

THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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Celebrating 30 Years serving the Diocese of El Paso

July 2021

Bishop Seitz and Others Meet With VP on Immigration

By Matt Hadro
CNA - Jun 25, 2021

The bishop of El Paso said the Church must work with the administration on issues that overlap, after attending an immigration roundtable with the vice president on Friday.

Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso was one of a number of local leaders who met with Vice President Kamala Harris (D) on her first trip to the U.S.-Mexico border on Friday, June 25.

"We know there are many areas in which we do not agree with positions taken by the administration. And those issues need to be discussed, no question about it," said Bishop Seitz told CNA in an interview following the meeting.

"But we also need to work with the administration and our legislators on areas where Catholic teaching and practice comes together with efforts that our government is making," he said.

Participating at the roundtable with Harris at El Paso International Airport were Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas), and members of faith-based groups that work with immigrants.

Harris mentioned policies of family separation, "inhumane" housing for migrants, and a "broken" asylum system, in comments during the portion of the meeting open to the press pool. "Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God," she said to Bishop Seitz, quoting Micah 6:8.

According to Bishop Seitz, advocates at the roundtable brought up "root causes" of migration to the U.S. in their meeting with Harris, as well as the administration's Title 42 policy which prevents asylum-seekers from entering the United States due to the pandemic. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on Thursday criticized "the misuse of Title 42 to turn away vulnerable asylum seekers."

"Right now, no one, no matter how desperate their situation, has a right even to make a claim for asylum at our border," Bishop Seitz told CNA of the Biden administration's continuation of existing Title 42 policy.

"That has to end," he said of the policy.

Migration, for many – especially from the "Northern Triangle" countries of Honduras, El Salva-



Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso was one of a number of local leaders who met with Vice President Kamala Harris (D) on her first trip to the U.S.-Mexico border on Friday, June 25. *Photo Courtesy of Hope Border Institute*

El Obispo Seitz Y Otros Se Reúnen Con El Vicepresidente Sobre La Inmigración

Por Matt Hadro
CNA - 25 Junio 2021

El obispo de El Paso dijo que la Iglesia debe trabajar con la administración en temas que se superponen, después de asistir a una mesa redonda sobre inmigración con la vicepresidenta el viernes.

El obispo de El Paso, Mark Seitz, fue uno de los líderes locales que se reunió con la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris (demócrata) en su primer viaje a la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos el viernes 25 de junio.

"Sabemos que hay muchas áreas en las que no estamos de acuerdo con las posiciones adoptadas por la administración. Y esos temas deben ser discutidos, no hay duda", dijo el obispo.

Seitz a CNA en una entrevista tras la reunión.

"Pero también necesitamos trabajar con la administración y nuestros legisladores en las áreas en las que la enseñanza y la práctica católica coinciden con los esfuerzos que está haciendo nuestro gobierno", añadió.

En la mesa redonda con Harris en el Aeropuerto Internacional de El Paso participaron el secretario de Seguridad Nacional, Alejandro Mayorkas, el senador Dick Durbin (demócrata de Illinois), la representante Verónica Escobar (demócrata de Texas) y miembros de grupos religiosos que trabajan con inmigrantes.

Harris mencionó las políticas de separación de familias, el alojamiento "inhumano" de los inmigrantes y un sistema de

asilo "roto", en los comentarios realizados durante la parte de la reunión abierta a la prensa. "Haz justicia, ama la misericordia, camina humildemente con tu Dios", dijo al obispo Seitz, citando Miqueas 6:8.

Según el obispo Seitz, los defensores de la mesa redonda sacaron a relucir las "causas fundamentales" de la migración a Estados Unidos en su reunión con Harris, así como la política del Título 42 de la administración

que impide la entrada de solicitantes de asilo en Estados Unidos debido a la pandemia. La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos criticó el jueves "el mal uso del Título 42 para rechazar a los solicitantes de asilo vulnerables".

El vicepresidente Harris, en un viaje a Guatemala a principios de este mes para abordar las causas fundamentales de la migración,

"Eso tiene que terminar", dijo sobre la política.

La migración, para muchos –especialmente de los países del "Triángulo del Norte", Honduras, El Salvador y Guatemala– es una cuestión de vida o muerte, subrayó. Se sabe que estos tres países tienen una de las tasas de homicidio más altas del mundo.

Continuado en la Pg. 4

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Thank You All!

I want to take this opportunity in my column to absolutely thank everyone for asking about my wife and daughters. I received many calls, emails, or some of you stopping me and asking how my youngest daughter is and whether or not I am getting any sleep. To answer your questions, My daughter Evie is now 10lbs 5oz. and is thriving! My wife and I have worked tirelessly to ensure both of our daughters get all the love and care they need. Thank you all for all the prayers and after the whole ordeal. My family and I are eternally grateful to all of you!



Fernie Ceniceros

That said, I'd like to update all of you about changes coming to the ministry of communications that I have had the honor and pleasure of serving as its director for the last year.

As we have reached a new fis-

cal year for 2021, Bishop Seitz, the Chancery office, and I have come to the difficult conclusion that we can no longer sustain a 24/7 online radio station. As a result, we have had to part ways with the Radio Program Director, Norma Muñoz. Many of you have come to know Norma as Norma Ayala, a long-standing radio personality in local Spanish radio, before coming to the Diocese as The Bridge Radio Program Director. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank Norma for all of her work and dedication to The Bridge Catholic Radio and this humble publication. I want

to take this opportunity to ask that all of you pray for Norma in her new ventures.

Please continue to pray for the ministry of communications as we begin to sort out our next steps to serve you better while remaining faithful stewards to the gifts that you give us. Also, keep all of your diocesan ministries in prayer as we begin a new fiscal year.

We will continue to bring you our Sunday liturgies for the homebound and infirm on both our local television stations and our social media accounts in the coming months. Thanks to all of you for supporting your

parishes through the TV Masses. However I pray that many more of you that are able, can join us in person for mass at all of our parishes.

Please take the time to follow us on all of our social media platforms for all the latest news and events that we bring to you to keep you updated and informed on this work that God has tasked us with.

Lastly, please have patience with us as we figure out how to bring you the highest quality programming and content for all of you. I pray that the Lord and the spirit will lead us to serve you best.

Gracias a Todos!

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad en mi columna para agradecer absolutamente a todos por preguntar por mi esposa e hijas. He recibido muchas llamadas, correos electrónicos, o algunos de ustedes me paran y preguntan cómo está mi hija menor y si estoy durmiendo o no. Para responder a vuestras preguntas, mi hija Evie pesa ahora 10 libras y 5 onzas y está prosperando. Mi esposa y yo hemos trabajado incansablemente para asegurarnos de que nuestras dos hijas reciban todo el amor y los cuidados que necesitan. Gracias a todos por todas las oraciones y después de todo el calvario. ¡Mi familia y yo estamos eternamente agradecidos a todos vosotros!

Dicho esto, me gustaría actualizar a todos ustedes acerca de los cambios que se avecinan en el ministerio de comunicaciones que he tenido el honor y el placer de servir como su director durante el último año.

Como hemos llegado a un nuevo año fiscal para 2021, el Obispo Seitz, la oficina de la Cancillería, y yo hemos llegado a la difícil conclusión de que ya no podemos mantener una



estación de radio en línea 24/7. Como resultado, hemos tenido que separarnos de la Directora del Programa de Radio, Norma Muñoz. Muchos de ustedes han llegado a conocer a Norma como Norma Ayala, una personalidad de la radio local española, antes de venir a la Diócesis como

Directora del Programa de Radio El Puente. Sería negligente si no aprovechara esta oportunidad para agradecer a Norma todo su trabajo y dedicación a The Bridge Catholic Radio y a esta humilde publicación. Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para pedir que todos ustedes recen por

Norma en sus nuevas empresas.

Por favor, continúen rezando por el ministerio de comunicaciones mientras comenzamos a ordenar nuestros próximos pasos para servirles mejor mientras seguimos siendo fieles administradores de los dones que ustedes nos dan. También, mantengan en

oración a todos los ministerios diocesanos al comenzar un nuevo año fiscal.

En los próximos meses seguiremos presentando nuestras liturgias dominicales para los confinados en casa y los enfermos en nuestras estaciones de televisión locales y en nuestras cuentas de medios sociales. Gracias a todos ustedes por apoyar a sus parroquias a través de las misas por televisión. Sin embargo, rezo para que muchos más de ustedes que puedan, puedan unirse a nosotros en persona para la misa en todas nuestras parroquias.

Por favor, tómense el tiempo para seguirnos en todas nuestras plataformas de medios sociales para todas las últimas noticias y eventos que les traemos para mantenerlos actualizados e informados sobre este trabajo que Dios nos ha encomendado.

Por último, por favor, tened paciencia con nosotros mientras descubrimos cómo traeros la programación y el contenido de mayor calidad para todos vosotros. Rezo para que el Señor y el espíritu nos guíen para serviros mejor.

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The Only Antidote For An Angry World

Have you noticed how angry people are today? Some people are so angry they could just kill someone! And they do! In 2020 alone, there were 614 mass shootings resulting in 446 deaths and 2,515 injuries, for a total of 3,061 victims in the U.S. People are so mad they are taking out their anger, sometimes on people they know or they may choose a certain race or ethnic group, and other times just random people will do. We in El Paso are first hand witnesses of the terrible cost of their boundless anger.

