous moment to celebrate is both Our Lady of Assumption led by Fr. Mark Salas and St. Patrick Cathedral with Fr. Marcus McFadin at the helm, each raised more than \$100,000 during their respective commitment weekends! Funds raised will support extinguishing parish debts at Our Lady of Assumption and replacing rectory windows and parking lot upgrades at St.

Patrick Cathedral. We could not be more grateful for these sacrificial gifts and the love each parishioner has for one another and for their parishes. Please join us in congratulating Fr. Solis, Fr. Salas, and Fr. McFadin and thanking those for their devotion to strengthening our Catholic community.

Throughout our faith walk, we recognize the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we have been blessed with. To date, more than

4,500 parishioners and families have supported the campaign, raising more than \$11 million for our Catholic community. We are asking families to continue to share these gifts to not only reach our campaign goal of \$18 million, but to cement the future of our Diocese and support our meaningful ministries. Our West Texas region is filled with caring people, who the Holy Spirit works through, to bring Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy to the lives

they touch. On behalf of Bishop Seitz, the clergy, staff, and laity at the Diocese of El Paso, thank you for all you do for our faith community, the We Are the Body of Christ campaign, and for one another. We wish you a most blessed holiday season!



El Adviento Llama A La Esperanza Y A La Generosidad

A medida que continuamos preparando nuestros corazones para la venida de Cristo, el Evangelio nos recuerda que reflexionemos sobre las muchas bendiciones que Dios ha otorgado y que difundamos Su amor con el mundo que nos rodea. La Diócesis de El Paso continúa adoptando esto a través de la campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo. A medida que nos acercamos a la temporada de Adviento, nuestras iniciativas de campaña encarnan las velas de esperanza, paz, amor y alegría. Esperanza para el futuro de nuestra comunidad católica con la inversión de Educación y Formación de Seminaristas / Diaconados; Paz entre nosotros mientras compartimos nuestra educación católica

y formación religiosa; Amor por nuestros hermanos y hermanas que necesitan los fondos de Asistencia de Emergencia de nuestra Parroquia; y alegría en el fortalecimiento de nuestras parroquias locales. Dios es bueno y nos ha proporcionado a cada uno de nosotros tantos dones que es nuestro deber ser buenos administradores y compartir nuestros dones con quienes más lo necesitan.

Los feligreses de nuestra Diócesis han sido increíblemente generosos con el relanzamiento de la campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo. En el último mes, el P. Ralph Solis en la iglesia de Corpus Christi superó el objetivo de la campaña de la parroquia en un 106%. Hasta la fecha,

han recaudado \$ 424,570 para respaldar las actualizaciones de su edificio, incluido un nuevo congelador y equipo de jardinería. Sin el apoyo y los compromisos transformadores de los feligreses, familias y amigos, el P. Solis y Corpus Christi no hubieran podido lograr este increíble logro. Otro momento alegre para celebrar es el de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, dirigido por el p. Mark Salas y la Catedral de San Patricio con el P. Marcus McFadin al timón, ¡cada uno recaudó más de \$ 100,000 durante sus respectivos fines de semana de compromiso! Los fondos recaudados apoyarán la extinción de las deudas parroquiales en Our Lady of Assumption y el reemplazo de las ventanas

de la rectoría y las mejoras del estacionamiento en la Catedral de St. Patrick. No podríamos estar más agradecidos por estos obsequios de sacrificio y el amor que cada feligrés tiene el uno por el otro y por sus parroquias. Únase a nosotros para felicitar al P. Solis, el P. Salas y el P. McFadin y agradeciendo a todos por su dedicación al fortalecimiento de nuestra comunidad católica.

