

THE RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC

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Celebrating 30 Years serving the Diocese of El Paso

April 2021

Diocese Will Ordain Five Men To The Order Of Deacon

By Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Bishop Mark Seitz will ordain 5 men to the Order of Deacon on April 16th at Mother Cabrini Catholic Church on the east side of El Paso.

The 5 men are, José William Arévalo Narváez, 41, Astry Déraly, 39, Cesar Garcia-Ortega, 26, Edroud Jean, 38, and Sergio Legareta Carrasco, 32. These 5 men have been preparing for their eventual goal of Priesthood in the Diocese of El Paso at various seminaries around the country.

Father John Telles, Director of Seminarians, expressed his joy about these men being ordained to the transitional diaconate this coming month.

"Each of these 5 men has unique talents and gifts that will help serve the people of the Diocese of El Paso," Fr. John Telles said. "I am looking forward to what these men can accomplish on this list, and we are very proud of them," he added. "We look forward to their service not just for the short term, but for the long term for many years to come in the Diocese of El Paso, he ended.

José William Arévalo Narváez studied for the priesthood for 12 years, with the last 4 years in El Paso.

"In thanksgiving to God, I am grateful for his generosity in calling me to serve him," Arévalo Narvaez said.

Astry Déraly has been studying for the priesthood since 2007 in Costa Rica and was called to finish his studies in the Diocese of El Paso in 2017.

"Praise be to God our Father for all his blessing. Thanks also to Bishop Mark Joseph for confirming this call to minister in the Church. Please, keep me in your daily prayers as I do so for each of you. God bless you all," Dearly Said.

Edroud Jean has been studying for the priesthood since 2008, also in Costa Rica. He was called to the Diocese of El Paso to finish his studies to the priesthood in 2016.

"I want to entrust my ministry to God, who is the source of every vocation to enlighten me and send more vocations to the Church and in particular to our Diocese of El Paso," Jean said.

Cesar Garcia-Ortega was born and raised here in El Paso and has studied for the priesthood since 2012.

"I feel confident that God



Bishop Mark Seitz will ordain 5 men to the Order of Deacon on April 16th at Mother Cabrini Catholic Church on the east side of El Paso. **Photos Courtesy Diocesan Office of Vocations**

La Diócesis Ordenará A Cinco Hombres Al Orden Del Diaconado

Por Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

El Obispo Mark Seitz ordenará a 5 hombres a la Orden de Diáconos el 16 de abril en la Iglesia Católica Madre Cabrini en el lado este de El Paso.

Los 5 hombres son, José William Arévalo Narváez, 41, Astry Déraly, 39, Cesar Garcia-Ortega, 26, Edroud Jean, 38, y Sergio Legareta Carrasco, 32. Estos 5 hombres se han estado preparando para su eventual objetivo del Sacerdocio en la Diócesis de El Paso en varios seminarios alrededor del país.

El Padre John Telles, Director de Seminaristas, expresó su alegría por la ordenación de estos

hombres al diaconado transitorio este próximo mes.

"Cada uno de estos 5 hombres tiene talentos y dones únicos que ayudarán a servir a la gente de la Diócesis de El Paso", dijo el Padre John Telles. "Estoy esperando lo que estos hombres pueden lograr en esta lista, y estamos muy orgullosos de ellos", agregó. "Esperamos su servicio no sólo a corto plazo, sino a largo plazo durante muchos años en la Diócesis de El Paso, finalizó.

José William Arévalo Narváez estudió para el sacerdocio durante 12 años, los últimos 4 en El Paso.

"En acción de gracias a Dios, agradezco su generosidad al llamarla a servirle", dijo Arévalo

Narváez.

Astry Déraly estudia para el sacerdocio desde 2007 en Costa Rica y fue llamado a terminar sus estudios en la Diócesis de El Paso en 2017.

"Alabado sea Dios nuestro Padre por toda su bendición. Gracias también al Obispo Mark Joseph por confirmar este llamado a ministrar en la Iglesia. Por favor, ténganme en sus oraciones diarias como lo hago por cada uno de ustedes. Que Dios os bendiga a todos", dijo con cariño.

Android Jean ha estado estudiando para el sacerdocio desde 2008, también en Costa Rica. Fue llamado a la Diócesis de El Paso para terminar sus estudios al sacerdocio en 2016.

"Quiero encomendar mi ministerio a Dios, que es la fuente de toda vocación para que me ilumine y envíe más vocaciones a la Iglesia y en particular a nuestra Diócesis de El Paso", dijo Jean.

César García-Ortega nació y creció aquí en El Paso y ha estudiado para el sacerdocio desde 2012.

"Me siento seguro de que Dios sigue llamándome para continuar discerniendo su llamado al sacerdocio", dijo García-Ortega. "Por favor, sigan rezando por mí mientras continúo mi discernimiento y formación al sacerdocio", finalizó.

Sergio Legarreta-Carrasco

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Editor's Note / Nota del Editor

Hello Faithful reader. In 2021, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary and as we move into our 30th faithful year, I have invited your former editors and contributors to the Rio Grande Catholic, to join us to give an insight into their time serving you as this newspaper's editor and

contributor. This month I am pleased to welcome Janet Crowe, the longest serving contributor to the Rio Grande Catholic. Thank you Janet for your faithful service to the people of our diocese.

- Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Hola, fiel seguidor. En 2021, estamos celebrando nuestro 30º aniversario y al entrar en nuestro 30º año fiel, he invitado a sus antiguos editores y colaboradores del Rio Grande Catholic, para que se unan a nosotros para dar una visión de su tiempo sirviendo a usted como editor y colaborador de

este periódico. Este mes me complace dar la bienvenida a Janet Crowe, la colaboradora más antigua del Rio Grande Catholic. Gracias Janet por tu fiel servicio a la gente de nuestra diócesis.

- Fernie Ceniceros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

EDITOR'S COLUMN - NANCY RAMOS

From First To Longest And In Between



Janet Crowe

Thirty years! What does that mean? Numbers are sterile. I need to connect numbers to something real. Real has been watching the Rio Grande Catholic newspaper flourish under the administration of three bishops, each one supportive and inspiring. The RGC has witnessed the papacy of three popes. It has grown under the leadership of nine editors, with their own experience and talents willingly given to bring the Catholic community of the El Paso Diocese and the world together. I guess thirty years means the RGC and its readers have seen a lot together!

When that first issue of the RGC was welcomed into our parishes and homes, we felt that we had become a grown-up diocese with a newspaper of our own. I remember reading every page of the newspaper – more than I ever did with El Paso's daily paper and the RGC didn't have a comics page.

From its first issue, the RGC proved to be a quality newspaper but I felt that it was missing one thing if it was to be truly

Catholic. It needed a pro-life column, especially considering our Pope's powerful voice on the issue. I gathered my courage and writing experience and approached Steve Stewart, the Editor, who responded with a challenge to "Show me what you've got and I'll consider it." The rest isn't history but is certainly a part of the RGC's story and my own.

Those first few years writing for the RGC were not only joyful but filled with multiple learning experiences as well. When Steve moved away from El Paso, the RGC carried on with new leaders at the helm who faithfully steered our ship along its charted path. Sadly,

even the Diocesan newspaper was not immune during this pandemic year and we lost one of our former editors when Andy Sparke passed away in 2020.

A retired journalist with years of experience at the Cincinnati Enquirer, El Paso Times, El Paso Herald-Post, and Southwest Catholic Register (RGC's predecessor), Andy Sparke held the longest term as RGC Editor, serving the Diocese for seventeen years. Although all the RGC editors have acted with professionalism and commitment, Andy brought a "coat and tie" career journalist's professionalism to reporting the news. I don't think he ever wrote an editorial to add his own personal touch. Andy was more of a "stick-to-the-news" person, simply reporting happenings in the Diocese and the worldwide Church while staying behind the printed page.

That didn't mean that he didn't care. Andy was a strong, quiet person but was also encouraging to those of us who worked with him. We repeatedly joked over my habit of exceed-

ing word limits when he or I would paraphrase an often-used quip, "I would have written a shorter article if I'd had more time."

Between the time of our first editor Steve and before Andy's time in office, a wonderful opportunity came my way the day I was offered the role of Editor. That was truly a joyful time of learning, expanding my horizons and delving into the beauty and wonder of our Catholic faith. Participating in Mass, the sacraments and various celebrations had always made me feel complete as a Catholic. Now, researching the background and meaning behind what I had often viewed as simply ordinary events in the life of the church opened my heart to new insights into the depth of our faith.

I was privileged to write about the meaning of a Chrism Mass during Lent, a Red Mass and its significance to law enforcement, the vows of a cloistered religious sister, ordinations of new priests – each one unique and yet similar in its traditions and rites. I was given opportuni-

ties to peek into the human soul through interviews and stories – a man with no arms who played the guitar and sang for the pope, a famous actor who found real meaning in life not from his movies but from life after the accident that confined him to a wheelchair and a breathing tube, a Holocaust survivor who would never forget the atrocities he and his family had suffered but who moved past the fear and anxiety into a life of forgiveness and joy.

These and so many other experiences during my time as Editor and writer with the RGC have been such rich and abundant blessings to my life and my faith. I have been allowed to witness the Church in more depth and to recognize that our faith is not simply a 2,000-year-old institution. Ours is a living, breathing faith instilled in its people who inhale the traditions and rites and exhale their faith in action to our community, our brothers and sisters, and the world. Thank you, RGC, for giving me the privilege and honor to be a witness to those life-giving breaths!

De La Primera A La Más Larga Y En Medio



Treinta años! ¿Qué significa eso? Los números son estériles. Necesito conectar los números con algo real. Real ha sido ver florecer el periódico católico Río Grande bajo la administración de tres obispos, cada uno de ellos solidario e inspirador. El RGC ha sido testigo del papado de tres papas. Ha crecido bajo el liderazgo de nueve editores, con su propia experiencia y talentos entregados voluntariamente para unir a la comunidad católica de la Diócesis de El Paso y del mundo. Supongo que treinta años significan que la RGC y sus lectores han visto mucho juntos.