But mass shooters are not the only angry people. They are just the tip of a societal iceberg. Mass shooters resorted to physical violence, but the greater part of the iceberg is under the surface and the anger they carry and express is not without its victims. Their weapons of choice are found primarily in the stealthy power of the internet in social media and these are indeed weapons of mass destruction. They are hidden

snipers who take well aimed shots and then disappear into the virtual ether.

Anyone who is a public figure can expect to be targeted. And institutions come in as a special focus of the hatred that boils within the souls of so many. Be they of the so-called right, left or center, the forces of destruction rally to the cause. It is a race to mutual assured destruction!

The Church, although it is the Body of Christ on earth, is no exception to this destructive onslaught. It never has been exempted! The Church becomes a welcome target because it is made up of sinful human beings who during this life on earth could never live up to the exalted calling she has received. Jesus intended this so that there would never be any doubt that the Church is a hospital welcoming sinners into the healing embrace of Jesus. She was never intended to be simply a hotel for saints with no spot or wrinkle. That day is yet to come.

People often say, "I'm leaving the Church because she is made up of people who appear to me to be hypocrites and sinners." They should be saying, "The Church is a place in which I can belong because it is made up of sinners who are longing to be saints, just like me."

Would you like to see the world become a place less dominated by those who are angry and vengeful? Recognizing our own frailty and sinfulness would be a good start! Seeing our own personal failings and understanding how the mercy of God has shown itself in our lives can convict us of the hypocrisy involved in attempting to direct self-righteous fury at others.

Jesus, of course, taught very clearly about these issues. I offer this passage as one example among many: Jesus said to his disciples:

"Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

measure with which you measure will be measured out to you. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove that splinter from your eye,' while the wooden beam is in your eye? You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.' (Matt. 7:1-5)

How might this world change if mercy and forgiveness were

to replace judgment and anger? Jesus has made clear that such a world is made possible when we open ourselves to God's grace. This challenging work is something God wants to do beginning with you and me. There is no time like the present! As G.K. Chesterton once said, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."

El Único Antídoto Para Un Mundo Enfadado



Tú has dado cuenta de lo enfadada que está la gente hoy en día? Algunas personas están tan enfadadas que podrían matar a alguien. ¡Y lo hacen! Sólo en el año 2020, hubo 614 tiroteos masivos que resultaron en 446 muertes y 2.515 heridos, para un total de 3.061 víctimas en los EE.UU. La gente está tan enojada que está sacando su ira, a veces en las personas que conocen o pueden elegir una determinada raza o grupo étnico, y otras veces sólo la gente al azar va a hacer. Nosotros, en El Paso, somos testigos de primera mano del terrible coste de su ira sin límites.

Pero los tiradores en masa no son las únicas personas enfadadas. Son sólo la punta de un iceberg social. Los tiradores en masa recurren a la violencia física, pero la mayor parte del

iceberg está bajo la superficie y la ira que llevan y expresan no está exenta de víctimas. Sus armas de elección se encuentran principalmente en el poder silencioso de Internet en las redes sociales y éstas son realmente armas de destrucción masiva. Son francotiradores ocultos que disparan bien y luego desaparecen en el éter virtual.

Cualquier persona que sea una figura pública puede esperar ser un objetivo. Y las instituciones son un foco especial del odio que hervé en las almas de tantos. Sean de la llamada derecha, izquierda o centro, las fuerzas de la destrucción se unen a la causa. Es una carrera hacia la destrucción mutua asegurada.

La Iglesia, aunque es el Cuerpo de Cristo en la tierra, no es una excepción a este ataque destructivo. Nunca ha

estado exenta. La Iglesia se convierte en un objetivo bienvenido porque está formada por seres humanos pecadores que durante esta vida en la tierra nunca podrían estar a la altura de la exaltada vocación que ha recibido. Jesús quiso que nunca hubiera duda de que la Iglesia es un hospital que acoge a los pecadores en el abrazo sanador de Jesús. Nunca se pretendió que fuera simplemente un hotel para santos sin mancha ni arruga. Ese día aún está por llegar. La gente suele decir:

"Me voy de la Iglesia porque está formada por personas que me parecen hipócritas y pecadoras". Deberían decir: "La Iglesia es un lugar al que puedo pertenecer porque está formada por pecadores que anhelan ser santos, como yo".

Te gustaría que el mundo se convirtiera en un lugar menos

dominado por aquellos que están enfadados y son vengativos? Reconocer nuestra propia fragilidad y pecaminosidad sería un buen comienzo. Ver nuestros propios fallos personales y comprender cómo la misericordia de Dios se ha manifestado en nuestras vidas puede convencernos de la hipocresía que supone intentar dirigir la furia farisaica hacia los demás.

Jesús, por supuesto, enseñó muy claramente sobre estos temas. Ofrezco este pasaje como un ejemplo entre muchos otros: Jesús dijo a sus discípulos:

"Dejad de juzgar, para que no seáis juzgados. Porque según juzguéis, así seréis juzgados, y la medida con la que midáis os será aplicada". ¿Por qué te fijas en la paja que hay en el ojo de tu hermano, pero no percibes la viga de madera que

hay en tu propio ojo? ¿Cómo puedes decir a tu hermano: "Déjame sacar esa paja de tu ojo", mientras la viga de madera está en el tuyo? Hipócrita, saca primero la viga de madera de tu ojo; entonces verás claramente para sacar la paja del ojo de tu hermano". (Mateo 7:1-5)

¿Cómo podría cambiar este mundo si la misericordia y el perdón sustituyeran al juicio y la ira? Jesús ha dejado claro que un mundo así es posible cuando nos abrimos a la gracia de Dios. Este trabajo desafiantes es algo que Dios quiere hacer empezando por ti y por mí. No hay tiempo como el presente. Como dijo una vez G.K. Chesterton: "El ideal cristiano no se ha probado y se ha encontrado en falta; se ha encontrado difícil y se ha dejado sin probar".

Continued from Pg. 1

dor, and Guatemala – is a life-or-death issue, he emphasized. Those three countries have been known to have among the world's highest homicide rates.

Vice President Harris, in a trip to Guatemala earlier this month to address root causes of migration, warned those considering migrating to the United States against making the “dangerous” trip, saying “Do not come. Do not come. The United States will continue to enforce our laws and secure our border.”

Bishop Seitz said that the administration and political leaders need to understand that “this broken system of immigration is not going to be fixed overnight, and a focus on improving the root causes of immigration is going to take years.”

“Our nation is big enough to handle the effects of that. But the moment that we start to get uncomfortable with the numbers [of immigrants], we can't just fall back on the easy ‘answer’ of various kinds of enforcement,” he added. The bishop emphasized that the United States should welcome migrants while also working “perseveringly” to improve the situation in their home countries.

Bishop Seitz said that at Friday’s roundtable, he mentioned his personal experience on the issue of immigration, having par-

ticipated in parish mission trips to Mexico and Central America as a priest.

He noted that on the mission trips, “we went in with a very American notion that we were going to fix things.”

“I came to understand that they [residents] know what they need better than we do,” he said.

The United States as a nation needs to think the same way, he said.

“And of course, if we truly believe that these are people just like you and I who have not only intelligence but human dignity,” he added, “we shouldn't go in as a nation and just say ‘this is what we're going to do to fix you,’ but rather to talk to people on the ground, where they live, listen to what their experience is, and what they believe is needed for things to get better.”

The Church must be delivering a prophetic witness on immigration, he said.

“We've heard rhetoric that leads people into a great deal of fear. And that fear shuts off the desire to really understand what is happening, or to respond to the need,” he said.

“So it's really important for the Church to be involved in this, as she needs to be involved whenever there's a situation where human beings are suffering, poor, vulnerable – that's where Jesus would be.”

Continuado de la Pg. 1

advirtió a los que estaban pensando en emigrar a Estados Unidos que no hicieran el “peligroso” viaje, diciendo: “No vengan. No vengan. Estados Unidos seguirá aplicando nuestras leyes y asegurando nuestra frontera”.

Monseñor Seitz dijo que la administración y los líderes políticos tienen que entender que “este sistema roto de inmigración no se va a arreglar de la noche a la mañana, y un enfoque en la mejora de las causas fundamen-

tales de la inmigración va a tomar años.”

“Nuestra nación es lo suficientemente grande como para manejar sus efectos. Pero en el momento en que empiezamos a sentirnos incómodos con las cifras [de inmigrantes], no podemos recurrir a la “respuesta” fácil de diversos tipos de aplicación de la ley”, añadió. El obispo hizo hincapié en que Estados Unidos debe acoger a los inmigrantes y al mismo tiempo trabajar “con perseverancia” para mejorar la situación en sus países de origen.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!**

Fr. Jose Eulalio Gomez Martinez OFM	7/07
Fr. Edilberto “Beto” Lopez	7/10
Fr. Kennon Y. Ducre	7/14
Fr. Juan Francisco Figueroa Moran, OFM	7/18
Fr. James W. Kofski MM	7/19
Fr. Antonio Lasheras, OAR	7/20
Fr. Manuel R. Martinez (Extern)	7/30
Fr. Fabian A. Marquez	7/3

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Angel M. Maldonado	7/1/1979
Fr. Kennon Y. Ducre	7/6/1983
Fr. Jose Mesa, SJ	7/16/1977
Fr. Rafael Garcia, SJ	7/17/1993
Fr. Antonio Lasheras, OAR	7/25/1962

RETIRED PRIESTS BIRTHDAY (CORRECTION)

Fr. James W. Hall	5/11
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ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY (RETIRED)

Fr. Robert S. Kobe	7/12/1964
Fr. James W. Hall	7/30/1961



Bishop Seitz and the Director of the Hope Border Institute, Dylan Corbett await the arrival of Vice President Kamala Harris in El Paso on June 25. *Photo Courtesy of Dylan Corbett.*

Monseñor Seitz dijo que en la mesa redonda del viernes mencionó su experiencia personal sobre el tema de la inmigración, al haber participado en viajes misioneros parroquiales a México y Centroamérica como sacerdote.