A lo largo de nuestra caminata de fe, reconocemos los dones de tiempo, talento y tesoro con los que hemos sido bendecidos. Hasta la fecha, más de 4,500 feligreses y familias han apoyado la campaña, recaudando más de \$ 11 millones para nuestra comunidad católica. Estamos pidiendo a las familias que continúen

compartiendo estos dones no solo para alcanzar la meta de nuestra campaña de \$ 18 millones, sino también para cimentar el futuro de nuestra Diócesis y apoyar nuestros ministerios significativos. Nuestra región del oeste de Texas está llena de personas bondadosas, a través de las cuales obra el Espíritu Santo, para traer esperanza, amor, paz y alegría a las vidas que tocan. En nombre del obispo Seitz, el clero, el personal y los laicos de la Diócesis de El Paso, gracias por todo lo que hacen por nuestra comunidad de fe, la campaña Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo y por los demás. ¡Le deseamos unas felices fiestas!

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Fraternity And Hope Are Keys To Finding Way Out Of Crises

By Robin Gomes
Vatican News Agency

During pandemics, our lives “are intertwined and sustained by ordinary people, who have undoubtedly written the decisive events of our shared history”: Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin made the observation in his homily at Mass on Sunday in the Cathedral of Verona, Italy, concluding the 11th Festival of the Social Doctrine of the Church. The November 25 to 28 Festival had as its the theme “Bold in hope - Creative with courage”.

Church’s social teaching

Later, in an interview with Vatican News, Cardinal Parolin referred again to the theme. One of the paths that instills hope is the Social Doctrine of the Church because it provides not only paths for reflection, but also “the criteria for judgement, indications, and operational guidelines” on which to move on issues that concern everyone. The Social Doctrine, he said, is a reference point not only to believers but also to non-believers because issues such as peace, jobs, development, civil and common life, and politics are areas of interest for everyone.

The pandemic

Speaking about living the season of Advent that has just begun, amidst the ongoing pandem-

ic, the Vatican Secretary of State spoke about the need for constant commitment and responsibility with regard to the vaccine and the search for the most suitable cures. However, “our efforts cannot be fruitful” except by “opening ourselves more and more to Him and to His coming, to His grace and to His power”. “Hence the twofold direction: man’s effort, which can never be lacking, but at the same time, relying on the Lord’s grace”.

Assisted suicide and suffering

The cardinal also expressed concern over the issue of euthanasia, or assisted suicide, in Italy, on which debate is hotting up after an ethics committee in the central Italian region of Marche gave its green light for what will be the country’s first legal assisted suicide case.

“Today we live in a society that is increasingly de-Christianized, where the reference to the infinite value of life is increasingly lacking... in addressing these issues.” He underscored the need for Christians to “insist on the anthropological vision of faith, which comes from the Gospel, which is a condition for safeguarding the dignity of every person”. “If we defend these values, it is because we are convinced that they are an indispensable condition for defending, promoting, protecting and developing the concrete



Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin made the observation in his homily at Mass on Sunday in the Cathedral of Verona, Italy, concluding the 11th Festival of the Social Doctrine of the Church. *Photo Courtesy Vatican News Agency*

dignity of every person... not the abstract person, but a concrete person”. This, he said, must be done above all through example.

Referring to Saint John Paul II’s Apostolic Letter *Salvifici doloris*, Cardinal Parolin stressed the need of doing good through suffering. Someone in pain, even one who is experiencing extreme suffering to the point of contemplating ending his or her life, he said, can give meaning to suffering. “If there is no meaning,

suffering is incomprehensible, suffering becomes unbearable”, he said

Vaccination

On being asked about anti-Covid-19 vaccination protests in Italy and elsewhere in Europe, the Vatican Secretary of State reiterated Pope Francis’ appeal to people’s “sense of responsibility”. “Many call for freedom”, the cardinal said, “but freedom without responsibility is empty; indeed, it becomes slavery”. He

said it is responsibility towards oneself because we see how the “No Vax” (no vaccination) people are affected by the disease. Above all, it is responsibility towards others, which the Pope beautifully described as an act of love.

Synodal process

Cardinal Parolin also addressed the issue of the ongoing two-year-long synodal process across the world that Pope Francis inaugurated on October 10. He said the Pope’s teaching provides precise indications so that we do not remain prisoners, or even victims, of the current climate of little hope and discouragement, but can take the situation in hand, always in the dynamic of “God’s grace and man’s effort, and move forward”. The cardinal said this involvement of the whole Church through listening, co-responsibility, and participation in her mission can be a very precise indication for dealing with the present time and for giving hope to our situations as well.

