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# the Rio Grande Catholic

Vol. 26, No. 11

The Official Newspaper for the Diocese Of El Paso

April 2018

## Building Our Future



Bishop Mark institutes Seminarians Aldo Camacho, Sergio Legarreta and Sam Anchondo as lectors at Saint Mary’s Seminary. This is another phase closer to priesthood ordination for seminarians. For More Coverage, See Page 16. (Photo by J. Alfonso Coronado, Seminarian)

## Bishop Goes to Washington, D.C.    Father Yermo’s Sister Socorro’s Story



Bishop Seitz visits Capitol on date set for DACA Deadline. For more coverage, See Page 9.



Sister Socorro in prayer at Father Yermo Chapel. For more coverage, See Page 6.



# Lenten Promises- Promesas de Cuaresma

The time we Catholics recently spent in the desert was a 40-day journey in contemplative darkness. It is a time when we reflect on how the Lord is always calling us to repent, change and return to Him. During Lent our light at the end of the tunnel is always Easter, the one miraculous event where Jesus emerges from his tomb on the third day after his crucifixion by defeating death and proving there is life after.

This Lent I struggled with my promises and as human as I am, I was not able to keep all my sacrifices to fast and change. I wonder what happens after a Lent where you might not have made the changes you still wish to make. What is the next step after a Lenten fail?

Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert. He survived temptations and starvation. I have not proven to be up to the same test as he was, but the time of Lent reminds me to recognize again how perfect the Lord is and how by only turning to Him can I find strength to save myself. It is in realizing our failures that we realize our dependence on God. This dependence on God is the next step after a period of Lent

where you fall short.

My sister and I have been working through my parent’s house slowly distributing family keepsakes as we decide what to do with our childhood home. My son recently discovered my Dad’s U.S. Army issued pocket bible signed by the 32nd President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. This copy of the King James New Testament includes instructions to baptize, pray for soldiers who are in danger of death and assist soldiers to find some sense of peace in wartime. As we read through the pocket bible I thought of my Dad’s dependence on God for 75 years after receiving this book at eighteen years old. I imagined the trials and times of darkness he faced over such a long life. I wondered how many times he failed his promises seeking the transformation Christ asked of him. This pocket bible worn at both covers with book markers intact had all the indications of repeated use. It was a demonstration of just what it takes on this journey, before, during and after Lenten seasons, to become how God wants us to be. I recognized that it takes constant consultation

with our Lord and realized my Dad continues to offer his advice. “It’s a process” as he would say.

It seems this process of Lent that asks us to transform is really just the beginning of a much longer journey. We are to spend our whole lives asking Jesus to shepherd us from war into peace, darkness into light and death into life. We seek Him above all and about all and only in this way can we constantly strive and survive to make the changes He wants for us.

This Easter I am going to extend my Lenten promises past 40 days. I will continue my Lenten sacrifices to make those changes by relying on Him, the One who sees me worthy of His transformation. May you too continue your Lenten journey well past this Easter and far into your years to come.

El tiempo que nosotros católicos pasamos recientemente en el desierto fue un viaje de 40 días en la oscuridad contemplativa. Es un momento en el que reflexionamos sobre cómo el Señor siempre nos llama a arrepentirnos, a

cambiar y regresar a Él. Durante la Cuaresma, nuestra luz al final del túnel es siempre Pascua, el único evento milagroso donde Jesús emerge de su tumba el tercer día después de su crucifixión al derrotar a la muerte y probar que hay vida después. En esta Cuaresma luché con mis promesas y tan humana como soy, no pude mantener todos mis sacrificios para ayunar y cambiar. Me pregunto qué pasará después de una Cuaresma en la que es posible que no hayamos realizado los cambios que aún deseamos realizar. ¿Cuál es el siguiente paso después de un fracaso de Cuaresma?

Jesús ayunó durante 40 días en el desierto. Él sobrevivió a las tentaciones y al hambre. No he probado estar a la misma prueba que él, pero el tiempo de la Cuaresma me recuerda reconocer cuán perfecto es el Señor y cómo al volverme a Él puedo encontrar fortaleza para salvarme. Al darnos cuenta de nuestros fracasos, nos damos cuenta de nuestra dependencia de Dios. Esta dependencia de Dios es el siguiente paso después de un período de Cuaresma en el que te quedas corto.



Nancy Ramos  
Director/Editor

Mi hermana y yo hemos estado trabajando en la casa de mis padres, distribuyendo lentamente los recuerdos de la familia, mientras decidimos qué hacer con nuestra casa de la infancia. Recientemente, mi hijo descubrió la Biblia de bolsillo emitida por el Ejército de EE. UU., de mi padre, firmada por el 32º presidente de los Estados Unidos, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Esta copia del Nuevo Testamento del Rey Santiago incluye instrucciones para bautizar, rezar por los soldados que están en peligro de muerte y ayudar a los soldados a encontrar un sentido de paz en tiempo de guerra. Mientras leíamos la Biblia de bolsillo, pensé en la dependencia de mi padre para con Dios por 75 años después de recibir este libro a los dieciocho años. Imaginé las pruebas y los tiempos de oscuridad a los que se enfrentó él en una vida tan larga. Me pregunté cuántas veces él falló en sus promesas buscando la transformación que Cristo le pidió. Esta biblia de bolsillo usada en ambas cubiertas con marcadores de libros intactos tenía todas las indicaciones de un uso continuo. Fue una demostración de lo que implica este viaje, antes, durante y después de las temporadas de Cuaresma, para llegar a ser como Dios quiere que seamos. Reconocí que requiere una consulta constante con nuestro Señor y me di cuenta de que mi padre continúa ofreciendo su consejo. “Es un proceso”, como diría él.