Cuando aquel primer número del RGC llegó a nuestras parroquias y hogares, sentimos que nos habíamos convertido en una diócesis adulta con un periódico propio. Recuerdo que leí todas las páginas del periódico, más de lo que lo hice con el diario de El Paso, y el RGC no tenía página de cómics.

Desde su primer número, el RGC demostró ser un periódico de calidad, pero sentí que le faltaba una cosa para ser verdaderamente católico. Necesitaba una columna a favor de la vida, sobre todo teniendo en cuenta la poderosa voz de nuestro Papa en este tema. Me armé de valor y de experiencia en la escritura y me dirigí a Steve Stewart, el director,

que me respondió con un reto: "Muéstrame lo que tienes y lo consideraré". El resto no es historia, pero sin duda forma parte de la historia de la RGC y de la mía propia.

Eso primos años escribiendo para el RGC no sólo fueron alegres sino que también estuvieron llenos de múltiples experiencias de aprendizaje. Cuando Steve se marchó de El Paso, la RGC continuó con nuevos líderes al timón que dirigieron fielmente nuestro barco por el camino trazado. Lamentablemente, ni siquiera el periódico diocesano fue inmune durante este año pandémico y perdimos a uno de nuestros antiguos editores cuando Andy Sparke falleció en 2020.

Periodista jubilado con años

de experiencia en el Cincinnati Enquirer, El Paso Times, El Paso Herald-Post y Southwest Catholic Register (el predecesor de RGC), Andy Sparke fue el que más tiempo estuvo como editor de RGC, sirviendo a la Diócesis durante diecisiete años. Aunque todos los editores de RGC han actuado con profesionalidad y compromiso, Andy aportó la profesionalidad de un periodista de carrera de "chaqueta y corbata" a la hora de informar. Creo que nunca escribió un editorial para añadir su toque personal. Andy era más bien una persona que se ceñía a las noticias, que se limitaba a informar de los sucesos de la Diócesis y de la Iglesia mundial mientras se mantenía detrás de la página impresa.

Eso no significaba que no

se preocupara. Andy era una persona fuerte y tranquila, pero también animaba a los que trabajábamos con él. En repetidas ocasiones bromeábamos sobre mi costumbre de sobrepasar el límite de palabras, cuando él o yo parafraseábamos una ocurrencia a menudo utilizada: "Habría escrito un artículo más corto si hubiera tenido más tiempo".

Entre la época de nuestro primer editor, Steve, y antes de la de Andy, se me presentó una maravillosa oportunidad el día que me ofrecieron el cargo de editor. Aquella fue una época verdaderamente gozosa de aprendizaje, de ampliación de mis horizontes y de profundización en la belleza y la maravilla de nuestra fe católica. Participar en la misa, en los sacramentos y en diversas celebraciones siempre me había hecho sentir completa como católica. Ahora, investigar el trasfondo y el significado de lo que a menudo había visto como simples acontecimientos ordinarios en la vida de la Iglesia abrió mi corazón a nuevas percepciones de la profundidad de nuestra fe.

Tuve el privilegio de escribir sobre el significado de una Misa Crismal durante la Cuaresma, una Misa Roja y su significado para las fuerzas del orden, los votos de una religiosa de clausura, las ordenaciones de

nuevos sacerdotes, cada una de ellas única y a la vez similar en sus tradiciones y ritos. Tuve la oportunidad de asomarme al alma humana a través de entrevistas e historias: un hombre sin brazos que tocaba la guitarra y cantaba para el Papa, un famoso actor que encontró el verdadero sentido de la vida no en sus películas, sino en la vida después del accidente que le confinó a una silla de ruedas y a un tubo de respiración, un superviviente del Holocausto que nunca olvidaría las atrocidades que él y su familia habían sufrido, pero que pasó del miedo y la ansiedad a una vida de perdón y alegría.

Estas y muchas otras experiencias durante mi tiempo como editora y escritora de la RGC han sido bendiciones tan ricas y abundantes para mi vida y mi fe. Me han permitido ser testigo de la Iglesia en mayor profundidad y reconocer que nuestra fe no es simplemente una institución de 2.000 años de antigüedad. La nuestra es una fe viva, que respira, inculcada en su gente, que inhala las tradiciones y los ritos y exhala su fe en acción hacia nuestra comunidad, nuestros hermanos y hermanas, y el mundo. Gracias, RGC, por darme el privilegio y el honor de ser testigo de esas respiraciones vivificantes.

INSEITZ INTO THE FAITH

10 Things People of Faith Can Learn from the Pandemic

Here we are in the beginning of April marking our second Holy Week and Easter during the Pandemic. Although any declarations that the Pandemic has ended are almost certainly premature, given the fact that our children have not yet been immunized and neither has most of the population of the world. Furthermore, new strains will continue to pop up as long as the virus continues to have opportunities in hosts. Still, we find ourselves in a very different place than last year when we were at the beginning of the Pandemic. Those of us who have been able to be vaccinated are breathing quite a bit easier for now and the prevalence of the virus is (at least at this writing) at a relatively low ebb.

At this moment in time and as we, the Christian community, pause to celebrate the great saving work of Jesus, it is a good opportunity to reflect upon what we may have learned from this very

challenging year.

Many have asked this question recently but I have not noted many doing so in the light of Faith. From the perspective of the secular world this Pandemic threatened to upend all their shallow unconscious certitudes. It threatened to suggest that human beings are not in control, that science does not have the answer to every question, that money and possessions are enough to make a person happy, that death can be covered over and hidden from view so we can live under the illusion that this life is our forever. And this is just the beginning of the list of secular dogmas that were found wanting in this year unlike any other.

Unfortunately, another characteristic of the modern secular mind is that what could be learned from the past is soon forgotten. The future, according to this way of thinking, is all that matters and it always makes obsolete that which came before it. Science will

soon reclaim its throne in their minds. Science is the new 'religion' demanding unquestioned faith and allegiance.

The person of Faith, on the other hand, is able to benefit from experience as he or she discerns the many subtle but powerful ways in which God has been at work in the midst even of our crosses. This insight into the past allows us to bring a certain wisdom to bear upon our present experiences and also gives us a sense of direction as we look to the future. For the Christian, then, there can be great benefit to be mined from our experience of the Pandemic.

What can we learn? Allow me to suggest for you in brief fashion 10 lessons that I believe may be found through a prayerful discernment.

1. For all our vaunted technology we have not yet conquered nature and we certainly have not conquered God.

2. Science has much to offer as the study of our material world,



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

but there are many questions that science is not in a position to answer.

3. Medical personnel, first responders and all of us to some degree have been reminded that their work is not simply a 'job', but a way of giving themselves in service.

4. Human life is fragile creatures and no one can take tomorrow for granted.

5. Human beings are dependent upon each other, within our communities and within our world. The virus does not respect the

borders we erect.

6. This life, no matter what we accomplish or accumulate, will not provide us with true fulfillment.

7. God is capable of bringing good out of our heaviest crosses.

8. We can find a strength beyond our own to pass through difficult times, if we are only willing to ask for it.

9. Christ is the victor over death and the Lord of all!

10. The Kingdom of God is not a consolation prize, but our destiny!

10 Cosas Que Los Creyentes Pueden Aprender De La Pandemia

Aquí estamos, a principios de abril, marcando nuestra segunda Semana Santa y Pascua durante la Pandemia. Aunque cualquier declaración de que la Pandemia ha terminado es casi ciertamente prematura, dado el hecho de que nuestros niños aún no han sido inmunizados y tampoco la mayoría de la población del mundo. Además, seguirán apareciendo nuevas cepas mientras el virus siga teniendo oportunidades en los huéspedes. Aun así, nos encontramos en un lugar muy diferente al del año pasado, cuando estábamos al principio de la pandemia. Aquellos de nosotros que hemos podido vacunarnos estamos respirando un poco más tranquilos por ahora y la prevalencia del virus está (al menos en este momento) en un punto relativamente bajo.

En este momento y mientras nosotros, la comunidad cristia-

na, nos detenemos para celebrar la gran obra salvadora de Jesús, es una buena oportunidad para reflexionar sobre lo que podemos haber aprendido de este año tan difícil.

Muchos se han hecho esta pregunta recientemente, pero no he observado que muchos lo hagan a la luz de la fe.

Desde el punto de vista del mundo secular, esta pandemia amenazó con poner patas arriba todas sus certezas inconscientes y superficiales. Amenazó con sugerir que los seres humanos no tienen el control, que la ciencia no tiene la respuesta a todas las preguntas, que el dinero y las posesiones son suficientes para hacer a una persona feliz, que la muerte puede ser cubierta y ocultada de la vista para que podamos vivir bajo la ilusión de que esta vida es nuestra para siempre. Y esto es sólo el principio de la lista de dogmas

seculares que se han encontrado en este año diferente a cualquier otro.

Desgraciadamente, otra característica de la mente secular moderna es que lo que se puede aprender del pasado se olvida pronto. El futuro, según esta forma de pensar, es lo único que importa y siempre deja obsoleto lo que vino antes. La ciencia pronto reclamará su trono en sus mentes. La ciencia es la nueva "religión" que exige una fe y una lealtad inquestable.

La persona de fe, por otro lado, es capaz de beneficiarse de la experiencia al discernir las muchas formas sutiles pero poderosas en las que Dios ha estado trabajando incluso en medio de nuestras crudas. Esta visión del pasado nos permite aportar una cierta sabiduría a nuestras experiencias presentes y también nos da un sentido de dirección cuando miramos

al futuro. Para el cristiano, por tanto, puede haber un gran beneficio que extraer de nuestra experiencia de la pandemia.