Señaló que en los viajes de misión, “íbamos con una noción muy americana de que íbamos a arreglar las cosas”.

“Llegué a comprender que ellos [los residentes] saben lo que necesitan mejor que nosotros”, dijo.

Estados Unidos, como nación,

debe pensar de la misma manera, dijo.

“Y, por supuesto, si realmente creemos que se trata de personas como tú y yo, que no sólo tienen inteligencia sino dignidad humana”, añadió, “no deberíamos ir como nación y decir simplemente ‘esto es lo que vamos a hacer para arreglarlos’, sino hablar con la gente sobre el terreno, donde viven, escuchar cuál es su experiencia y qué creen que se necesita para que las cosas mejoren”.

La Iglesia debe dar un testimonio profético sobre la inmigración, dijo.

“Hemos escuchado una retórica que lleva a la gente a tener mucho miedo. Y ese miedo apaga el deseo de entender realmente lo que está pasando, o de responder a la necesidad”, dijo.

“Así que es realmente importante que la Iglesia se involucre en esto, como tiene que involucrarse siempre que haya una situación en la que los seres humanos estén sufriendo, sean pobres, sean vulnerables: ahí es donde estaría Jesús”.

**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 Assistance 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.

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Priests of the Diocese Retire after Decades of Service

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

Among the clergy appointments announced in May by Bishop Mark J. Seitz, D.D., was the retirement of two diocesan priests, while one religious order priest, Rev. William Donnelly, MM, is returning to the motherhouse of the Maryknolls in New York.

The priests set to retire are Rev. Raúl Trigueros and Rev. Msgr. David Fierro.

Fr. Raúl Trigueros began his religious vocation as a Franciscan. He was ordained on June 13, 1969 and spent the first ten years of his priesthood in Michoacán, Mexico, working at missions and schools.

A transfer to El Paso to assist at St. Anthony Seminary helped him see that he was more suited for a diocesan ministry than living in community as a religious order priest. He asked Bishop Patrick Flores, D.D. (1978-1979) for permission to remain, and was eventually incardinated to the Diocese of El Paso by Bishop Raymundo J. Pena, D.D.

Fr. Raúl's 52 years of priestly service includes diocesan director of communication for 14 years, vicar, and parishes across the diocese, including Cristo Rey for 15 years.

He asks that the faithful in the Diocese of El Paso support their new pastors and help them as they make their transitions.

"I want to give thanks to everyone because they helped form me as a priest. Be faithful to your parish and help the pastor who has been assigned to you," he said.

Msgr. Fierro, a native of Al-



The priests that have retired after decades of service are Rev. Raúl Trigueros and Rev. Msgr. David Fierro. *Photos by Fernie Ceniceros*

pine, began his formation at St. Charles Seminary in El Paso with Rev. Trini Fuentez† and Msgr. Arturo Bañuelas (St. Mark), and completed major seminary at Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Sidney Matthew Metzger, STD, JCD (1942-1978) on June 19, 1976.

In his 45 years of priesthood, Msgr. Fierro served as vicar, chancellor, rector of St. Patrick

Cathedral, rector of St. Charles Seminary, and pastor of parishes across the Diocese of El Paso, including Mother Cabrini and St. Matthew. He's also experienced his share of challenges. During his time at the Cathedral, a lightning bolt struck the steeple and set it on fire during a thunderstorm on May 17, 1988.

"It's been a long journey and I'm happy to retire", and adds, "I'm not gone, I'll be around!"

He shared that he was privileged to be there for parishioners in their joyful moments—weddings and baptisms—and in their sad moments as well.

Msgr. David said, "Please pray for me and help me pray for more vocations so others will come after me."

Very Rev. Ben Flores, Vicar General for the Diocese of El Paso, expressed that he is happy for his brother priests who will

retire, and wishes both men happiness and good health.

"We are grateful to Fr. Raúl and Msgr. David for close to a century of combined years of serving and mentoring priests and seminarians in the Diocese of El Paso."

The appointments became effective on Thursday, July 1, 2021.

Sacerdotes De La Diócesis Se Jubilan Tras Décadas De Servicio

Por Sofia Larkin
Oficial de Donativos Mayores

Entre los nombramientos del clero anunciados en mayo por el obispo Mark J. Seitz, D.D., está la jubilación de dos sacerdotes diocesanos, mientras que un sacerdote de una orden religiosa, el reverendo William Donnelly, MM, regresa a la casa madre de los Maryknolls en Nueva York.

Los sacerdotes que se jubilan son el Rev. Raúl Trigueros y el Rev. Monseñor David Fierro.

El P. Raúl Trigueros comenzó su vocación religiosa como franciscano. Fue ordenado el 13 de junio de 1969 y pasó los primeros diez años de su sacerdocio en Michoacán, México, trabajando

en misiones y escuelas.

Un traslado a El Paso para asistir al Seminario de San Antonio le ayudó a ver que era más adecuado para un ministerio diocesano que para vivir en comunidad como sacerdote de una orden religiosa. Pidió permiso al Obispo Patrick Flores, D.D. (1978-1979) para quedarse, y finalmente fue incardinado a la Diócesis de El Paso por el Obispo Raymundo J. Pena, D.D.

Los 52 años de servicio sacerdotal del P. Raúl incluyen director diocesano de comunicación durante 14 años, vicario y parroquias en toda la diócesis, incluyendo Cristo Rey durante 15 años.

Pide que los fieles de la

Diócesis de El Paso apoyen a sus nuevos pastores y los ayuden en su transición.

"Quiero dar las gracias a todos porque han ayudado a formarme como sacerdote. Sean fieles a su parroquia y ayuden al párroco que les ha sido asignado", dijo.

Monseñor Fierro, natural de Alpine, comenzó su formación en el Seminario de San Carlos de El Paso con el reverendo Trini Fuentez† y monseñor Arturo Bañuelas (San Marcos), y completó el seminario mayor en el Josephinum de Columbus, Ohio. Fue ordenado sacerdote por el obispo Sidney Matthew Metzger, STD, JCD (1942-1978) el 19 de junio de 1976.

En sus 45 años de sacerdocio,

monseñor Fierro ha sido vicario, canciller, rector de la catedral de San Patricio, rector del seminario de San Carlos y párroco de parroquias en toda la diócesis de El Paso, incluidas las de Madre Cabrini y San Mateo. También ha experimentado su cuota de desafíos. Durante su estancia en la Catedral, un rayo cayó sobre el campanario y lo incendió durante una tormenta eléctrica el 17 de mayo de 1988.

"Ha sido un largo viaje y estoy feliz de retirarme", y añade: "No me he ido, ¡estaré por aquí!".

Compartió que tuvo el privilegio de estar ahí para los feligreses en sus momentos de alegría -bodas y bautizos- y también en sus momentos de tristeza.

Monseñor David dijo: "Por favor, recen por mí y ayúdenme a rezar por más vocaciones para que otros vengan después de mí".

El Rev. Ben Flores, Vicario General de la Diócesis de El Paso, expresó que se alegra por sus hermanos sacerdotes que se jubilarán, y les desea a ambos felicidad y buena salud.

"Estamos agradecidos con el Padre Raúl y Monseñor David por cerca de un siglo de años combinados de servir y ser mentores de sacerdotes y seminaristas en la Diócesis de El Paso".

Los nombramientos se hicieron efectivos el jueves 1 de julio de 2021.

The Shepherd's Corner

Gifts & Books

Hours of Operation:

Monday & Tuesday 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

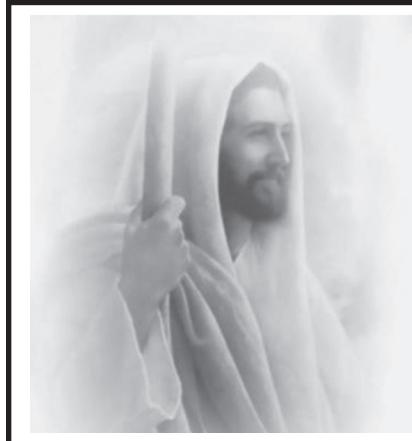
Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

Saturday 3rd and 4th Saturday 10 am -1pm

Saturday 5 - 6

Sunday 10 am - 2:30 pm & 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

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



New Pastoral Assignments for 2021



The Most Rev. Mark Seitz, D.D., Bishop of El Paso, is pleased to announce new pastoral assignments for various clergy serving the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, assignments became effective July 1, 2021.

Retirements

We take this opportunity to announce several Priestly Retirements:

Fr. Raul Trigueros (Pastor at St. Peter & Paul),
Msgr. David Fierro (Pastor at Mother Cabrini)
Fr. Bill Donnelly, MM (Parish Administrator at St. Patrick's Canutillo & Immaculate Heart of Mary in Westway).