The Pope’s call to fraternity in his encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, he pointed out, is a fundamental indication at the level of society in general, as a way out of the crisis in which we find ourselves — because no one is saved alone.

La Fraternidad Y La Esperanza Son Las Claves Para Encontrar Una Salida A Las Crisis

Por Robin Gomes
Agencia de Noticias del Vaticano

Durante las pandemias, nuestras vidas “están entrelazadas y sostenidas por la gente común, que sin duda ha escrito los acontecimientos decisivos de nuestra historia compartida”: El Secretario de Estado del Vaticano, el cardenal Pietro Parolin, hizo esta observación en la homilía de la misa celebrada el domingo en la catedral de Verona (Italia), con la que concluyó el XI Festival de la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia. El Festival, celebrado del 25 al 28 de noviembre, tenía como tema “Atrevidos en la esperanza - Creativos con valentía”.

La enseñanza social de la Iglesia

Más tarde, en una entrevista con Vatican News, el cardenal Parolin volvió a referirse al tema. Uno de los caminos que infunde esperanza es la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia, porque proporciona no sólo caminos de reflexión, sino también “los criterios de juicio, las indicaciones y las orientaciones operativas” sobre

las que moverse en las cuestiones que conciernen a todos. La Doctrina Social, dijo, es un punto de referencia no sólo para los creyentes, sino también para los no creyentes, porque temas como la paz, el empleo, el desarrollo, la vida civil y común y la política son áreas de interés para todos.

La pandemia

Al hablar de la vivencia del tiempo de Adviento que acaba de comenzar, en medio de la pandemia en curso, el Secretario de Estado del Vaticano habló de la necesidad de un compromiso y una responsabilidad constantes con respecto a la vacuna y a la búsqueda de las curas más adecuadas. Sin embargo, “nuestros esfuerzos no pueden ser fructíferos” si no es “abriéndonos cada vez más a Él y a su venida, a su gracia y a su poder”. “De ahí la doble dirección: el esfuerzo del hombre, que nunca puede faltar, pero al mismo tiempo, contando con la gracia del Señor”.

Suicidio asistido y sufrimiento
El cardenal también expresó su preocupación por el tema de la

eutanasia, o suicidio asistido, en Italia, sobre el que el debate se está calentando después de que un comité de ética de la región central italiana de Las Marcas diera luz verde a lo que será el primer caso de suicidio asistido legal del país.

“Hoy vivimos en una sociedad cada vez más desecristianizada, donde la referencia al valor infinito de la vida está cada vez más ausente... a la hora de abordar estas cuestiones”. Subrayó la necesidad de que los cristianos “insistan en la visión antropológica de la fe, que proviene del Evangelio, que es una condición para salvaguardar la dignidad de toda persona”. “Si defendemos estos valores es porque estamos convencidos de que son una condición indispensable para defender, promover, proteger y desarrollar la dignidad concreta de toda persona... no la persona abstracta, sino la persona concreta”. Esto, dijo, debe hacerse sobre todo con el ejemplo.

Refiriéndose a la Carta Apostólica *Salvifici doloris* de San Juan Pablo II, el Cardenal Parolin

destacó la necesidad de hacer el bien a través del sufrimiento. Alguien que sufre, incluso quien experimenta un sufrimiento extremo hasta el punto de contemplar la posibilidad de acabar con su vida, dijo, puede dar sentido al sufrimiento. “Si no hay sentido, el sufrimiento es incomprensible, el sufrimiento se vuelve insostenible”, dijo


Vacunación

Al ser preguntado por las protestas contra la vacunación contra el cólera 19 en Italia y en otros lugares de Europa, el Secretario de Estado del Vaticano reiteró el llamamiento del Papa Francisco al “sentido de la responsabilidad” de las personas. “Muchos llaman a la libertad”, dijo el cardenal, “pero la libertad sin responsabilidad está vacía; es más, se convierte en esclavitud”. Dijo que es responsabilidad hacia uno mismo, porque vemos cómo los “No Vax” (sin vacunación) se ven afectados por la enfermedad. Sobre todo, es responsabilidad hacia los demás, que el Papa describió bellamente como un acto de amor.