¿Qué podemos aprender? Permítanme sugerirles brevemente 10 lecciones que creo que se pueden encontrar a través de un discernimiento en oración.

1. A pesar de toda la tecnología de la que nos jactamos, todavía no hemos conquistado la naturaleza y, desde luego, no hemos conquistado a Dios.

2. La ciencia tiene mucho que ofrecer como estudio de nuestro mundo material, pero hay muchas preguntas que la ciencia no está en condiciones de responder.

3. El personal médico, los socorristas y todos nosotros, en cierta medida, hemos recordado que su trabajo no es simplemente un "trabajo", sino una forma de entregarse al servicio.

4. La vida humana es una

criatura frágil y nadie puede dar por sentado el mañana.

5. Los seres humanos dependemos unos de otros, dentro de nuestras comunidades y dentro de nuestro mundo. El virus no respeta las fronteras que levantamos.

6. Esta vida, no importa lo que logremos o acumulemos, no nos proporcionará la verdadera plenitud.

7. Dios es capaz de sacar el bien de nuestras crudas más pesadas.

8. Podemos encontrar una fuerza más allá de la nuestra para atravesar los tiempos difíciles, si sólo estamos dispuestos a pedirla.

9. ¡Cristo es el vencedor de la muerte y el Señor de todo!

10. El Reino de Dios no es un premio de consolación, sino nuestro destino.

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You Did This! Casa Guadalupe, a Home for All

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

It's fitting that one year after the Diocese of El Paso went into lockdown there would be a coming together in a new way to celebrate our faith during an inspiring fundraiser for the Casa Guadalupe Retreat House, a spiritual home that will offer hope and renewal for many years to come, particularly following the pandemic as many are grieving painful losses.

The Casa Guadalupe Retreat House raised \$5,600 during an online auction for the plaza and prayer garden through the sale of figurines—hand painted by our bishop and local priests—Talavera tiles, and donations. Your gifts will help beautify the space. Now it's time for you to visit!

The auction was held virtually from Friday, March 12 through Sunday, March 14. Donors had opportunities to bid on the hand painted figurines, purchase Tal-



The Casa Guadalupe Retreat House raised \$5,600 during an online auction of figurines—hand painted by our bishop and local priests.
Photo Courtesy of Office of Religious Formation

vera tiles in memory or in honor of a loved one that will be placed

throughout the Casa Guadalupe Plaza and Prayer Garden, and

make donations. The Catholic Foundation sponsored the online auction site.

Retreat House Director Dr. Verónica Rayas hosted an open house on Saturday, March 13 from noon to 3pm. She expressed tremendous gratitude to Bishop Mark and participating pastors and says she hopes to make this an annual event that will include the figurines being on display at participating parishes followed by an exhibit and a live auction. The goal is to raise \$24,000 for the plaza and prayer garden. More importantly, the goal is to ensure that everyone knows that they have a home and a sacred space to retreat to at Casa Guadalupe. What better way to do that than to visit, spend some time in prayer, and purchase tiles to commemorate the ones you love and who taught you to pray? From now through April 30, the retreat house is on a mission to sell 50 tiles. Leave a lasting legacy at the retreat house with a

purchase of tiles for \$100 each.

Located on the outskirts of east El Paso, Casa Guadalupe Retreat House is an 11,000 square foot complex that includes a classroom, dining room, kitchen, 44 bedrooms, and a chapel. The center of the retreat house is the future Casa Guadalupe Plaza and Prayer Garden. The retreat house was founded in 2006 by Dr. and Mrs. Sal Mena and their family as Most Holy Trinity Retreat Center and reopened as Casa Guadalupe in 2018. Casa Guadalupe offers retreats, workshops, and conferences to help guide people in their spiritual journey.

To order your custom Talavera tiles, purchase custom merchandise, crafts, and artesanías, set up a tour or retreat, and donate, or for more information, please contact Verónica Rayas at vrayas@elpasodiocese.org or 915.342.7859.

¡Ustedes Lo Lograron! Casa Guadalupe, Un Hogar Para Todos

Por Sofia Larkin
Oficial de Donaciones Mayores

Es apropiado que un año después de que la Diócesis de El Paso entrara en crisis, se reuniera de una nueva manera para celebrar nuestra fe durante una inspiradora recaudación de fondos para la Casa de Retiros Casa Guadalupe, un hogar espiritual que ofrecerá esperanza y renovación por muchos años, particularmente después de la pandemia, ya que muchos están sufriendo dolorosas pérdidas.

La Casa de Retiro Casa Guadalupe recaudó 5.600 dólares durante una subasta en línea para la plaza y el jardín de oración

a través de la venta de figuras—pintadas por nuestro obispo y sacerdotes locales-, azulejos de talavera y donaciones. Sus regalos ayudarán a embellecer el espacio. Ahora es el momento de visitarlo.

La subasta se celebró virtualmente desde el viernes 12 de marzo hasta el domingo 14 de marzo. Los donantes tuvieron la oportunidad de pujar por las figuras pintadas a mano, comprar azulejos de Talavera en memoria o en honor de un ser querido que se colocarán en toda la Plaza y el Jardín de Oración de la Casa Guadalupe, y hacer donaciones. La Fundación Católica patrocinó el sitio de subastas en línea.

La Dra. Verónica Rayas, directora de la Casa de Ejercicios, organizó una jornada de puertas abiertas el sábado 13 de marzo, desde el mediodía hasta las 3 de la tarde. Expresó su enorme gratitud al Obispo Mark y a los párrocos participantes y dice que espera hacer de esto un evento anual que incluya la exhibición de las figuras en las parroquias participantes, seguida de una exposición y una subasta en vivo. El objetivo es recaudar 24.000 dólares para la plaza y el jardín de oración. Y lo que es más importante, el objetivo es que todos sepan que tienen un hogar y un espacio sagrado al que retirarse en la Casa Guadalupe.

¿Qué mejor manera de hacerlo que visitarla, pasar un tiempo en oración y comprar azulejos para conmemorar a los que amas y que te enseñaron a rezar? Desde ahora hasta el 30 de abril, la casa de retiros tiene la misión de vender 50 azulejos. Deja un legado duradero en la casa de retiros con la compra de azulejos por 100 dólares cada uno.

Situada en las afueras del este de El Paso, la Casa de Retiros Casa Guadalupe es un complejo de 11.000 pies cuadrados que incluye un aula, un comedor, una cocina, 44 habitaciones y una capilla. El centro de la casa de retiro es la futura Plaza y Jardín de Oración de Casa Guadalupe.

La casa de retiros fue fundada en 2006 por el Dr. y la Sra. Sal Mena y su familia como Centro de Retiros Santísima Trinidad y reabrió como Casa Guadalupe en 2018. Casa Guadalupe ofrece retiros, talleres y conferencias para ayudar a guiar a las personas en su viaje espiritual.

Para ordenar sus azulejos de Talavera personalizados, comprar mercancía personalizada, artesanías, y artesanías, establecer un tour o retiro, y donar, o para más información, por favor contacte a Verónica Rayas en vrayas@elpasodiocese.org o 915.342.7859.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

Fr. Andres Sosa Medellin, OFM	4/12
Fr. Francisco Javier Rodriguez Roman, OFM	4/18
Fr. Jorge M. Palacio, OSM	4/22
Fr. Antonio Alano De Guzman, Jr. (Extern)	4/22
Fr. Hector Diaz (Extern)	4/25
Fr. Allan Oluoch Alaka	4/25
Fr. Lazaro Gonzalez, OFM	4/26
Fr. Miguel Meneses (Retired)	4/28
Fr. Armando I. Reyes (Extern)	4/29
Fr. Anthony C. Celino	4/29
Fr. Fernando Mendoza Laguna, OFM	4/30

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Charles Rajan Michael (Extern)	4/2/2008
Fr. Esteban Sescon	4/3/1977
Fr. John Paul Madanu, (Extern)	4/30/2008
Fr. Armando I. Reyes (Extern)	4/6/1976
Fr. Rodolfo Lacerna (Retired)	4/6/1968



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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Filipinos in the Diocese of El Paso Celebrate!

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

A yearlong commemoration of Christianity's 500th anniversary in the Philippines will be officially inaugurated on Easter Sunday, April 4. Bishop Mark Seitz celebrated Mass to commemorate the momentous occasion with the Filipino community of the Diocese of El Paso on Saturday March 20, 2021 at St. Patrick Cathedral. Mass was televised on the Pinoy Monthly Mass Facebook page to enable viewing of the Mass virtually.

Pope Francis led a Holy Mass celebrating the event on Sunday, March 14 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Mass was attended by several members of the Filipino Church including Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, the pope's vicar for Rome.

In his homily he said Filipinos "received the joy of the Gospel half a millennia ago, and this joy is evident in your people." Pope Francis called Filipino women "smugglers" of faith because they "sow the faith" everywhere they go. He added, "On this very important anniversary for God's holy people in the Philippines, I also want to urge you to persevere in the work of evangelization – not proselytism, which is something else. The Christian proclamation that you have received needs constantly to be brought to others."



Fr. Anthony C. Celino, Pastor of St. Raphael Church and a canon lawyer for the Diocese of El Paso, who came to the United States from the Philippines to study for the priesthood says, "this is a celebration of centuries of faith." He calls it a "reverse mission because Filipinos all over the world who originally received the faith through missionaries bring their faith with them; we are now the missionaries." There are more than 10 million Filipino migrants living in almost one hundred countries in the world.

The story of how the Philippines became Catholic is long and complex and worth learning more about. It essentially began when Ferdinand Magellan, a 16th-century Portuguese explorer, led a Spanish expedition to what they thought was the 'East Indies' from 1519 to 1522. They reached what is today known as the Philippines on March 16, 1521. It is believed that the first Mass was celebrated on Philippines soil on March 31, 1521, on the island of Limasawa, south of Leyte. Some 800 people were baptized to form

the first Catholic community.