Thank you, good and faithful servants of God and the Church, for your many years of Service, Joy & Sacrifice.

Leaves/Other

Fr. Saul Pacheco, Parish Admin. of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Parish has requested a Leave of Absence. Fr. Ed Roden, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas will transfer to his home Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Pastoral Assignments

Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick - Fr. James Marcus McFadin, Rector
St. Francis Xavier Mother Cabrini - Fr. Benjamin Flores-Ruiz, Pastor - Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia*
Queen of Peace - Fr. Allan Alaka, Pastor
St. Joseph - Fr. Fabian Marquez, Pastor
La Purísima - Fr. Emanuel Alcazar, Pastor
St. Luke - Fr. Ed Carpenter, Pastor
Sts. Peter and Paul - Fr. Angel Maldonado, Pastor
St. Thomas Aquinas - Fr. Ken Ducre, Pastor
Blessed Sacrament - Fr. John Paul Manadu, Parish Administrator
Buen Pastor - Deacon Robert Guerra, Parish Administrator - Fr. Carl Quebedeaux, CMF, - Sacramental Minister

Christ the Savior - Fr. Glenn Carpe, Parish Administrator

Little Flower - Fr. Alfonso Bonilla, Parish Administrator

San Lorenzo, Clint - Fr. Juan Victor Gamino, Parish Administrator - Pastor of San Elizario *

San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado - Fr. German Alzate, Parish Administrator - Vocations Director*

St. John (Monahans) - Fr. Mount Joseph Durai Raj, SJ., Administrator

St. Joseph/St. Thomas (Kermit) - Fr. Charles Rajan Michael, OCD, Administrator

St. Mary (Marfa) - Fr. Paul Matta, Parish Administrator - Pastor of Our Lady of Peace, Alpine*

* Current and Continuing Assignment

Parochial Assignments

Our Lady of the Light and Santo Niño de Atocha - Fr. Roberto Alvarado

Our Lady of Peace, Alpine and St. Mary's, Marfa - Fr. Victorino Lorezca

St. Pius X. - Fr. Wilbert Colas

Diaconate Assignments

Corpus Christi - Deacon Carlos Rubio

Blessed Sacrament - Deacon Sergio Legarreta*

Holy Trinity - Deacon Cesar Garcia*

Our Lady of Peace (Alpine, Texas) - Deacon Alfonso Coronado

La Purísima - Deacon Ignacio Torres

St. Jude - Deacon Jose William Arevalo

St. Matthew - Deacon Asty Deraly

St. Mark - Deacon Edroud Jean

St. Peter & Paul - Loyd Divinagracia, Seminarian

* Denotes Summer Assignment

Nuevas Asignaciones Pastorales Para 2021

El Obispo de El Paso, Mons. Mark Seitz, D.D., se complace en anunciar nuevas asignaciones pastorales para varios clérigos que sirven a la Diócesis Católica de El Paso, a partir del 1 de julio de 2021.

Retiros

Aprovechamos esta oportunidad para anunciar varias jubilaciones sacerdotales:

P. Raúl Trigueros (Párroco en San Pedro y Pablo),
Monseñor David Fierro (Párroco en Madre Cabrini)
P. Bill Donnelly, MM (Administrador Parroquial en San Patricio Canutillo y el Inmaculado Corazón de María en Westway, Texas).

Gracias, buenos y fieles servidores de Dios y de la Iglesia, por sus muchos años de servicio, alegría y sacrificio.

Ancuencia y Misc.

El Padre Saúl Pacheco, Administrador Parroquial de la Parroquia de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado ha solicitado una ausencia.

El P. Ed Roden-Lucero, Párroco de Santo Tomás de Aquino se trasladará a su Arquidiócesis de Santa Fe.

Parrocos

Catedral de St. Patrick - P. James Marcus McFadin, Rector
St. Francis Xavier Mother Cabrini - P. Benjamin Flores-Ruiz, Parroco - Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia*
Queen of Peace - P. Allan Alaka, Parroco
St. Joseph - P. Fabian Marquez, Parroco
La Purísima - P. Emanuel Alcazar, Parroco
St. Luke - P. Ed Carpenter, Parroco
Sts. Peter and Paul - P. Angel Maldonado, Parroco
St. Thomas Aquinas - P. Ken Ducre, Parroco
Blessed Sacrament - P. John Paul Manadu, Administrador Parroquial
Buen Pastor - Diácono Robert Guerra, Administrador Parroquial - P. Carl Quebe-

deaux, CMF, Ministerio Sacramental

Christ the Savior - P. Glenn Carpe, Administrador Parroquial

Little Flower - P. Alfonso Bonilla, Administrador Parroquial

San Lorenzo, Clint - P. Juan Victor Gamino, Administrador Parroquial - Pastor of San Elizario *

San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado - P. German Alzate, Administrador Parroquial - Promotor Vocacional*

St. John (Monahans, Texas) - P. Mount Joseph Durai Raj, SJ., Administrador Parroquial

St. Joseph/St. Thomas (Kermit, Texas) - P. Charles Rajan Michael, OCD, Administrador Parroquial

St. Mary (Marfa, Texas) - P. Paul Matta, Administrador Parroquial - Parroco de Our Lady of Peace, Alpine*

* Asignación actual y continua

Vicarios Parroquiales

Our Lady of the Light and Santo Niño de Atocha - P. Roberto Alvarado

Our Lady of Peace, (Alpine, TX) and St. Mary's, (Marfa, TX) - P. Victorino Lorezca

St. Pius X - P. Wilbert Colas

Diáconos

Corpus Christi - Diácono Carlos Rubio

Blessed Sacrament - Diácono Sergio Legarreta*

Holy Trinity - Diácono Cesar Garcia*

Our Lady of Peace (Alpine, Texas) - Diácono Alfonso Coronado

La Purísima - Diácono Ignacio Torres

St. Jude - Diácono Jose William Arevalo

St. Matthew - Diácono Asty Deraly

St. Mark - Diácono Edroud Jean

Sts. Peter and Paul - Loyd Divinagracia, Seminarista

* Denota asignación de verano

Supporting Our Catholic Schools and Faith Formation

By Tina Edwards-Milam
Pledge Fulfillment Specialist

The “We Are the Body of Christ” campaign is designed to raise the necessary funds to support our seminarians, strengthen our Catholic schools and religious education programs and nourish our parish communities. The campaign raises funds for seminary education and diaconate formation, Catholic education and religious formation, and financial assistance for parish emergency needs and expansion.

As a community, we have much to celebrate and be grateful for. Our Catholic teachers are second-to-none. Committed and highly qualified, and they are great role models for all of us—servant leaders with true hearts for our youth. We have an obligation to look to the future as beneficiaries of a successful school system to ensure our future generations experience the same successes.

This starts with attracting and retaining the most talented and qualified educators. These educators are sacrificing themselves and have made a choice to work in our Catholic schools, connecting our children to the highest quality of Catholic education. We need to be sure we support our educators to feel they can grow both professionally and spiritually by attending workshops and training.

We must also ensure our children have the most up-to-date technology and computers. This is the way we navigate our current world, and if our students are not equipped and prepared with those resources, then our students



The Capital Campaign raises funds for seminary education and diaconate formation, Catholic education and religious formation, and financial assistance for parish emergency needs and expansion. *Photo Courtesy of the Catholic Foundation*

will not be able to compete in the world the way that they will need to. When we take the time to invest in our students, it is essential that we provide them with solid life skills. Technology is a critical part of all of our lives, and the more that we are able to equip our students with reliable resources, the more we are setting them up for a successful future.

Dr. Lanny Hollis, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said, “The students and staff of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of El Paso are faithfully emerging out of the worldwide Covid pandemic. We have weathered the worse challenge ever to U.S.

Catholic schools with dedication, diligence, care, prudence, faith, and academic excellence. Except for a few weeks and an abundance of care for our community’s health, our Catholic schools stayed open for students to attend in person or to telecommute online. We have maintained our spiritual, communal, and academic life in the face of this great health threat. Now, we—as “We are the Body of Christ: Sharing our Gifts for the Church of Tomorrow—look ahead to the future. This current diocesan capital campaign will help ensure the future of our instructional and teaching excellence, Christ-cen-

tered lives of service and faith, and preparedness for service to our Church and country. We sincerely and with faith ask for your support. Catholic Schools hold a place of special importance in the teaching mission of the Church. St. John Paul II stated that, “educational ministry is one of humanity’s most excellent and creative activities, for it does not write on inanimate material but on the very spirits of human beings.” Your generosity and collaboration are important to us so we can achieve that purpose. May God bless you abundantly for your support and prayers for our mission.”

Bishop Mark Seitz encourages us, “Now is the time, we must fully respond to the call of discipleship. Please open your hearts to receive God’s, Boundless Love. Joyfully share your time, talent, and treasure to help welcome His Kingdom for our future generations. Consider making a sacrificial commitment to the Capital Campaign, “We Are The Body of Christ.” With God’s Blessings and Guidance, the We Are The Body of Christ campaign will succeed.”

To make a donation, or for more information, go to www.bodyofchristcampaign.com or call (915) 872-8412.