Proceso sinodal

El cardenal Parolin también abordó el tema del proceso sinodal en curso, de dos años de duración, en todo el mundo, que el Papa Francisco inauguró el 10 de octubre. Afirmó que el magisterio del Papa ofrece indicaciones precisas para no quedar prisioneros, o incluso víctimas, del actual clima de poca esperanza y desánimo, sino para tomar la situación en sus manos, siempre en la dinámica de “la gracia de Dios y el esfuerzo del hombre, y avanzar”. El cardenal dijo que esta implicación de toda la Iglesia a través de la escucha, la corresponsabilidad y la participación en su misión puede ser una indicación muy precisa para afrontar el momento actual y para dar esperanza también a nuestras situaciones.

El llamamiento del Papa a la fraternidad en su encíclica *Fratelli tutti*, señaló, es una indicación fundamental a nivel de la sociedad en general, como salida a la crisis en la que nos encontramos, porque nadie se salva solo.

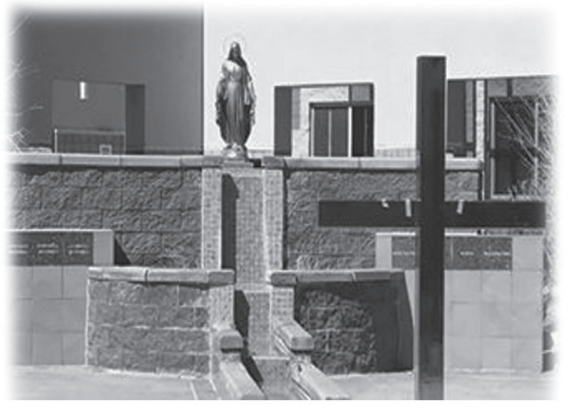


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2021 Mass Attendance Count Results

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

The annual Mass attendance count for the Diocese of El Paso was conducted on the weekends of October 16 & 17 and October 23 & 24 at all parishes, seminaries, monasteries, UTEP campus ministry and through various media outlets. This year, the annual Mass attendance count brings new data for the Diocese as the count includes numbers from livestreamed and televised Masses.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocese of El Paso opened new ways for evangelization as a number of parishes livestreamed weekly Masses on Facebook, YouTube, and local television channels. Virtual and televised Masses have definitely brought a new approach to the annual mass attendance count for the Catholic community. The CW and TV-Azteca which airs televised Mass on Sunday mornings, has reached more than 7,000 Catholics weekly.

“Despite the challenges that we faced in our Church due to the pandemic, the Diocese of El Paso continues to move forward by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to welcome back parishioners to a life of faith, prayer, and community in a prudent way that keeps everyone safe,” said Bishop Mark Seitz. “We



recognize that the re-engagement into church life is not simple and every parishioner is dealing with the pandemic at different stages, but it is also important to remind the faithful of the importance of returning to the Eucharist and being in the real presence of God.”
Average Results from the 2021

Mass Attendance Count for the weekends of October 16/17, and 23/24 including livestreamed and televised Masses:

Total attendees: 51,027
Masses in English: 21,854
Masses in Spanish: 21,311
Bilingual Masses: 1,111

Other Languages Masses: 625
Virtual and Televised Masses
Livestreamed Viewers: 5,876
Televised Audience: 7,338

Contact your local parish for their latest Mass schedule.
Parish contact information is available at www.elpasodiocese.org.

org
If you have any questions in regards to the Mass Attendance Count, please contact Karina Sandoval at ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org or at 915-872-8412.