"I want to express our gratitude to you for leading us in this Eucharistic celebration and thanksgiving for the arrival of the faith in the Philippines 500 years ago. We bring you here the filial love of the Filipinos in the 7,641 islands of our country." — Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle

The Filipino-American community established a permanent endowed fund in 2007 as a legacy to the Filipino heritage in our diocese and make annual contributions to support vocations and priests in their

retirement. Proceeds from the annual Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, benefit the Filipino-American Fund which is managed by the Catholic Foundation.

For more information, to discuss the giving that best suits you and your family, and to notify the Catholic Foundation of your plans to leave a legacy for the Filipino-American Fund, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at slarkin@elpasodiocese.org or 915.433.2003.

¡Los filipinos de la diócesis de El Paso están de fiesta!

By Sofia Larkin
Major Gifts Officer

El domingo de Pascua, 4 de abril, se inaugurará oficialmente una conmemoración de un año del 500 aniversario del cristianismo en Filipinas. El obispo Mark Seitz celebró una misa para conmemorar la trascendental ocasión con la comunidad filipina de la diócesis de El Paso el sábado 20 de marzo de 2021 en la catedral de San Patricio. La misa fue televisada en la página de Facebook Pinoy Monthly Mass para poder ver la misa virtualmente.

El Papa Francisco dirigió una Santa Misa para celebrar el evento el domingo 14 de marzo en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma. A la misa asistieron varios miembros de la Iglesia filipina,

entre ellos el cardenal Luis Antonio Tagle, prefecto de la Congregación para la Evangelización de los Pueblos, y el cardenal Angelo De Donatis, vicario del Papa en Roma.

En su homilia dijo que los filipinos "recibieron la alegría del Evangelio hace medio milenio, y esta alegría es evidente en vuestro pueblo." El Papa Francisco calificó a las mujeres filipinas de "contrabandistas" de la fe porque "siembran la fe" allá donde van. Y añadió: "En este aniversario tan importante para el santo pueblo de Dios en Filipinas, también quiero exhortarlos a perseverar en la labor de evangelización -no de proselitismo, que es otra cosa-. El anuncio cristiano que habéis recibido debe ser llevado constantemente a los

demás".

El P. Anthony C. Celino, párroco de la iglesia de San Rafael y canonista de la diócesis de El Paso, que llegó a Estados Unidos desde Filipinas para estudiar el sacerdocio, dice que "es una celebración de siglos de fe". Lo llama una "misión inversa porque los filipinos de todo el mundo que originalmente recibieron la fe a través de los misioneros traen su fe con ellos; nosotros somos ahora los misioneros". Hay más de 10 millones de filipinos que viven en casi cien países del mundo.

La historia de cómo Filipinas se convirtió en un país católico es larga y compleja y merece la pena conocerla. Básicamente comenzó cuando Fernando de Magallanes, un explorador

portugués del siglo XVI, dirigió una expedición española a lo que ellos creían que eran las "Indias Orientales" entre 1519 y 1522. Llegaron a lo que hoy se conoce como Filipinas el 16 de marzo de 1521. Se cree que la primera misa se celebró en suelo filipino el 31 de marzo de 1521, en la isla de Limasawa, al sur de Leyte. Unas 800 personas fueron bautizadas para formar la primera comunidad católica.

"Quiero expresarles nuestra gratitud por guiarnos en esta celebración eucarística y en la acción de gracias por la llegada de la fe a Filipinas hace 500 años. Os traemos aquí el amor filial de los filipinos en las 7.641 islas de nuestro país." - Cardenal Luis Antonio Tagle

La comunidad filipino-es-

tadounidense estableció en 2007 un fondo de dotación permanente como legado a la herencia filipina en nuestra diócesis y realiza contribuciones anuales para apoyar las vocaciones y a los sacerdotes en su jubilación. La recaudación de la fiesta anual Simbang Gabi, una tradición navideña filipina, se destina al fondo filipino-americano, gestionado por la Fundación Católica.

Para obtener más información, para discutir la donación que mejor se adapte a usted y su familia, y para notificar a la Fundación Católica de sus planes para dejar un legado para el Fondo Filipino-Americano, por favor, póngase en contacto con la Oficial de Donaciones Mayores Sofia Larkin en slarkin@elpasodiocese.org o 915.433.2003.

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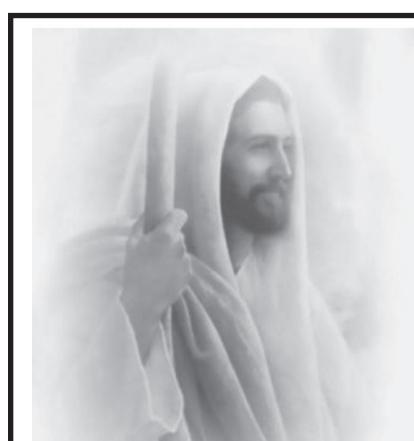
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Continued From Page 1

continues to call me to continue discerning His call to the priesthood," Garcia-Ortega said. "Please continue praying for me as I continue my discernment and formation to the priesthood," he ended.

Sergio Legarreta-Carrasco has been studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of El Paso for the last 10 years. He is striving to continue his formation in this last stop before his eventual ordination to the priesthood.

"I'm feeling excited, ready to serve the people of El Paso,"

Diocesan News

Legarreta Carrasco said.

The Diocese will be streaming the Ordination Mass held at Mother Cabrini Catholic Church on Friday, April 16th, on the Diocesan Facebook page. The Ordination Mass will begin at 6:30 pm.

Continuado de la Pagina 1

ha estado estudiando para el sacerdocio en la Diócesis de El Paso durante los últimos 10 años. Se esfuerza por continuar su

formación en esta última parada antes de su eventual ordenación sacerdotal.

"Me siento emocionado, listo para servir a la gente de El Paso", dijo Legarreta Carrasco.

La Diócesis transmitirá la Misa

de Ordenación que se celebrará en la Iglesia Católica Madre Cabrini el viernes 16 de abril en la página de Facebook de la Diócesis. La misa de ordenación comenzará a las 6:30 pm.

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DMRS Welcomes Asylum Seekers Affected By “Remain In Mexico”

By Sandra Ramirez
DMRS Communications Officer

On March 19, asylum seekers who had been waiting in Juarez under the Migrant Protection Protocols, MPP, started being welcomed into El Paso. Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services was there to greet and welcome these asylum seekers as they entered the United States for the first time. The program, commonly referred to as “Remain in Mexico” required some immigrants to wait nearly two years in Juarez, a country foreign and far away from their home country.

Unfortunately, this included a lot of families, women and children who endured unimaginable trauma. In February, 2021 the Biden Administration announced asylum seekers in MPP would be allowed to enter the United States to pursue their asylum claims.

DMRS Staff Attorney Valgina Rodriguez is the immigration attorney representing many of



On March 19, asylum seekers who had been waiting in Juarez under the Migrant Protection Protocols, MPP, started being welcomed into El Paso. Photo Courtesy DMRS

these clients and has been essential in welcoming them into the United States after such a long and traumatic process. One of

those clients is Kenia, who entered the U.S. with her four children. She fled her home country of Nicaragua where she was

physically and sexually assaulted by her now former partner. Her abuser is a member of a criminal gang and threatened to kill her

and harm her children. When Kenia reached the U.S. Mexico border, she was sent back to Juarez where she was forced to wait more than two years. Despite her efforts to escape her abuser, Kenia’s ex-partner traveled to Juarez where he found her at a shelter for migrants and assaulted her. Fortunately, she was able to get away thanks to a shelter worker who stepped in to help. Kenia reported the assault to police but had to leave the shelter and quit her job in Juarez because she feared her ex-partner would find her again. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee, or UNHCR has been working with to process asylum seekers in MPP and determined that Kenia and her children were especially vulnerable and placed them as a high priority to enter the United States. Kenia and her children are now living in the U.S. where she will pursue her asylum claim.

DMRS Da Bienvenida A Los Solicitantes De Asilo Afectados Por El “MPP”

By Sandra Ramirez
DMRS Communications Officer

El 19 de marzo, los solicitantes de asilo que habían estado esperando en Juárez bajo los Protocolos de Protección al Migrante, MPP, comenzaron a ser recibidos en El Paso. Los Servicios Diocesanos para Migrantes y Refugiados (DMRS) estuvieron allí para recibir y dar la bienvenida a estos solicitantes de asilo cuando entraron a los Estados Unidos por primera vez. El programa, comúnmente conocido como “Permanecer en México” requería que algunos inmigrantes esperaran casi dos años en Juárez, un país extranjero y lejano a su país de origen. Desafortunadamente, esto incluyó a muchas familias, mujeres y niños que sufrieron un trauma inimaginable. En febrero de 2021, la Administración Biden anunció que los solicitantes de asilo en el MPP podrían entrar en Estados Unidos para tramitar sus solicitudes de asilo.

La abogada de DMRS Valgina Rodríguez es la abogada de inmigración que representa a muchos de estos clientes y ha sido esencial para darles la bienvenida a los Estados Unidos después de un proceso tan largo y traumático. Uno de esos clientes es Kenia, que entró en los Estados Unidos con sus cuatro hijos. Huyó de su país natal, Nicaragua, donde fue agredida física y sexualmente por su ahora ex pareja. Su agresor es miembro de una banda criminal y la amenazó con matarla y hacer daño a sus hijos. Cuando Kenia llegó a la frontera de México con Estados Unidos, la devolvieron a Juárez, donde la obligaron a esperar más de dos años. A pesar de sus esfuerzos por escapar de su agresor, la ex pareja de Kenia viajó a Juárez,



Kenia y sus 4 Hijos. El 19 de marzo, los solicitantes de asilo que habían estado esperando en Juárez bajo los Protocolos de Protección al Migrante, MPP, comenzaron a ser recibidos en El Paso. Photo Courtesy of DMRS

donde la encontró en un albergue para migrantes y la agredió. Afortunadamente, pudo escapar gracias a un trabajador del albergue que intervino para ayudarla. Kenia denunció la agresión a la policía, pero tuvo que abandonar el albergue y dejar su trabajo en Juárez porque temía que su ex pareja la volviera a encontrar. El Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados, o ACNUR, ha estado trabajando para procesar a los solicitantes de asilo en el MPP y determinó que Kenia y sus hijos eran especialmente vulnerables y los colocó como alta prioridad para entrar en Estados Unidos. Kenia y sus hijos viven ahora en EE.UU., donde seguirá su solici-

tud de asilo.