Apoyo A Nuestras Escuelas Católicas Y A La Formación En La Fe

By Tina Edwards-Milam
Pledge Fulfillment Specialist

La campaña “Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo” está diseñada para recaudar los fondos necesarios para apoyar a nuestros seminaristas, fortalecer nuestras escuelas católicas y programas de educación religiosa y nutrir nuestras comunidades parroquiales. La campaña recauda fondos para la educación del seminario y la formación del diaconado, la educación católica y la formación religiosa, y la ayuda financiera para las necesidades de emergencia y la expansión de la parroquia.

Como comunidad, tenemos mucho que celebrar y agradecer. Nuestros profesores católicos son insuperables. Comprometidos y altamente cualificados, son un gran modelo para todos nosotros: líderes serviciales con un verdadero corazón para nuestros jóvenes. Tenemos la obligación de mirar al futuro como beneficiarios de un sistema escolar exitoso para asegurar que nuestras futuras generaciones experimenten los mismos éxitos.

Esto comienza con la atracción y retención de los educadores más talentosos y calificados. Estos educadores se sacrifican



La Campaña de Capital recauda fondos para la educación del seminario y la formación del diaconado, la educación católica y la formación religiosa, y la ayuda financiera para las necesidades de emergencia y la expansión de la parroquia. *Foto cortesía de la Fundación Católica*

y han tomado la decisión de trabajar en nuestras escuelas católicas, conectando a nuestros hijos con la más alta calidad de educación católica. Tenemos que asegurarnos de apoyar a nuestros educadores para que sientan que pueden crecer tanto profesional como espiritualmente asistiendo a talleres y formación.

También debemos asegurarnos de que nuestros niños tengan la tecnología y los ordenadores más actualizados. Esta es la forma en que navegamos en nuestro mundo

actual, y si nuestros estudiantes no están equipados y preparados con esos recursos, entonces nuestros estudiantes no serán capaces de competir en el mundo de la manera que necesitarán. Cuando nos tomamos el tiempo de invertir en nuestros alumnos, es esencial que les proporcionemos unas sólidas habilidades para la vida. La tecnología es una parte fundamental de nuestras vidas, y cuanto más podamos equipar a nuestros estudiantes con recursos fiables, más les prepararemos para

un futuro exitoso.

El Dr. Lanny Hollis, Superintendente de Escuelas Católicas, dijo: “Los estudiantes y el personal de las escuelas católicas de la Diócesis de El Paso están saliendo fielmente de la pandemia mundial de Covid. Hemos capeado el peor desafío que han tenido las escuelas católicas de Estados Unidos con dedicación, diligencia, cuidado, prudencia, fe y excelencia académica. Salvo por unas pocas semanas y por la abundancia de cuidados para la salud de nuestra comunidad, nuestras escuelas católicas permanecieron abiertas para que los alumnos pudieran asistir en persona o teleconectarse. Hemos mantenido nuestra vida espiritual, comunitaria y académica frente a esta gran amenaza sanitaria. Ahora, nosotros —como “Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo: Compartiendo nuestros dones para la Iglesia del mañana— miramos hacia el futuro. Esta campaña de capital diocesana actual ayudará a asegurar el futuro de nuestra excelencia en la instrucción y la enseñanza, las vidas de servicio y fe centradas en Cristo, y la preparación para el servicio a nuestra Iglesia y país. Pedimos sinceramente y con fe su apoyo. Las Escuelas Católi-

cas ocupan un lugar de especial importancia en la misión docente de la Iglesia. San Juan Pablo II afirmaba que “el ministerio educativo es una de las actividades más excelentes y creativas de la humanidad, pues no escribe sobre un material inanimado, sino sobre el espíritu mismo de los seres humanos”. Vuestra generosidad y colaboración son importantes para que podamos alcanzar ese propósito. Que Dios os bendiga abundantemente por vuestro apoyo y vuestras oraciones por nuestra misión”.

El obispo Mark Seitz nos anima: “Ahora es el momento, debemos responder plenamente a la llamada del discipulado. Por favor, abran sus corazones para recibir el amor ilimitado de Dios. Compartid con alegría vuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro para ayudar a dar la bienvenida a Su Reino a nuestras futuras generaciones. Consideré hacer un compromiso de sacrificio a la Campaña de Capital, “Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo”. Con las bendiciones y la guía de Dios, la campaña Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo tendrá éxito”.

Para hacer una donación, o para más información, vaya a www.bodyofchristcampaign.com o llame al (915) 872-8412.

Continuing The Challenge To Be Kind



Janet M. Crowe

"This year has been filled with some really difficult times," muttered the man to his wife.

She wrapped her arms around her husband's shoulders and held him tightly. "It has been almost a year since that devastating attack on our city last August," she sighed. "I didn't think things could get worse than that, but this year has overflowed with problems."

"You're right, our city was shattered by a terrible act of hatred," he agreed. "However, do you remember how we recovered from that tragedy?"

"The wisdom of a child helped the entire community to heal," she said with a smile. "One little boy challenged everyone to do one act of kindness for each life lost. After going out of their way to be kind and find ways to brighten the lives of others, everyone's attitude seemed to change from victim to healer."

"Maybe we should continue

to follow that young boy's wise advice and begin helping other people again," he said, sitting a bit taller in his chair.

"I'd like to do that," his wife quietly responded as she sat down in the chair next to her husband and took his hands in her own. "But we haven't received our regular paychecks these past few months and most of the things we did during the El Paso Challenge cost us money. We paid for a family's dinner one night and donated money to the food bank and things like that. I want to help, but we don't have extra money to spend right now," she worried.

A small whirlwind of energy carried on two sets of little legs burst into the room, interrupting the couples' discussion.

"Papa, mama, can we run through the sprinkler?" shouted little Carlos and Angela in unison. "Please?"

"I think I have a better idea," their father said. He winked at his wife and grabbed a bucket and some rags from under the kitchen sink. "Last night's rain covered the car with muddy speckles. How about if we wash the car?"

Mama smiled as she looked out the window to see her husband and children spraying each other as much as they sprayed

the car, but a furrow creased her forehead as she tried to figure out her husband's wink before he had rushed out the door. She shook her head and returned her attention to the pot of spaghetti sauce simmering on the stove.

Not too much later, three tired but smiling car washers came in the back door, and she helped dry off the little ones before they dripped puddles through the house. "Would you like a cookie after all your hard work?" she asked her children.

"No thanks, Mama," said Carlos. "The lady next door gave us a cookie after we washed her car."

"You washed our neighbor's car?" asked his mother.

"Yes," answered Angela, "and she seemed lonely so we talked to her while Papa finished washing her car."

"Papa talked to the old man across the street too," Carlos added as he wrapped himself in the towel, "and he's going to let us wash his car tomorrow."

While the children changed out of their wet swimsuits, Mama gave Papa a hug and a wink. Before they sat down to a delicious dinner of spaghetti and garlic bread, she ladled out generous helpings of noodles and sauce into two plastic containers. "Children, before we thank God for the many blessings He gives us, why don't we take these dinners to our elderly neighbors?" she suggested.

"They'll like that!" both children shouted.

A few days later, their father found the two children sorting through the toys in their room and putting some of them in a separate pile. He teased, "That's an interesting way to clean up your room, little ones."

"Oh, Papa," Angela reassured him, "we'll put them away after we take out the baby toys that we are too old to play with anymore."

Seeing his father's confused look, Carlos explained, "Mama talked to some people up the street and found out that they are going to have a new baby."

About that time, his wife came down the hallway. "They were both laid off from their jobs during the pandemic and haven't found new ones yet," she explained. "We also went through the children's baby clothes and found some that are still good and will fit a newborn. Plus, I called the church office to ask about baby diapers, formula and other necessities, and they gave me the Reverence for Life number to call."

He hugged his wife and told his children how proud he was of their willingness to share.

Later, after the children went

to bed, the parents sat on the patio. "Now that things are opening up again, what do you think about having a potluck dinner party for the neighborhood?" the wife asked her husband.

"We have enough room so that it wouldn't be crowded here in our back yard. We've been so busy that we barely even know the families living around us. I'll make up some fliers and the children and I will take them around to everyone."

"That would be wonderful," agreed her husband. "I also know what else you're thinking." He squeezed her hand and added, "You know there are probably several families who need a helping hand during these trying times. Working together with some of the other neighbors, we could make sure that everyone got the help they need."

She smiled at him, "I knew you were a clever guy when I married you."

"Because I was clever enough to marry you," he answered. "It's a great idea. Let's continue the challenge to spread kindness to others so that no one feels like a victim and all of us can heal our hearts and our lives by helping one another."

Challenging the Establishment on Childhood Gender Transitions



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

A 23-year-old woman named Keira Bell recently brought a pivotal lawsuit against the National Health Services Gender Identity Development Clinic in London, better known as the Tavistock Clinic. Keira experienced significant personal harm from puberty blockers, testosterone and an operation to remove her breasts. She claims the medical staff at the clinic failed to challenge her seriously about her decision as a teenager to transition to a male. In a landmark ruling delivered in December 2020, a British court upheld her claim that she'd been rushed through gender reassignment without proper safeguards.

Keira represents the leading edge of a new class of young people struggling with gender dysphoria who, as they become adults, are starting to push back against various "gender affirmation" interventions perpetrated against them, even, in some cases, seeking legal recourse

and financial redress. As these intrepid individuals challenge the status quo, they are becoming known as "trans-desisters" or "detransitioners."