Resultados Del Recuento De La Participación En La Misa De 2021

Por Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

El conteo anual de asistencia a misa para la Diócesis de El Paso se llevó a cabo los fines de semana del 16 y 17 de octubre y el 23 y 24 de octubre en todas las parroquias, seminarios, monasterios, ministerio del campus de UTEP y a través de varios medios de comunicación. Este año, el recuento anual de asistencia a las misas aporta nuevos datos para la Diócesis, ya que el recuento incluye cifras de las misas transmitidas en directo y

por televisión.
Debido a la pandemia del COVID-19, la Diócesis de El Paso abrió nuevos caminos para la evangelización, ya que varias parroquias transmitieron en vivo las misas semanales en Facebook, YouTube y los canales de televisión locales. Las misas virtuales y televisadas han aportado definitivamente un nuevo enfoque al recuento anual de asistencia a misa de la comunidad católica. La CW y TV-Azteca, que emite la misa televisada los domingos por la mañana, ha llegado a más de 7.000 católicos

semanalmente.
“A pesar de los desafíos que enfrentamos en nuestra Iglesia debido a la pandemia, la Diócesis de El Paso continúa avanzando por la guía del Espíritu Santo para dar la bienvenida de nuevo a los feligreses a una vida de fe, oración y comunidad de una manera prudente que mantiene a todos seguros”, dijo el Obispo Mark Seitz. “Reconocemos que la reincorporación a la vida eclesial no es sencilla y que cada feligrés se enfrenta a la pandemia en diferentes etapas, pero también es importante recordar

a los fieles la importancia de volver a la Eucaristía y estar en la presencia real de Dios.”
Resultados medios del recuento de asistencia a las misas de 2021 para los fines de semana del 16/17 y 23/24 de octubre, incluyendo las misas retransmitidas en directo y por televisión:

Total de asistentes: 51,027
Misas en inglés: 21.854
Misas en español: 21.311
Misas bilingües: 1,111
Misas en otros idiomas: 625
Misas virtuales y televisadas
Espectadores en directo: 5,876

Audiencia televisada: 7,338
Póngase en contacto con su parroquia local para conocer el último horario de misas.
La información de contacto de la parroquia está disponible en www.elpasodiocese.org
Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el recuento de asistencia a las misas, póngase en contacto con Karina Sandoval en ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org o en el 915-872-8412.



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A Legacy of Love

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

W.H. “Jack” and Dorothy Perryman spent their lives devoted to education and giving back. At the time of Dorothy’s passing at the age of 102 in 2019, she had designated close to \$800,000 to the Catholic Foundation in endowed gifts for Our Lady of Peace in Alpine and seminarian education.

Jack and Dorothy were not wealthy people but they lived simply, put money away for retirement, and made plans to support their favorite causes: the Catholic Church, the local Baptist Church, and Sul Ross State University.

Dorothy established an endowed fund for Our Lady of Peace in the 1970’s to ensure the financial future of the parish to which she had been so faithful. The endowed fund of \$113,000 was transferred to the Catholic Foundation in 2008 and renamed the Dorothy O. Perryman Fund for Our Lady of Peace Parish.

“I had good Catholic parents who saw that I received all my sacraments,” Mrs. Perryman recalled. “I love my church. Because we had no children, we decided to help the Catholic Church, the local Baptist Church and Sul Ross State University by setting up an endowment fund for each.”

In 2021, the Catholic Foundation received the incredible



W.H. “Jack” and Dorothy Perryman spent their lives devoted to education and giving back. At the time of Dorothy’s passing at the age of 102 in 2019, she had designated close to \$800,000 to the Catholic Foundation in endowed gifts for Our Lady of Peace in Alpine and seminarian education. *Photo Courtesy Perryman Family*

news that Dorothy left an estate gift of \$600,000 to establish the Dorothy O. Perryman Fund for Seminarian Education.

Jack and Dorothy moved to Alpine in 1944 to open a wholesale/retail gas business. It was not long before both were recruited into teaching. Dorothy would go on to work for the Alpine Independent School District as a teacher for 31 years.

Jack was a Sul Ross Associate Professor of Physical Education from 1947 to 1976.