Oscar y Janetzy huyeron de Venezuela en 2019 con su pequeña hija. La familia sufrió abusos y amenazas de muerte por hablar contra el presidente de su país, Nicolás Maduro. Una vez que llegaron a la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, la familia se vio obligada a regresar a Juárez. Janetzy está embarazada de 35 semanas y temía tener que dar a luz a su bebé en México, un país extraño para ella y su familia. Su abogada del DMRS, Valgina Rodríguez, abogó por ellos para que fueran una alta prioridad debido al embarazo de Janetzy. Por la gracia de Dios, la familia recibió la llamada de que su oportunidad

dad había llegado. La familia está ahora a salvo en los Estados Unidos esperando el nacimiento de su nuevo bebé.

Elvira es una madre de tres hijos de Guatemala. Mientras estaba en su país, el hermano de 9 años de Elvira fue secuestrado por miembros de la pandilla Mara Salvatrucha, conocida como MS-13. Elvira denunció el secuestro a la policía y exigió que investigaran a los miembros de la banda implicados. Tras acudir a la policía, Elvira fue blanco de los miembros de la banda, que la amenazaron con matarla a ella y a su familia. Elvira huyó a Estados Unidos en busca de asilo para proteger su vida y la de sus hijos. Elvira y sus hijos pasaron más de un año en Juárez. Con la ayuda de su abogada del DMRS, Valgina Rodríguez, Elvira y sus hijos

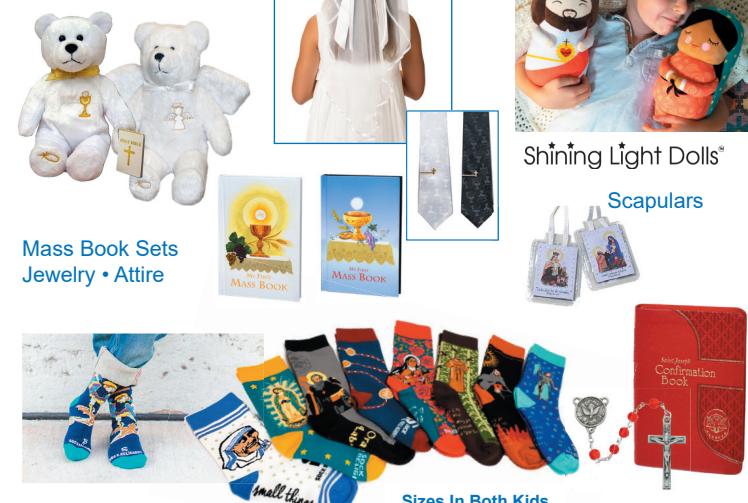
fueron procesados recientemente en los Estados Unidos, donde están viviendo de forma segura con sus familiares.

Los valores de los Servicios Diocesanos para Migrantes y Refugiados nos llaman a ayudar “el más pequeño de mis hermanos”, y seguiremos haciendo lo que podamos para ayudar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes. Su apoyo lo hace posible. Por favor, considere hacer una contribución financiera en www.dmrs-ep.org/donate.

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Janet M. Crowe

Are we Easter people? Or are we Good Friday people?

These are strange questions since we as Catholic Christians commemorate the passion and death of our Lord in thanksgiving for saving us from sin and death. Through Christ's willing sacrifice, the doors to eternal life were opened to us – despite the fact that we are still sinners. How amazing a miracle is that!

However, the question remains. Are we Good Friday people or are we Easter people?

Out of fear, Peter and most of the disciples suddenly became Good Friday people. They had remained with Jesus during His teachings, His public ministry and His miracles. Yet, when the going got tough, the tough, sadly, got going. They left. They abandoned Jesus. Peter denied even knowing Him. The other apostles went into hiding far away from Calvary so that they would not suffer the same fate as Jesus. No one can fault their human re-

sponse to His death. They simply lost hope.

Only Mary the mother of Jesus, the apostle John, and a few other women remained at the foot of the cross throughout Christ's horrible ordeal. They were truly Easter people. Although they had suffered an earth-shattering blow by His death, they had hope in the promises that Jesus made even though those promises seemed impossible. How could anyone rebuild a temple in three days? How could the Son of Man rise from death? Yet they believed in Him. They held onto hope.

As Easter people, they may not have completely understood how it was possible, but they still believed. Jesus promised life not death. He chose loving others over selfishness and greed. Jesus taught light and truth over darkness and deception.

When the sun rose on Easter morning, Jesus, miraculously, was no longer dead but alive once more. Jesus appeared to His apostles, continued to teach them, and helped them to believe that they, as Easter people, could bring His truth, light and life to others. True to His promise, Jesus would be with them, and us, always.

So, the question still remains. Are we Good Friday people or are we Easter people?

Without our knowledge of the

Resurrection, can you imagine being one of the apostles and struggling to survive the devastation of Christ's death and the hopelessness they felt on Good Friday? Darkness spread across their horizon and it was difficult to imagine any light or hope beyond the pain. Those three days must have felt like an eternity. Their plans, their hopes, their dreams had been crushed. They could not see any light in their future.

Many of us have experienced similar crushing blows when our plans and our goals have crumbled around us. How do we pick up the pieces and move on when everything is broken? That is often what a young woman feels when she discovers that she is pregnant and her plans for college or even finishing high school, her career goals, her reputation, her family support system have all crumbled around her.

Rather than being offered love and support to show her that she can still plan a desirable future, she is constantly told that she cannot achieve her dreams with this extra burden that has been thrust upon her. She is told that she cannot possibly carry this cross that she will have to bear and still become the person she was meant to be. Her reputation is ruined and she is sure that people will judge her as someone

who is weak and unworthy of her dreams. She fears that even those people on whom she has always depended for advice and support will be disappointed in her, and she just cannot endure that pain. Her only solution, as drilled into her head by her friends, social media, society itself, and even those she turns to for help, is to turn away from the light and accept the darkness. To lose hope.

She is stuck in Good Friday mode – the sky has darkened, the veil in the temple of her soul has torn in two, hope and light are but faint memories. She needs to experience the hand reaching out to her from Easter people who will help her carry her own cross and come into the light of Easter morning. But who will offer that helping hand? Has everyone run away?

Once more, the question is asked. Are we Good Friday people or are we Easter people?

Do we fear those in power as the apostles did when they ran away from Jesus in His final hours? Do we hide from the truth, allowing others to spread their darkness when we know and recognize the light of God's truth? Does our faith end when our Lord died upon the cross? Are we without hope and without the courage to share the light of truth and love to those around us? If so, how many times will we deny that we even know

Jesus and His truth, His way, His light?

If we are Easter people, then we have seen God's light and we know that He expects us to continue doing His work by loving those in need. If we do not hide from the light, then we recognize the scientific truth that abortion murders an innocent baby and maims a mother who is in pain. If we are Easter people, then we share that truth with those who need to hear it. If we are Easter people, we should have the strength to help carry someone's cross and bring her the assistance she needs to make a life-affirming decision rather than allow her to be led away to lifelong regret for the death of her child.

As Easter people today, we must live in Christ's light, in truth and in life. We must go forth as His apostles learned to do after His Easter resurrection and promote the truth over deceit, light over darkness, and life rather than death. Today, we do not have to face crucifixion to live the Resurrection of Easter. We need only to step forward and offer our love and assistance to a mother who cannot see the light through the darkness. Let us be Easter people and hold out our loving hands to rescue women whose children are threatened with death. Will you stand with Jesus and be His Easter people?

How Parishes Can Be A Light Amid Violence And Racism

By Christine Rousselle
Catholic News Agency

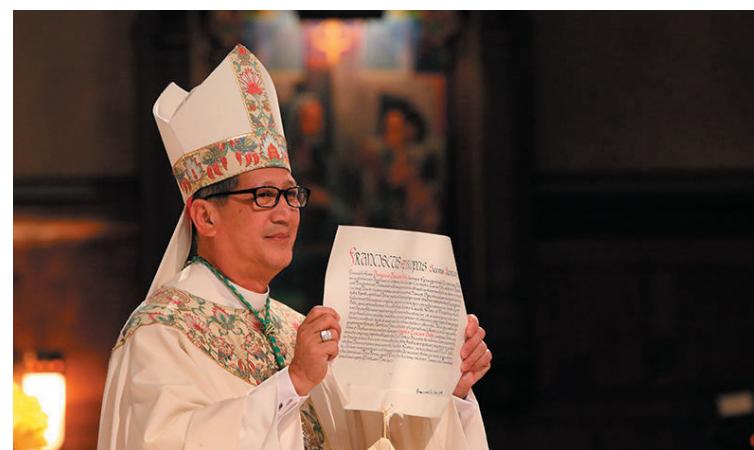
Washington D.C., Mar 25, 2021 / 08:10 am MT (CNA).- Transforming communities to become more inclusive and accepting places must begin at the parish level, Bishop Oscar Solis of Salt Lake City told CNA.

Bishop Solis is the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs. He is the first Filipino-born priest to be made a bishop in the United States.