When Keira was 16 and struggling with gender dysphoria, she was referred to the Tavistock Clinic and was almost immediately launched down the medical path. After three one-hour long visits to the medical facility, she was prescribed puberty blockers, powerful drugs that delay the development of signs of puberty. In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, she stated that there hadn't been adequate investigation or therapy prior to that stage.

"I should have been challenged on the proposals or the claims that I was making for myself," she said. "I think that would have made a big difference."

Later she was prescribed the male hormone testosterone, to help her develop male features like a beard, moustache and a deep voice. A few years later she underwent a mastectomy.

"Initially I felt very relieved and happy about things, but I think as the years go on, you start to feel less and less enthusiastic or even happy about things."

"You can continue to dig yourself deeper into this hole or you can choose to come out of

it and have the weight lifted off your shoulders."

She stopped taking the cross-sex hormones at age 22 and says she has come to accept being female now. She remains upset, however, about what had happened to her over the last decade.

"I was allowed to run with this idea that I had, almost like a fantasy, as a teenager.... and it has affected me in the long run as an adult."

Vulnerable young people, caught up in the pressure of the moment, have too easily been drawn into life-altering pathways involving medications and scalpels with their frequently irreversible effects. Puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and complex surgeries can all lead to permanent damage, even the destruction of a young person's reproductive organs and fertility.

Now in her early 20s, Keira soberly observes, "I'm very young. I've only just stepped into adulthood and I have to deal with this kind of burden or radical difference."

Parents have a serious obligation to protect their children from the gender-reassignment industry, which profits handsomely from the lucrative, long term hormone prescriptions and the multiple complex surgeries. When parents give consent for cross-sex interventions on their

children, they will often do so under pressure from clinicians and professional societies like the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Keira and other detransitioners insist that extended waiting periods, with appropriate questioning and challenging of young people, need to occur as part of a good psychotherapeutic response to claims of gender dysphoria. The AAP, meanwhile, strongly discourages such approaches, telling pediatric primary care providers, in an official statement, "to be a reliable source of validation, support, and reassurance," and exclusively to pursue "affirmation-based approaches" for children's mental health services, including pharmacological and surgical interventions.

As James Cantor, Director of the Toronto Sexuality Centre, noted in a critical review of the AAP statement, "Although almost all clinics and professional associations in the world use what's called the watchful waiting approach to helping gender-diverse children, the AAP statement instead rejected that consensus, endorsing gender affirmation as the only acceptable approach."

The available studies reveal, moreover, that the majority of pre-adolescent children who present as "trans" eventually revert to the identity that accords

with their biological sex. Those studies indicate at least 67 percent of gender diverse children cease wanting to transition by puberty as long as "gender affirmation" approaches are not pursued or advocated.

Keira sums up her experience this way: "I look back with a lot of sadness. There was nothing wrong with my body. I was just lost and without proper support. Transition gave me the facility to hide from myself even more than before. It was a temporary fix."

These first-hand testimonies from brave and outspoken detransitioners like Keira Bell should prompt us to listen closely to their stories and beware of "affirmation-based approaches" that often cloak the betrayal of our gender-confused youth.

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 and www.father tad.com.

Las Tremendas Pequeñeces



Padre Wilson Cuevas

...poco a poco se arruinara quien menosprecie las cosas pequeñas" (Eclesiástico 19, 1-10)

"La vida es muy corta para empequeñecerla" estas son palabras de Disraeli, que me han fortalecido en un momento difícil. Frecuentemente nos dejamos perturbar por pequeñeces que deberíamos despreciar y olvidar: Acaso se muestra ingrato alguien que favorecimos... Tal vez habla mal de nosotros alguien en cuya amistad creímos. Quizás nos niegan una recompensa a la que nos creímos merecedores. Son desengaños que nos hieren y nos roban la calma. Pero, no es absurdo que así sea? Estamos en este mundo solo unas docenas de años y malgastamos horas irremplazables cavilando sobre contrariedades de las que nadie se acordara en meses.

No, no actuemos así; dediquemos la vida a las acciones y sentimientos que valgan la pena: Pensamiento positivos e interesantes, afectos sólidos y empresas duraderas. A compartir la alegría de vivir, las bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado, los talentos y cualidades que hemos recibido? Hacer el bien, bien a cuantos más podamos. Tratar bien a los demás, así no se lo merezcan, eso es grandeza, así nos ama Dios a todos nosotros. Ciertamente la vida es muy corta para empequeñecerla.

Todos tendemos a justificarnos cuando dejamos de hacer un trabajo, cuando mentimos o explotamos a los demás, cuando guardamos un resentimiento, cuando cometemos un error, cuando repetimos chismes, cuando



tomamos cosas pequeñas que no nos pertenecen, cuando pensamos o hablamos mal de otros, cuando fomentamos prejuicios o alimentamos odios contra ciertas personas o nacionalidades... Son las cosas pequeñas las que nos pueden causar mayor daño. Si uno se engaña así mismo con estas pequeñeces, puede uno hacerse daño así mismo y a muchos otros para toda la eternidad.

A un amigo se le aconsejó recientemente que cuidara su dentadura si quería evitar serios problemas con ella en el futuro. Durante varias semanas siguió las instrucciones del dentista con toda constancia, después, como casi siempre sucede, empezó a descuidarse. Pronto, por lo que se refería a su aplicación práctica, quedó olvidado el consejo del dentista. En el siguiente examen médico anual que se le practicó, los Rayos X revelaron las

consecuencias de la negligencia de nuestro amigo. Sus dientes estaban en peor estado que antes. "El único responsable es usted", le dijo el dentista. "El buen cuidado de los dientes puede prolongar diez años de nuestra vidas... Y el descuido de los mismos puede acortar en la misma proporción".

Las pequeñas cosas de la vida parecen carecer de importancia. Sin embargo, las pequeñas pueden tener una tremenda importancia por sus consecuencias. El éxito resulta de multiplicar las cosas pequeñas. (Mateo 25, 23). No solo en cuestiones de salud, sino en todas las cosas de la vida, incluso hasta para tener más dinero o una mejor economía.

No es fácil pedir disculpas, volver a comenzar, admitir un error, persistir ante las dificultades, sacar provecho de los errores, perdonar y olvidar, pensar y actuar con optimismo, sacar el mejor

partido de lo que Dios nos ha dado. Aceptar la culpa cuando es merecida, dominar el mal carácter, dominar la lengua para criticar a otros. No, no es fácil. No es fácil llenar el corazón humano con las pequeñeces que pueden dar las cosas de este mundo. El corazón humano es muy grande y puede contener una inmensa felicidad. Solo Dios puede satisfacerlo. "Las pequeñeces hacen la perfección, sin ser la perfección una pequeñez" (Miguel Ángel).

Aprendamos a valorar las pequeñas cosas de la vida. Unos 100.000 pelos tiene en su cabellera un hombre normal, según los cálculos que se han hecho. Es maravilloso pensar en estos órganos de nuestro cuerpo, que nacen en una pequeña fábrica de producción capilar llamada folículo, activa las 24 horas del día. Nuestro organismo es un don fantástico del Creador. Cada día

perdemos unos 75 pelos que son reemplazados por otros nuevos. Atraídos por lo grandioso, nos conviene dar gracias a Dios por el inmenso valor de lo pequeño. Cada mañana al mirarnos al espejo podemos recuperar el ánimo si, por encima de las apariencias, valoramos todos nuestros dones. (Lucas 16,10)

Gracias, bendito Dios, porque tu infinita sabiduría no solo se ve en la complejidad del cerebro sino también en el milagro de las pestañas o en la utilidad de las uñas. Gracias, Padre Celestial, por lo sedosos vellos que hacen de la piel un terciopelo, gracias por los glóbulos y por cada disminuto vaso sanguíneo. Alabado seas, gran Señor, por cada célula, cada neurona y cada nervio. Gracias por tu amor, gracias por tu bondad, gracias por tu poder. Gracias sin fin.

The Tremendous Little Things

Little by little, those who despise small things will be ruined ("Ecclesiastes 19, 1-10)

"Life is too short to diminish it" these are the words of Disraeli that have given me a difficult time. Frequently we allow ourselves to be disturbed by trifles that we should despise and forget: Perhaps someone we favor is ungrateful ... perhaps sometimes someone in whose friendship we believed speaks ill of us. Perhaps they denied us compensation that we thought we deserved. These are disappointments that hurt and rob us of our calm. But isn't it absurd that this is so? We are in this world only a few dozen years, and we waste irreplaceable hours brooding over disappointments which -no one will remember in a short time.

No, let us not act like that; Let's dedicate our lives to actions and feelings that are worth our effort and time.. positive and interesting thoughts, strong affections,

and lasting business undertakings. Share the joy of living, the blessings that God has given us, the talents and qualities that we have received, doing good to as many as we can. Treating others well, even if they don't deserve it, is greatness, and that is how God loves us all. Truly, life is too short to diminish it.

We all tend to justify ourselves when we stop performing a job, when we lie or exploit others, when we hold a grudge, when we make a mistake, when we repeat gossip, when we take small things that do not belong to us when we think or speak ill of others, when we promote prejudice or alienation against certain people or nationalities ... it's the little things that can do us the most harm. If you deceive yourself with these little things, you can hurt yourself and many others for all eternity.