The only daughter of six children, Dorothy graduated from Texas State College for Women (now Texas Women’s University) with a degree in Homemaking. She taught high school Home Economics, English, History and P.E. for three decades. She also coached girl’s basketball, win-

ning a district championship in only her third year of coaching.

Jack graduated from Texas Christian University and played on the undefeated 1938 football team that finished first in the nation. He coached the undefeated 1948 Tangerine Bowl Team (former Bonanza cast member Dan Blocker was a teammate), led his 1949 football team to the Aztec Bowl in Mexico City,

instituted the Sul Ross Driver Education Program, and founded the athletic academic scholarship program in 1982.

After retiring from teaching, the Perrymans enjoyed traveling across the United States and Canada with their iconic Airstream travel trailer in tow. Dorothy delighted in cooking, sewing, and quilting, and she spent many hours playing bridge with her dear friends at the Sunshine House.

Jack and Dorothy did not share a faith, but they did have a steadfast commitment to each other, to their chosen vocations, and to being good stewards of the gifts God had entrusted to them. They left behind not only dear family and friends, but legacies that will last forever.

The Catholic Foundation hopes everyone in the community will participate in the spirit of charitable giving. There is no minimum requirement to contribute to an existing endowed fund or to create a Named Fund. Gifts of any size are welcome, and are essential to the Catholic Foundation’s mission. Work with the Catholic Foundation today to leave your legacy.

If you are interested in legacy and planned giving, please contact Catholic Foundation Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at slarkin@catholicfoundationelpaso.org or (915) 872-8412.



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Seminars a Success

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

Close to 200 people attended the “We Need To Talk: Estate & End of Life Planning Seminar” at Queen of Peace and St. Raphael during the month of November. Experts in their fields gave their time to serve on the seminar panels. Pastors covered funerals and end-of-life decisions.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Father Allan Alaka for hosting us at Queen of Peace, and Father Tony Celino and the Health Ministry for hosting the St. Raphael seminar. A special thanks to Catholic Foundation Planned Giving Committee Chair, Andi Meece, for heading up the two events.

Glenn Davis, an estate planning attorney at ScottHulse Law Firm in El Paso and Las Cruces, Brian Farrish, a founding partner of High Ridge Wealth Management, and Dr. Carlos O. Viesca, an anesthesiologist and a deacon in the Diocese of El Paso, served at Queen of Peace. Attorney Charlie Madrid, Dr. Manny Alvarez, a St. Raphael parishioner and nephrologist, and Kiki Hernandez, an investment advisor with Independent Wealth Network, Inc. provided their input on the St. Raphael panel.

Talking about death and dying can be difficult and uncomfortable, but there is no conversation that is more necessary and profound. Fr. Ron Rolheiser says, “Your death is the last great gift to your family, your Church, and the world.”

The Catholic Foundation is a



Close to 200 people attended the “We Need To Talk: Estate & End of Life Planning Seminar” at Queen of Peace and St. Raphael during the month of November. Experts in their fields gave their time to serve on the seminar panels. Pastors covered funerals and end-of-life decisions. *Photo Courtesy of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso*

nonprofit community foundation established in 2001 committed to growing philanthropy in the Diocese of El Paso. We are local and dedicated to improving the community where you live. As your giving helps to better your community, everyone benefits today and in the future.

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Catholic Foundation to achieve your goals. You do not have to be wealthy to leave a legacy. Gifts in any amount are accepted.

For more information about leaving a legacy, and to request free estate and end-of-life planning resources, contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin

at (915) 872-8412 or slarkin@catholicfoundationelpaso.org. Join us for a seminar in 2022. They are free and open to the public.

“We are meant to give our lives for others, but we are also meant to give our deaths for them.” — Henry Nouwen

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In Cyprus Pope Francis Sheds Light On The Synodal Process

By Andrea Tornielli
Vatican News Agency

Speaking to the small, but vibrant, Catholic community in Cyprus on Thursday, Pope Francis offered some precious suggestions on the Synodal path that the universal Church has just begun. In recalling the attitude of St. Barnabas, Patron saint of the island, the Pope described his faith, equilibrium, and, above all, his patience.