Solis spoke to CNA on Tuesday to discuss the role Catholics and the Church play in combating racism and creating a more inclusive society, in light of reports that the number of attacks on Asian-Americans in the United States had increased over the last year. A series of shootings at three Atlanta-area massage parlors last week killed six women of Asian descent.

It is vital for different racial and ethnic groups to promote understanding and reduce hatred, the bishop said, noting that ignorance is often the root of racism.

"We need to learn who we are," he said. "We have a basic foundation: we're all brothers and sisters created in the image and likeness of God, [but] we are not all the same. We are different with each other. And yet there is something common in us."



Bishop Oscar A. Solis displays his apostolic mandate from Pope Francis during his installation Mass as the bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City. Photo Courtesy CNA

It is part of the Christian tradition of hospitality for Catholics to "see each other as who we are; respecting others, [our] commonalities and differences, and recognizing and appreciating our cultural backgrounds and traditions, and even our expressions of faith," he said.

Prior to being appointed the bishop of Salt Lake City, Solis was an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He said his work with various ethnic communities in the archdiocese was a "beautiful experience" for him. The archdiocese lists more than two dozen ethnic liturgies at its parishes.

"It's very affirming and inspiring to see that in spite of our differences, the diversity that we

have, we can still gather around the table around the altar," he said.

"That's the beauty of our Church. But we need to proclaim this to the people to give them hope amidst this violence and issues of racism and xenophobia," he said.

The bishop pointed to the recent mass shootings at a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado and at three Atlanta-area massage parlors as examples of the hatred in society which must be overcome. While the motivations of either shooter are not entirely clear, six of the eight people killed in the Atlanta shootings were women of Asian descent.

Bishop Solis said the shootings sparked fear and anxiety among

Asian-Americans, regardless of the motivations of the shooters, at a time when harassment and violence against Asian-Americans has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I felt very sad and disheartened by all this happening, in spite of all the efforts we are trying to do all in order to address these racial injustices and racial discrimination," said Bishop Solis of the shootings.

"It's something that you have to feel bad and sad and grieve," he said. "You feel for those lives - wasted lives - you feel for those families left behind, you feel bad for the community living in fear."

"It makes us understand the seriousness about the responsibility to not only say something, but to do something about it," he added.

The Church, he said, needs to produce a "statement in order to denounce racism and violence," but must also "extend our support to our communities that are suffering with crimes and sin against each other."

"I think the Church has been very strong and loud in this position, regarding racism," he said.

The Church has "strongly denounced and condemned, racial discrimination - even hateful rhetoric and especially violence," said Solis. "It is deeply rooted in our faith, the teachings of the Church, that we are all brothers

and sisters with equal dignity. and life is precious. It's sacred and a person's dignity has to be respected and protected and nurtured."

However, while the Church's teachings on racism and dignity are clear, the message must be repeated in order for people to truly grasp it.

"Like the teacher, we need to keep on hammering on the lesson in order for the students to understand what it is all about," he said. "I think that we need to echo back and repeat it as much as possible in order for the message to sink in," Bishop Solis said.

And while the platitudes of diversity and acceptance are commonplace, Solis said it is time to "put some meat into our words" and work towards truly loving one another.

"Let's start with ourselves," said Solis. "The transformation of our society begins in the conversion of our hearts."

"You know, we have to change our attitude. We need to learn how to see people - with only the eyes of faith, with the eyes of Christ. We need to see Christ in other people."

"I believe in the goodness of humanity; that if we can just see and express the goodness and extend that to everyone, they'll change to be something," Bishop Solis said.



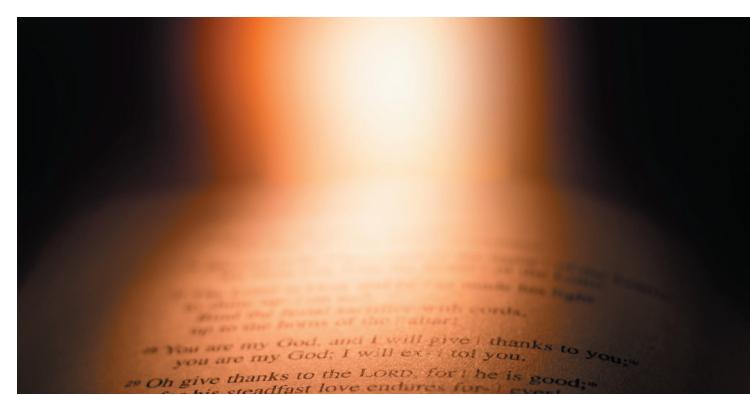
Padre Wilson Cuevas

Durante estos días he vuelto a escuchar esta canción: "Tan cerca de mí, que hasta lo puedo tocar, Jesús está aquí. Míralo a tu lado caminando, paseándose entre la multitud; muchos ciegos son porque no lo ven, ciegos de ceguera espiritual". El mensaje de esta canción es una invitación clara y precisa a vivir atentos, para reconocer la presencia de Jesús, el Dios humano y sencillo, que camina junto a nosotros, que nos saluda y platica; que sonríe y trabaja en los hospitales, en las calles, en las iglesias, en el campo y la ciudad. El Dios que visita los hogares, las escuelas y los parques; donde quiera que haya gente, Jesús se hace presente y espera lo podemos reconocer, conversar y servir como El...

Es impresionante ver como el Señor se disfraza de muchas maneras para ayudarnos en nuestras preocupaciones y necesidades cotidianas. Especialmente en esos momentos en que sentimos que se nos agotan todas las posibilidades y que creemos que ya no podemos mas... Me impactó el relato que me hizo hace algún tiempo, Omar, un amigo que quedó desempleado y por varios meses tocó muchas puertas llevando aplicaciones para un nuevo trabajo, ya al bando del desespero, entró en la

Iglesia de la Veracruz, en la ciudad de Medellín (Colombia), se puso de rodillas y mientras oraba a Dios, que le ayudara a conseguir un empleo, vio que se le acercó un hombre que caminaba con un par de muletas y tocándolo en el hombre le dijo: "Ve a la oficina de Telecom y presenta una solicitud de empleo". El hombre, comenzó a caminar hacia la puerta de salida. Este amigo, se sorprendió de lo que le dijo el extraño hombre; siguió orando y de repente se levantó y quiso alcanzar al hombre de las muletas. Salió pronto hacia la puerta principal, hacia donde aquel extraño hombre se había dirigido, pero no lo alcanzó, salió a la puerta principal, miro hacia todas partes y no lo vio, volvió a entrar haber a la iglesia mirando en las bancas y columnas, y no lo vio y se preguntaba sorprendido como ha podido este hombre con muletas caminar tan rápido que no lo haya alcanzado... No lo podía creer; se quedó muy pensativo.

Se arrodilló de nuevo y terminó su oración a Dios y luego salió a buscar la oficina de Telecom, como le había dicho el hombre de las muletas. Solicito una aplicación para empleo, la lleno, la entrego y regreso a su casa. Tres días después le llamaron para informarle que había sido aceptado su solicitud y que se presentaría para empezar su nuevo trabajo. No paraba de pensar y decir: "Este trabajo me lo consiguió el Señor". Comenzó a trabajar en Telecom, y cada vez que salía a vacaciones, lo primero que hacía era viajar a la ciudad de Buga, a visitar el Santuario del Señor Milagroso de Buga; asistía a la Misa, oraba de



rodilla ante la imagen del Señor Milagroso, compraba muchas estampas, medallas y novenas, y regreso comenzaba a repartirla entre los pasajeros del autobús, y a sus amigos y conocidos. Esta era una de las maneras de agradecerle al Señor, por su trabajo. Omar, no pierde oportunidad de contarle a cuantas personas puede, lo que le sucedió aquella mañana en la iglesia de Veracruz, cuando se le acercó, aquel hombre de las muletas... Jesús nos sorprende, con su ingenio para acercarse y ayudarnos...

Si conocemos el Evangelio, tenemos la ventaja de saber que Dios está presente en todos los desdichados. Esto nos permite comportarnos de una manera digna con nuestros hermanos como si fuera a Cristo mismo. Inclusive las personas que no conocen a Dios, cuando tienen una atención especial hacia los necesitados, acumulan tesoros en el cielo sin saberlo!

Uno no es juzgado por el mal que haya hecho sino por las atenciones al prójimo: Los pequeños servicios cotidianos que no tienen apariencia; las obras de "caridad"

que uno ha prestado a los pobres y a los desamparados. En el día del juicio no se nos interroga sobre las prácticas religiosas (misa, rosarios, peregrinaciones, novenas...), no porque esas prácticas sean inútiles, sino que ellas deben conducir al servicio al prójimo, sin que ellas sean una pérdida de tiempo.

Lleguemos a la Pascua con el propósito renovado de reconocer la presencia de Jesús en las personas y en los acontecimientos que suceden en nuestro entorno; quizás pronto descubramos un tipo de apostolado, sencillo, fácil y eficiente, como lo está haciendo una catequista, que daba su bendición a las personas que se encuentra necesitadas de ayuda. Ella, misma lo cuenta así: Cuando atravesé las calles, cuanto sufrimiento siento! Veo pobres y enfermos, personas con hambre, lisiados o abandonados, veo también personas bien trajeadas, pero sus rostros revelan el vacío, la frustración o la desesperación. No los conozco a todos, ni puedo ayudarlos a todos. Entonces me atrevo a hacer lo que hacia Jesús. Los bendigo en nombre de Dios, por las manos

de María. Creo que este humilde servicio lo podemos hacer cada uno de nosotros.

Ayer yendo a la iglesia, tuve una oportunidad. Me encontré con un niño, empleado en una panadería. Rostro cansado, triste, cuerpo delgado. Por el momento el "primer socorro" sería este. Le di mi bendición trazando una cruz, sin que nadie lo notara. Hoy en el apretujón del mercado, pasó junto a mí una señora en estado de avanzado gravidez. Parecía estar pasando por una situación de angustia. Parecía preocupada. No pude decir una palabra de ánimo. Solo pude trazar sobre ella disimuladamente la señal de la cruz. Quién sabe si esta fue la única bendición que recibirían madre e hijo?. En la noche antes de dormirme y al levantarme, bendigo a mi familia y a todos los que sufren y pido a Dios nos bendiga y tenga misericordia de nosotros y del mundo entero.