A friend was recently advised to take care of his teeth if he wanted to avoid serious problems

with them in the future. For several weeks he followed the dentist's instructions religiously, then, as almost always happens, he began to neglect them. Soon, as far as its practical application was concerned, the dentist's advice was forgotten. In the following annual dental examination, the X-rays revealed the consequences of our friend's negligence. His teeth were in worse shape than before.

"You are the only one responsible," the dentist told him. "Taking good care of one's teeth can extend ten years to our lives... but neglect of them can shorten these years in the same proportion."

The little things in life seem unimportant. However, they can be tremendously important because of their consequences. Success results from multiplying the little things. (Matthew 25, 23). Not only in health matters, but in all matters of life, such as more financial security or a better economic future.

It is not easy to apologize, start again, admit a mistake, persevere amidst difficulties, gain profit from mistakes, forgive and forget, think and act optimistically, and make the best of what God has given us. Accept blame when deserved -master one's lousy temperament, avoid the language that criticizes others. No, it is not easy. It is not easy to fill the human heart with the little things that this world can give. The human heart is very large and can accommodate immense happiness. Only God can satisfy you. "Little things make perfection, without perfection being a little thing."

(Michaelangelo)

Let us learn to value the little things in life. According to the calculations that have been made, a normal man has about 100,000 hairs on his scalp. It's wonderful to think about these organs of our body, which are born in a small factory of network production, called a follicle, active 24 hours

a day. Our body is a fantastic gift from the Creator. Every day we lose about 75 hairs that new ones replace. Drawn by great things, yet it behooves us to thank God for the immense value of the small stuff. Every morning by looking in the mirror, we can regain our spirits if, beyond appearances, we value all of our gifts. (Luke 16:10)

Thank you, blessed God, because your infinite wisdom is not only seen in the complexity of the brain but also in the miracle of eyelashes or the usefulness of nails. Thank you, Celestial Father, for the silky hairs that make our skin like velvet; thank you for the globules and each drop of blood in our vessels. Praised be You, great Lord, for every cell, every neuron, and every nerve. Thank you for your love, thank you for your kindness, thank you for your sovereign power—endless and everlasting thanks.

Progress Donors Thanked By Bishop Seitz

By Natalie Eckberg
Progress Coordinator

A fun evening of fellowship occurred at Bishop Mark Seitz's home for Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal on May 27. The event, titled Fiesta at the Bishop's, was held to say thank you individuals for their support during the difficult months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal funds the ministries of the Diocese of El Paso, including counseling those in need of emotional support, educating our youth, administering services to the vulnerable amongst us and forming future priests and other faith leaders.

"It was a great opportunity to spend time with one another and remember that we are all one faith community," said Linda Caro, Chief Operating Officer. "It has been a difficult year and a half, and we wanted to celebrate the resiliency of our Diocese. We want to be sure that we get to know those who serve our Church and share with them the message that they are valued and appreciated. It's not often that we are able to get together just to say thank you."

The fiesta-themed event featured tacos for dinner, drinks, music and conversation. Also,



A fun evening of fellowship occurred at Bishop Mark Seitz's home for Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal on May 27. The event, titled Fiesta at the Bishop's, was held to say thank you individuals for their support during the difficult months of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Photos by Fernie Ceniceros**

there were festive decorations and churros with dipping sauces for dessert. Approximately 65 individuals attended, including donors to the campaign, Diocesan ministry leaders, Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of El Paso board members, Progress committee members and beneficiaries of the various ministries.

One of the aspects that made the event special was the first time that many had participating in an in-person engagement since the beginning of the pandemic,

said Caro. To ensure everyone's safety, masks and hand sanitizers were provided.

"We were fortunate that we were able to spread the tables out and have less individuals at each table," Caro said. "That, combined with the other safety measures, allowed us to enjoy everyone's company and still feel safe."

Bishop Seitz opened the evening with message of gratitude for everyone's commitment to the Progress and the entire com-

munity.

"We are grateful to spend this night surrounded by friends," he said during the remarks. "Seeing all of you remind me of how vibrant and engaged our Catholic community is, and how together we can make an incredible impact."

Among the guests in attendance for the event were 13 seminarians who are currently in the discernment process of their training. They were accompanied by Rev. John Very Rev. John

Telles who serves as Rector of St. Charles Seminary and Director of Seminarians.

For many, interacting and getting to know the future priests of our Diocese was among the highlights of the event.

"It was incredibly special to get to spend time with them," said Roberto Garibay, Progress Leader for the San Antonio de Padua Catholic Church and committee member of the Progress; Catholic Ministry Appeal. "During these times, it's inspiring to see people who say 'yes' to God's calling. That's what I told them – thank you for saying yes."

For Caro and the rest of the Foundation team, that is exactly what they were hoping for with the event.

"We ask people to donate to the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal and explain that it goes to the ministries, but this is a way for people to see the impact first-hand," she said. "There is not a Catholic who isn't affected by the work of the ministries of the Diocese. By helping people understand who they are supporting, they understand that they are our partners. We can't do it without them, and we are grateful."

To make a donation, or for more information, go to www.2021progress.org.

El Obispo Seitz Agradece A Los Donantes De Progress

Por Natalie Eckberg
Coordinator del Progreso

En la casa del Obispo Mark Seitz tuvo lugar una divertida velada de confraternidad para el Progreso: Catholic Ministry Appeal el 27 de mayo. El evento, titulado Fiesta en casa del Obispo, se celebró para agradecer a las personas su apoyo durante los difíciles meses de la pandemia del COVID-19. El Progreso: Catholic Ministry Appeal financia los ministerios de la Diócesis de El Paso, incluyendo el asesoramiento a los que necesitan apoyo emocional, la educación de nuestros jóvenes, la administración de servicios a los vulnerables entre nosotros y la formación de futuros sacerdotes y otros líderes de la fe.

"Fue una gran oportunidad para pasar tiempo con los demás y recordar que todos somos una comunidad de fe", dijo Linda Caro, Directora de Operaciones. "Ha sido un año y medio difícil, y queríamos celebrar la resistencia de nuestra Diócesis. Queremos asegurarnos de conocer a quienes sirven a nuestra Iglesia y compartir con ellos el mensaje de que son valorados y apreciados. No es frecuente que podamos reunirnos para dar las gracias".

El evento, de temática festiva, contó con tacos para cenar, bebidas, música y conversación. Además, hubo decoraciones festivas y churros con salsas para mojar de postre.

Asistieron aproximadamente 65 personas, entre las que se encontraban donantes de la campaña, líderes de los ministerios diocesanos, miembros de la junta directiva de la Fundación Católica de la Diócesis de El Paso, miembros del Comité de Progreso y beneficiarios de los distintos ministerios.

Uno de los aspectos que hizo que el evento fuera especial fue la primera vez que muchos participaron en un compromiso en persona desde el comienzo de la pandemia, dijo Caro. Para garantizar la seguridad de todos, se proporcionaron mascarillas y desinfectantes para las manos.

"Tuvimos la suerte de poder repartir las mesas y tener menos personas en cada una de

ellas", dijo Caro. "Eso, combinado con las demás medidas de seguridad, nos permitió disfrutar de la compañía de todos y seguir sintiéndonos seguros".

El obispo Seitz abrió la velada con un mensaje de gratitud por el compromiso de todos con el Progreso y con toda la comunidad.

"Estamos agradecidos de pasar esta noche rodeados de amigos", dijo durante el discurso. "Veros a todos me recuerda lo vibrante y comprometida que es nuestra comunidad católica, y cómo juntos podemos tener un impacto increíble".

Entre los invitados que asistieron al evento se encontraban 13 seminaristas que actualmente están en el proceso de discernimiento de su

formación. Estuvieron acompañados por el Reverendo John Muy Reverendo John Telles, quien se desempeña como Rector del Seminario San Carlos y Director de Seminaristas.

Para muchos, interactuar y conocer a los futuros sacerdotes de nuestra Diócesis fue uno de los aspectos más destacados del evento.

"Fue increíblemente especial llegar a pasar tiempo con ellos", dijo Roberto Garibay, Líder de Progreso de la Iglesia Católica San Antonio de Padua y miembro del comité del Progreso; Llamado del Ministerio Católico. "En estos tiempos, es inspirador ver a la gente que dice 'sí' a la llamada de Dios. Eso es lo que les dije: gracias por decir sí".

Para Caro y el resto del equipo de la Fundación, eso es exactamente lo que esperaban con el evento.

"Pedimos a la gente que haga un donativo al Progress Catholic Ministry Appeal y explicamos que se destina a los ministerios, pero esta es una forma de que la gente vea el impacto de primera mano", dijo.

"No hay ningún católico que no se vea afectado por el trabajo de los ministerios de la Diócesis. Al ayudar a la gente a entender a quién están apoyando, entiende que son nuestros socios. No podemos hacerlo sin ellos, y estamos agradecidos".

Para hacer un donativo, o para obtener más información, vaya a www.2021progress.org.