When he was assigned to visit the new Christian community of Antioch, made up of new converts from pagan religions, the Apostle met people coming from another world, another culture and another religious sensitivity. They had an enthusiastic faith, but it was still fragile. However, Barnabas welcomed them, listened and waited. He knew how to wait .”or the tree to grow.” with the patience needed .”o enter into the lives of hitherto unknown individuals; the patience to accept what was new without rushing to judgment.” It was the .”atience of discernment that is capable of perceiving the signs of God’s work in every place.”

Above all, Pope Francis is struck by Barnabas’ patience of accompaniment, .”he patience to accompany and allow growth to occur.”without overwhelming .”he fragile faith of the newcomers by taking a rigorous



Pope Francis offered some precious suggestions on the Synodal path that the universal Church has just begun while speaking on synodality during his visit to Cypress in Early December. *Photo Courtesy of Vatican News Agency*

and inflexible approach, or by making excessive demands about the observance of precepts.”

The epochal changes we are presently living perhaps show some similarities with those times: are we not going through a time in which the proclama-

tion of the Gospel struggles to shed light on the .”ther worlds.”and .”ther cultures.”in which we are immersed?

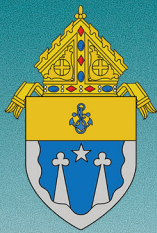
In the face of the old world crumbling down, we are tempted to yield to nostalgic attitudes, to complaining, or to dreaming of a Church that is

.”elevant.”in society as it used to be in the past. Pope Francis, instead, explains that amid the crisis of faith shaking Europe today, the Church should draw inspiration from Barnabas’ attitude and proclaim the Gospel anew with patience, especially to the new generations, through

the witness of mercy. The Church of patience is not static but is open to the unpredictable action of the Holy Spirit. It is not homologating, because it knows that the fundamental ground for any dialogue is the spiritual attitude of listening, that is, welcoming and making room for those with different sensitivities or views, valuing the richness of diversity that the Spirit brings back to unity. It welcomes others to make room for the Other.

It is a Church where discussions can be heated, but that does not divide. .”e argue not for the sake of fighting or imposing our own ideas, but in order to express and live the vitality of the Spirit who is love and communion. We may argue, yet we remain brothers and sisters.” just like it happens in any family, Pope Francis reminded the Catholic communities in Cyprus.

This is the path to follow so that the Synod doesn’t become the usual bureaucratic duty to be included in pastoral plans by default, or in religious marketing strategies - which are the modern version of proselytism - but an opportunity to experience fraternity. The Pope reminds us that .”e need a fraternal Church, one that is an agent of fraternity in our world.”



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Sept. 17 - Oct. 1, 2023 - From \$2,699pp



Mississippi River Cruise
May 14-21, 2023 - From \$2,299 pp



Australia & New Zealand Tour
Feb. 1-15, 2023 - \$6,949 pp



May God continue to Bless
your family and friends
during this Holiday Season
and through the coming year.

And to the Priest and Religious
of our Diocese; Thank you
for the loving care you give to
your Church family.

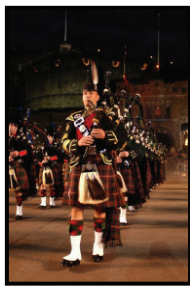
Merry Christmas!

Travel with Kerry

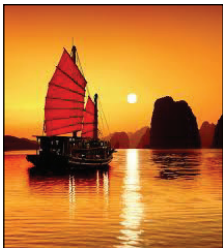
12653 Tierra Alzada Dr. El Paso, Texas 79938
915-591-4246 (Talk/Text) Kerry@TravelWK.com



**Paris to Normandy
River Cruise**
September 2024



**England - Scotland
w/Military Tattoo**
August 2024



**Mekong River Cruise
w/Vietnam & Cambodia**
November 2023



**Africa Photo Safari
Land Tour**
April 2024