Es necesario decir que Jesús se dirige a todos el mundo... Las exigencias son las mismas para entrar en el paraíso. El hecho de no haber conocido a Cristo no es una excusa para haber descuidado el ayudar a los necesitados: "En verdad les digo que cuando te degastes de hacerlo con uno de estos pequeños, también conmigo te degastes de hacerlo". Es después de la muerte cuando muchos van a aprender que era necesario ayudar a los necesitados... Dios ha colocado en el corazón de cada uno una ley "natural" que nos invita a venir en ayuda de aquellos que están en una necesidad. Piensa si puedes asumir como lema: "Siempre mas y siempre mejor"!

So Close To You And Me...

During these days I have heard this song again: "So close to me, that I can even touch Him, Jesus is here. Look at him by your side walking, strolling through the crowd; many are blind because they cannot see Him, blind with spiritual blindness. "The message of this song is a clear and precise invitation to live attentively, to recognize the presence of Jesus, the human and simple God, who walks with us, who greets us and chats with us; who smiles and works in hospitals, in the streets, in churches, in the countryside and in the city. The God who visits homes, schools and parks; wherever there are people present, Jesus is there and hopes that we can recognize, talk and serve like Him..."

It is impressive to see how the Lord disguises himself in many ways to help us with our daily concerns and needs. Especially at those times in which we sense that all possibilities are exhausted and that we believe we cannot continue any longer... I was shocked by the story that Omar, a friend, told me some time ago. He became unemployed and for several months knocked on many doors making applications for another job, and already on the edge of despair, he entered the Church of Veracruz, in the city of Medellin (Colombia), got on his knees and while praying

to God to help him find a new job, he saw a man walking with a pair of crutches and touching him on his shoulder the man said: "Go to the Telecom office and submit an application for employment "The man then began to walk toward the exit door. My friend was surprised by what the stranger told him; He kept praying and suddenly he got up and tried to catch up to the man on crutches. He ran towards the main door where the stranger had gone, but could not reach him. He then went outside, looking in all directions but could not see him. He then returned to the church looking in the pews and columns, but he did not find him there either and wondered in surprise how this man on crutches could walk so fast that he could not reach him... He could not believe it, he was thoroughly puzzled. He knelt down again and finished his prayer to God and then went out to find the Telecom office, as the man on crutches had told him. He requested an application for a job, fills it out, handed it in, and went home. Three days later they called him to inform him that his request had been accepted and that he could start to work in his new job. He kept thinking and saying: "The Lord got me this job." He started working at Telecom, and every time he went on vacation,

the first thing he did was to travel to the city of Buga, to visit the Sanctuary of the Miraculous Lord of Buga; He would attend Mass, pray on his knees before the image of the Miraculous Lord, and would buy many prayer cards, medals and novenas, and upon his return would begin to distribute them among the passengers on the buses, and his friends and acquaintances. This was one of the ways to thank the Lord for his employment. Omar never misses an opportunity to tell as many people as possible, what happened to him that morning in the church in Veracruz, when a stranger approached him, a man on crutches... Jesus surprises us, with his ingenuity to approach and help us...

If we know the Gospel, we have the advantage of knowing that God is present in all the unfortunate ones. This allows us to behave in a dignified way with our brothers. Brothers as if it were Christ himself. Even people who don't know God, when they offer special attention to the needy, they accumulate treasures in heaven without even knowing it!.

One is not judged by the evil that one has done but by the attention to the neighbor, the small everyday kindnesses of no apparent importance; works of "charity" that one has lent to the poor and

the disenfranchised. On the day of judgment we are not questioned about religious practices (Masses, rosaries, pilgrimages, novenas ...), not because those practices are useless, but because they should lead to the service of others, without thinking they are just a waste of time.

Let us come to Easter with the renewed purpose of recognizing the presence of Jesus in the people and events that happen in our own environment; maybe soon we can discover a type of apostleship, simple, easy and efficient, as one catechist is doing now giving her blessing to people in need of help. She tells it like this herself: When I walk through the streets, I feel so much suffering! I see poor people, sick people, hungry people, crippled or abandoned, I also see well-dressed people, but their faces reveal emptiness, frustration or despair. I do not know all of them, nor can I help them all. So I dare to do what Jesus did. I bless them in the name of God, through the hands of Mary, our Mother. I think each one of us can do this humble service!

Yesterday going to church, I had a chance to meet a young boy employed in a bakery. He had a tired, sad face, slim body. For the moment the "first help" would be this: I gave him my blessing by

tracing a cross, without anyone noticing. Today, in a crowded market, a woman passed by me in a state of advanced pregnancy. She appeared to be going through a situation of anguish. She seemed worried. I couldn't say one word of encouragement. So I could only trace on her, unobserved, the sign of the cross. Who knows if this was the only blessing that mother and son would receive? At night before I go to sleep and when I get up, I bless my family and all those who are suffering, and I pray that God may bless and have mercy on us and on the whole world.

It is necessary to say that Jesus addresses everyone ... The demands are the same to enter Paradise. Not having known Christ is not an excuse for having neglected to help the needy."Truly I tell you that whatever you didn't do for one of these little ones, You didn't do for me. "It is only after death that many are going to learn that it was necessary to help those in need... God has placed in the heart of each one of us a "natural" law that invites us to come to the aid of those who are in need. Think about assuming as a motto: "Always more and always better"!

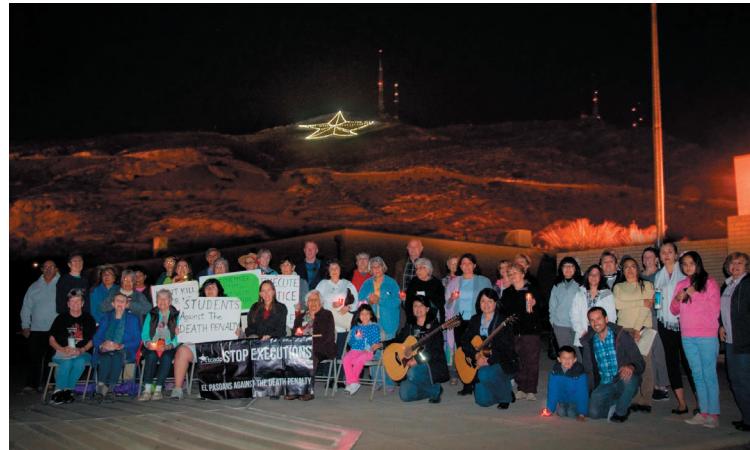
Peace and Justice Ministry Doing God's Work in El Paso

By Natalie Eckberg
Progress Coordinator

One of the Diocese's volunteer leaders working with the Peace and Justice Ministry supported by the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal 2021 is Pat Delgado, Coordinator of the Steering Committee for Restorative Justice for the Peace and Justice Ministry.

For John Mason, who directly benefited from the Ministry after being released from a 24-year prison sentence, Delgado was a lifeline. "After I was released, I had nothing," he said. "I needed food, clothes, a job. They helped me find work, they connected me to resources. But more than that, they showed me love. They gave me a family and another chance. They brought kindness back into my life. That love saved me. (Delgado) is an angel."

Delgado began volunteering almost ten years ago with El Pasos Against the Death Penalty. Five years ago, she was contacted by Marco Raposo, Director of the Diocesan Peace and Justice Ministry for the Diocese of El Paso. Raposo's vision was to create a Restorative Justice component that would encompass victims of crime, offenders and the community. "When people first hear about Restorative Justice, they think it's too easy on the offender, and doesn't offer justice for the victim," she said. "Incarceration and how we handle justice affects our community as a whole. (The United States) has such an outsized prison population compared to other countries. And we focus on being punitive,



The Lighting of the Star Vigil Against the Death Penalty, 2017. Photo Courtesy of The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso.

not on rehabilitating the offender. That doesn't solve crime or the problems of poverty that leads to mass incarceration."

Marco Raposo, Director of Peace and Justice, said that Delgado is a one-of-a-kind volunteer, one who gives from the heart with passion. Because Raposo is the only paid staff member for the Ministry, he calls Delgado's volunteer service invaluable. "Pat Delgado—wow!" he said. "What can I say about her? She is incredible. If she wasn't there, I don't know what I would do. She doesn't see herself that way. She doesn't realize how special she is, but she connects people to the work we do, and does it in a way that is so inspiring."

Restorative Justice focuses on restoration, forgiveness and rehabilitation. In Delgado's role, she assists with the creation of Restorative/Criminal Justice Ministry Teams in the parishes

within the diocese. "The more I have learned about restorative justice, the more it makes sense," Delgado said. "It's much better for society. It costs less and focuses more on mental health and poverty issues as well as keeping juveniles out of the system."

The philosophy also emphasizes forgiveness and retribution. "When you open yourself up to forgiveness, it is healthier for everyone," Delgado continued. "It ties so beautifully to the parables of Jesus. This work has changed the way I read Scripture even. It has made me realize that Jesus was about restorative justice. He was not focused on judging, but rather on healing. It makes the life of Jesus so much more relevant, and I want to bring that awareness to everyone."

People can support the work of the Peace and Justice Ministry through various ways, said Raposo. Opportunities range from visiting offenders in prison

to working with families or victims, donating in-kind goods or contributing financially, assisting released offenders with re-entry such as reviewing resumes or helping to prepare for job interviews. Volunteer opportunities can occur at the parish level, a group or an individual level.