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The Montes Family: Four Generations of Cathedral Graduates and History

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

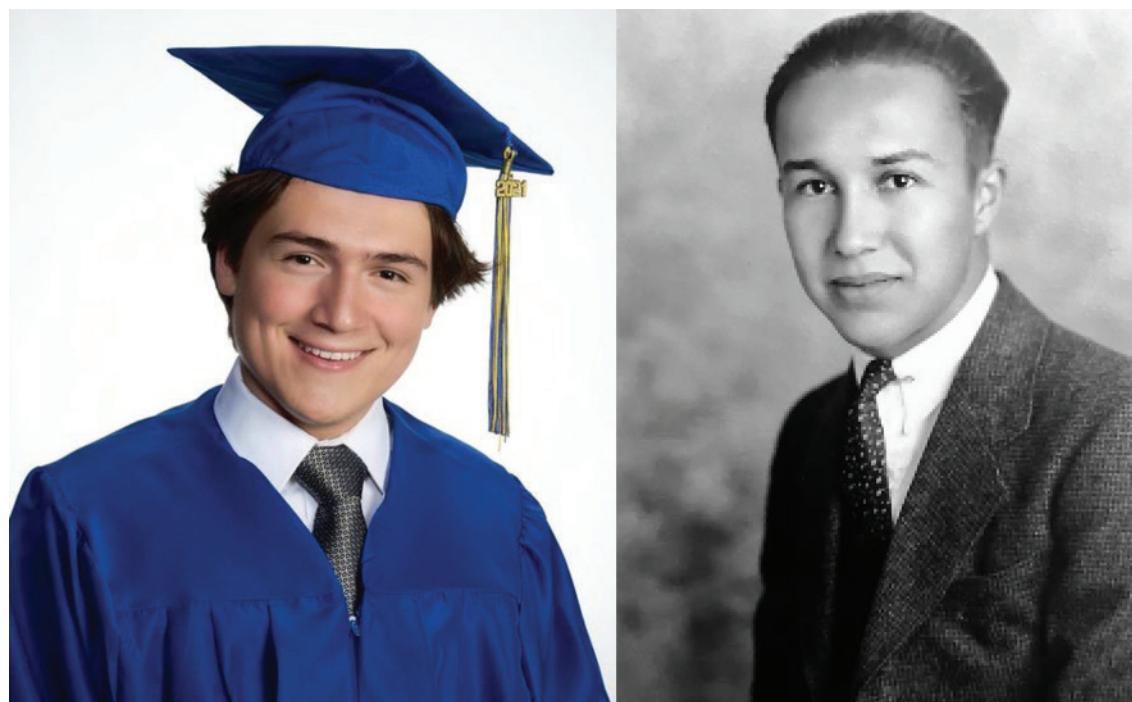
When Matthew Montes walked across the stage on May 15, 2021 to receive his high school diploma from Cathedral, he became the 15th man in his family to graduate from the all-boys school, established by the Sisters of Loretto and run by the Christian Brothers.

The Montes family's rich history begins with Matthew's great-great-great-grandfather, Telésforo Montes, born in San Elizario, Texas, in 1820 to Ramón Montes and Dolores Arroyo, who were also born in San Elizario, in 1795. Telésforo and his brothers and sisters were all baptized and confirmed in the San Elizario Mission.

Telésforo and his wife, María Quirina Alderete, had 12 children, including Josefa Montes, who became a Sister of Loretto, and was known as Sister Petra.

Conrado Virgilio Montes, great-grandson of Telésforo Montes, and Matthew's great-grandfather, shared that in addition to his service and leadership, Telésforo was instrumental in bringing the Sisters of Loretto to San Elizario to establish a school. The official request to bring the Sisters from Kentucky was made by Reverend Peter Bourgade, then pastor of the church at the presidio.

The Sisters established the first Catholic preparatory school for women in the Southwest in 1879, the first Loretteine school in Texas, where "young women could



The Montes family's rich history begins with Class of 2021 Matthew Montes great-great-great-grandfather, Telésforo Montes, born in San Elizario, Texas, in 1820. Telésforo and his brothers and sisters were all baptized and confirmed in the San Elizario Mission. *Photos Courtesy of the Catholic Foundation.*

receive a rigorous and challenging education in a supportive environment."

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Telesforo's granddaughter María, the daughter of Marina Jenara Montes and Carlos García, was the valedictorian of her graduating class at Loretto Academy in 1892. This was the last class to graduate in San Elizario before the Academy was moved to El Paso.

The first member of the family to graduate from Cathedral was Gustavo Edmundo Montes. He graduated in 1936 as valedictorian, and went on to get his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin.

Conrado Montes, the son of Conrado Virgilio Montes, and self-appointed family historian, graduated in 1960. His brothers followed in his footsteps. Mike† graduated in 1962, Agustín†, Matthew's grandfather, in 1965, Ignacio† in 1966, and Richard

in 1971. His sister, Rose Diane Montes Tate, graduated from Loretto Academy in 1980. Her daughter, Annabella, will be a sophomore at Loretto Academy in the fall.

Conrado, the valedictorian of his class at Guardian Angel on a scholarship to Cathedral, said that Brother Simon, one of his teachers, told him that he had just read a very interesting book about Texas. He asked Conrado if he was related to a Telésforo Montes. Conrado had no idea but Brother Simon wouldn't accept that for an answer. He challenged

Conrado to learn more. He went home and asked his father.

It turned out that Telésforo was his great-great grandfather and a very important figure in the history of San Elizario, Texas, and the region.

Conrado's nephew, Agustín "Augie" Montes, graduated in 1993, his brother, Michael in 1999. Augie's son, Nicholas, graduated in 2014. His wife, Lynette, Matthew and Nicholas' mother, graduated from Loretto Academy in 1991. Matthew's baby sister, Cassandra, will be a freshman at Loretto Academy in 2021.

Matthew's great-grandfather, José Jesús Montes, had sisters who married into the Madrid family. There were four Madrid men who graduated from Cathedral High School: Oscar, '57, Hector, '58, Carlos, '59, and Luis, '65.

Matthew Montes was accepted to the University of San Francisco and The University of Texas at El Paso and starts college in the fall. It's too early to know if a fifth generation will carry on the tradition, but certainly Telésforo would be incredibly proud of his legacy.

To learn more about the family history, visit <http://www.montes-family.com/>.

If you have a story about Catholic schools and contributions of religious brothers and sisters you would like to share, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at (915) 872-8412 or slarkin@elpasodiocese.org.

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The Catholic Foundation Launches The “Clergy Corner”

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

Bishop Mark J. Seitz announced the opening of all churches to 100% on June 1, 2021, and the Catholic Foundation in collaboration with the Foundation's Stewardship Committee created an exclusive section for clergy on the Catholic Foundation website called the “Clergy Corner,” to help the Diocese of El Paso welcome back parishioners.

The Clergy Corner offers useful bilingual resources that clergy can download and use at the parish: Welcome back parishioners postcards and letters, effective communication

tools for parishes, social media tutorials, tips to improve online giving and a summary of parish activities that were developed during the pandemic in the Diocese. These resources are made to be shared with parish administrators and ministry leaders to assist pastors in the reopening of the parishes.

Therefore, due to the pandemic, the Clergy corner offers as well mental health and clergy self-care resources in collaboration with Texas Tech University, to attend the needs of the Catholic community after the aftermath of social isolation.

We are called to be people of faith and to live in commu-

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[HTTPS://CATHOLICFOUNDATIONELPASO.ORG/CLERGY-CORNER](https://catholicfoundationelpaso.org/clergy-corner)

nity with one another, don't hesitate to contact your parish to learn more about re-opening protocols. If you are part of the clergy of the Diocese of El Paso, please visit the Catholic Foundation website

at catholicfoundationelpaso.org/clergy-corner. The Catholic Foundation will continually update the resources and content on the Clergy Corner.

For more information, questions or to request an specific

content or materials on the Clergy corner please contact Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator at 915.872.8412 or at ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org.

La Fundación Católica Lanza El “Clergy Corner.”

Por Karina Sandoval
Coordinator de Corresponsabilidad

El Obispo Mark J. Seitz anunció la apertura de todas las iglesias con la capacidad del 100% el 1 de Junio del 2021, y la Fundación Católica en colaboración con el comité de Corresponsabilidad crearon una sección exclusiva para el clero en la página web de la Fundación que ayudará a la Diócesis de El

Paso a recibir a los feligreses de nuevo.

La sección de “Clergy corner” ofrece recursos bilingües donde el clero podrá descargar desde su computadora y usar en la parroquia, tales como: cartas y postales de bienvenida, herramientas de comunicación para las parroquias, tutoriales de los medios sociales, tips para mejorar las ofrendas realizadas en línea y un resumen de las actividades parro-

quiales que se realizaron durante la pandemia. Estos recursos están hechos para ser compartidos con el personal administrativo de la parroquia y líderes de ministerio para la asistencia en la reapertura de las parroquias.

Además, por cuestiones de la pandemia, el Clergy corner también ofrece recursos de salud mental y auto-cuidado del clero en colaboración con la Universidad de Texas Tech para atender

las necesidades de la comunidad Católica después del tiempo de aislamiento social.

Estamos llamados a hacer personas de fe y a vivir en comunidad unos con otros, no dudes en contactar a tu parroquia para aprender sobre los protocolos de re-apertura. Si eres parte del clero de la Diócesis de El Paso, visita la pagina web de la Fundación catholicfoundationelpaso.org/clergy-corner. La Fundación

Católica continuará actualizando los recursos y el contenido en el Clergy Corner.

Para mas información, preguntas, o para requerir un contenido en específico en el Clergy corner contacte a Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad al 915.872.8412 o en ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org.



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