"One of the misconceptions is that people think that they only volunteer in the prisons," he said. "But there are many different opportunities to serve, including one-time opportunities like donating to the Angel Tree during Christmas and other times of need, where we may do things like buy Christmas presents for the children of those incarcerated. We call our volunteers ministers because this is an answer to the baptismal call." Delgado agrees. "We have to be there for one another, and we have to do it with love and compassion in our hearts," she said. "Almost everyone has been touched by the criminal justice in some way. And we don't always talk about it in our parishes because of the stigma and shame. So people suffer alone in shame because of their loved one that is incarcerated or because they themselves were. Victims also suffer in silence often. We need to embrace all of them."

Mason credits the Ministry in large part with being able to turn around his life around. After years of drug and alcohol abuse, gang activity and violence, he has established a stable family life, acts a volunteer and regularly attends church. He has been sober for more than six years. "I learned that there was another

way that I could be different," he said. My life is beautiful now. God has blessed me. I have a wonderful relationship, and two kids. But if it wasn't for Restorative Justice, I wouldn't be alive today. I felt so alone before they came into my life. Now, I have everything."

With additional funding, Delgado and Raposo dream of spreading the message of love, forgiveness and hope, further using donations to conduct outreach to juvenile offenders, train ministers, provide additional support to program clients, offer spiritual guidance, reimburse ministers for expenses such as mileage and raise awareness of the issue.

"The current justice system is very biased against the poor and minorities," Delgado said. "And that's especially true about the death penalty. It is a throw-back to slavery and lynching. It has deep roots in racism. That doesn't mean that offenders are off the hook. They need to be held accountable and provide restitution. But we also don't have to focus on locking people up and breaking them down." In the end, Delgado said, it is about love and wholeness. "Forgiveness and reconciliation is what leads to healing," she said.

"Imagine what our society could be if we made that the cornerstone of our justice system. Isn't that a world we would all like to live in?"

Make a donation to the 2021 Progress Catholic Ministry Appeal or contact the Catholic Foundation at 915.872.8412.

Special Collection - Collectas Especiales

Collection for Jerusalem and the Holy Land

There will be a Special Offering on Good Friday, April 2, 2021 for Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

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

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

On Good Friday, April 2, please be as generous as possible. Your support can make a great difference in the world. Thank you.

Collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal

There will be a Special Collection on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25, 2021 for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal

This annual appeal supports the work of mission parishes in the United States and its dependencies. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal extends and strengthens the presence of the Church by providing basic pastoral services in areas that struggle to provide such necessities on their own. Such assistance is essential to the scattered and isolated churches of the Appalachian Mountains, West Texas, the rural South and the islands of the Caribbean and the Pacific. Your support of missions in the United States helps strengthen:

- Remote and isolated parishes and missions,
- Religious education programs for children and adults,
- Formation for seminarians, catechists and adult leaders,
- Maintenance of mission parishes,
- Evangelization ministries to youth, ethnic communities, inactive Catholics, and those who have never heard the Good News.

A portion of the funds collected nationally each year is returned to the Diocese of El Paso in the form of a grant for the West Texas Rural Outreach, the Seminarian Formation Program, Tepeyac Institute, and the Marriage and Family Life Ministry.

Colecta para Jerusalén y la Tierra Santa

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el viernes santo, 2 de abril 2021 para Jerusalén y la Tierra Santa.

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

Imitando la invitación del Apóstol San Pablo a las comunidades fundadas por él en Macedonia, Grecia y Asia Menor de ayudar a la Iglesia Principal de Jerusalén, varios Pontífices Romanos por siglos han recordado este importante deber. El Papa Pablo VI dio inicio a una resonante campaña para todos los fieles de todos los países llamándoles a dar testimonio de su solidaridad con los Cristianos de la Tierra Santa. Esta campaña fue renovada por el Papa Juan Pablo II y luego por el Papa Benedicto XVI. Gracias por su apoyo.

Colecta para El Llamado para las Misiones Católicas Domésticas

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el sábado 24 de abril, y el domingo 25 de abril del 2021 para el Llamado para las Misiones Católicas Domésticas.

Este llamado anual ayuda a sostener el trabajo de las misiones parroquiales en los Estados Unidos y en sus dependencias. El Llamado para las Misiones Católicas Domésticas extiende y fortalece la presencia de la Iglesia, proporcionando los servicios pastorales básicos en áreas de recursos limitados. Esta ayuda es esencial a las Iglesias extendidas y aisladas a través de los Montes Apalaches, el oeste de Texas, el Sur rural, y las islas del Caribe y el Pacífico. Su apoyo a las misiones en Estados Unidos ayuda en el fortalecimiento de:

- Parroquias y misiones remotas y aisladas,
- Programas de educación religiosa para niños y adultos,
- Formación de seminaristas, catequistas y agentes pastorales,
- El mantenimiento de parroquias misioneras,
- Ministerios evangelizadores para jóvenes, comunidades étnicas, católicos inactivos, y aquellos que nunca ha escuchado la Buena Nueva.

Una parte de las donaciones nacionales se regresa a la Diócesis de El Paso cada año en forma de una concesión para el alcance pastoral en el Oeste de Texas, el programa de formación de los seminaristas, el Instituto Tepeyac, y el Ministerio de Matrimonio y la Vida Familiar.

En el fin de la semana del 24 y 25 de abril del 2021, por favor sean tan generosos como les sea posible, sus donaciones benefician a nuestra Iglesia local. Muchas gracias por su apoyo.

God in the Midst of the Texas Winter Storm

By Karina Sandoval
Stewardship Coordinator

Transitional Deacon Alfonso Coronado suffered the Texas Winter Storm at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston and says his experience brought him closer to God and others.

While El Paso got a lovely "White Valentine's Day", most of Texas was hit by a storm that left many without power, heat and water. Deacon Alfonso experienced a shortage of water and electricity in St. Mary's Seminary for three days. "I had never experienced this type of cold, my bones were hurting," Deacon

Alfonso, who will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021, shared, "Initially I wasn't scared of the storm because I had experienced El Paso's winter weather." He, like so many, would move from one crisis to another.

Deacon Alfonso was not able to use his computer and whenever he had the chance, he charged his cell phone in his car. Due to the high risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, he was limited to 15 minutes at a time. He felt cut off from the outside world, unable to regularly update his family in Mexico or his El Paso support system. There was no way to shower and meals had to be

organized to maximize what little access to natural gas the seminarians had. They developed ways to communicate by flash light and Alfonso let his family know that he was okay only when he briefly had wireless connection.

We've all gotten so accustomed to instant news and virtual connection, something that often sustains our seminarians and deacons who come from many different places. This experience left Alfonso feeling scared and isolated and that in turn forced him to be still and listen to God in the midst of the silence. He and his classmates turned to one another, they prayed together,

engaged in more conversation, and they were physically present and able to support one another through their struggles.

It is during these life challenges that human beings often come through the darkness to flourish and demonstrate that God has made us resilient. Deacon Alfonso describes the silence as the "light silent sound" that the prophet Elijah experienced. He recommends that everyone who is experiencing any type of challenge or difficulty in their lives listen to God in the silence.

"But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret,

and your Father who sees in the secret will repay you." — Matthew 6:6

Deacon Alfonso Coronado is in formation at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, Texas and will complete his studies this spring. He will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021. The date and time will be forthcoming. Alfonso will be incardinated to the Diocese of El Paso which means he will serve in our diocese. These men have made a lifelong commitment to the Diocese of El Paso. We ask you to make a commitment to their formation through prayer and support.

LOVE BUILDS HOPE

\$	684,656	PLEDGE
\$	302,071	PAID OF
3/23/2021		AS OF

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Sofía Larkin at slarkin@elpasodiocese.org
or 915.872.8412

CANONICAL BANNS in anticipation of ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE for the Diocese of El Paso

After the proper period and discernment, the following men have presented themselves to Bishop Mark J. Seitz to be considered for Ordination as Permanent Deacons:

**Daniel Bejarano
Luis Alberto Buena
Julio Cesar Diaz
Ruben Jasso Gomez
Dagoberto Gonzalez
Jose Marcos Gonzalez
Wade Stevens Horsch
Oscar Marruffo Machuca
Arturo Rolando Medina**

**Victor Adolfo Rubio
Andres Ruvalcaba
Lucio Alfonso Sandoval
Luis Angel Santos
Alfredo Lorenzo Solano
Karl Twichell
Carlos Omar Viesca
Rudy Ochoa Villegas**

Before these candidates are called to the Order of the Diaconate by Bishop Mark J. Seitz, the People of God are to be asked about their worthiness.
Therefore, if you are aware of a reason why any of these men should not be ordained, you are asked to contact:

**Deacon Jesus Cardenas, PhD
Director of the Permanent Diaconate Office
Diocese of El Paso
499 St. Matthews St. El Paso, TX 79907
(915) 872-8420
jcardenas@elpasodiocese.org**

The names of those expressing concerns will not be shared with any of the candidates,
though the nature of the concern may be shared with them, as part of the discernment and evaluation process.



HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE - 2021

Father David Fierro - September 6, 2021 - 10 Days

\$4,199 INCLUDING ROUND TRIP AIR

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PASSION PLAY PILGRIMAGE - 2022

Fr. Trini Fuentez - Fr. Beto Lopez

June 29, 2022 (10 Days)

\$5,599 Per Person

INCLUDES ROUND TRIP AIR

Limited to 40 Travelers

Fr. Tony Celino

August 15, 2022 (10 Days)

\$5,699 Per Person

INCLUDES ROUND TRIP AIR

Limited to 35 Travelers

Fr. Nathan Mamo

May 23, 2022 (10 Days)

\$5,599 Per Person

INCLUDES ROUND TRIP AIR

Limited to 40 Travelers

Secular - All Germany Passion Play

August 27, 2022 (10 Days)

\$3,309 Per Person

AIR NOT INCLUDED

Limited to 20 Travelers

The Passion Play of Oberammergau, Germany - 2022



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