Parece que este proceso de Cuaresma que nos pide transformarnos es realmente solo el comienzo de un viaje mucho más largo. Debemos pasar toda nuestra vida pidiéndole a Jesús que nos guíe de la guerra a la paz, de la oscuridad a la luz y de la muerte a la vida. Lo buscamos sobre todo y sobre todos y solo de esta manera podemos constantemente esforzarnos y sobrevivir para hacer los cambios que Él quiere para nosotros.

Esta Pascua voy a extender mis promesas cuaresmales durante 40 días. Continuaré mis sacrificios cuaresmales para hacer esos cambios confiando en Él, El que me ve digno de Su transformación. Deseando que tú también continúes tu viaje de Cuaresma bien pensado hoy y en los años venideros.



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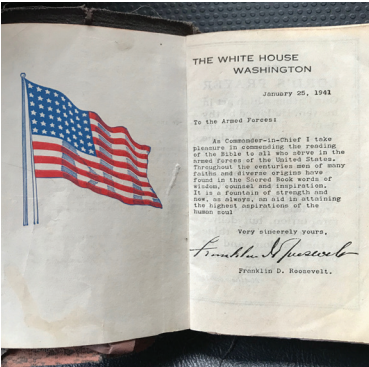
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Financial Advisor

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

+Bishop Mark

## + Obispo Mark



**ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL**  
 Sunday April 8, 2018 3pm  
 PARISHES INVITED

Holy Family  
 Immaculate Conception  
 Queen of Peace  
 San Judas Tadeo  
 Santa Teresa  
 St. Luke  
 St. Mathew  
 St. Francis of Assisi  
 St. Patrick, Canutillo  
 Immaculate Heart of Mary-Westway  
 Guardian Angel  
 Little Flower  
 St. Pius X  
 Our Lady of The light  
 Our Lady of Sorrows  
 Sacred Heart  
 San Antonio de Pauda  
 All Saints  
 Blessed Sacrament  
 Christ The Savior  
 Most Holy Trinity  
 Our Lady of Assumption  
 Our Lady of Gualupe  
 St. Joseph  
 Roger Bacon Seminary  
 St. Anthony Seminary

# Mystagogy Masses

"Masses in Celebration of Those Who Received Baptism at Easter"  
 "Misas en celebración de los que recibieron el bautismo en Pascua"

**Bishop Mark Seitz**  
 Presiding

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI**  
 Sunday April 15, 2018 3pm  
 PARISHES INVITED

San Juan Diego  
 Holy Spirit  
 El Buen Pastor  
 La Resurreccion  
 St. Mark  
 St. Raphael  
 St. Stephen  
 St. Thomas Aquinas  
 Corpus Christi  
 Cristo Rey  
 La Purisima  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe-Fabens  
 San Jose-Cuadrilla  
 Santa Rita-Tornillo  
 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
 Ysleta Mission  
 Our Lady of The Valley  
 San Eliceario-San Elizario  
 San Felipe de Jesus-Socorro  
 San Jose  
 San Lorenzo-Clint  
 Santa Teresa-Fort Hancock  
 Sts. Peter & Paul

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# Lady in Blue Documentary to Include the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

By Martha Vera, Honorary Consul of Spain in El Paso Texas and by the Rio Grande Catholic

On March 6, 2018, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo had three visitors from Los Angeles, CA. They came to Corpus Christi de San Antonio Mission at the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to film the last part of a documentary that they have been working on since 2012. The producer, Mr. Victor Mancilla, owner of Eravision and his Assistant Producers, Christian Hernandez, Antonio Hernandez and the crew filmed the special segment about the Lady in Blue's, Sor Maria de Jesus de Ágreda's, bilocation to the Isleta del Norte Pueblo between 1620 and 1634. Part of the Isleta del Norte's people came south with the Spanish after the Pueblo Revolt. The ancestors of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo had seen and spoken to Sor Maria de Jesus who never left her convent in Ágreda, Spain. Sor Maria de Jesus was a Conceptionist nun who wore the distinctive white

habit with a blue cloak hence her nickname, "The Lady in Blue".

It all started in 2012 when Dr. Henry J. Casso, retired professor of education at University of New Mexico, approached Mr. Mancilla to work on a 20-minute documentary that would be used for educational purposes on educational channels, like PBS, to introduce the Lady in Blue. Dr. Casso was devoted to the Venerable Sor Maria de Jesus de Ágreda and a promoter of her beatification in America. Mr. Mancilla agreed. The film would be called, 'The Needle and the Thread'.

With very little money and most of it out of their own pockets, they began by recording the first symposium on Sor Maria de Jesus de Ágreda. The research began. They met



Producer, Mr. Victor Mancilla, interviews Cacique, Jose Sierra, Sr. of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo



Producer, Mr. Victor Mancilla, owner of Eravision and his Assistant Producers, Christian Hernandez and Antonio Hernandez

people from Isleta del Norte, Mountainair and Abo. A pilgrimage from Ágreda, Spain visited New Mexico to see those places that Sor Maria de Jesus had bilocated to in order to teach the natives about Christianity. Dr. Casso was contacted and Mr. Mancilla and crew flew to Albuquerque to film the pilgrimage.

The film crew and Dr. Casso were invited to the 350th anniversary of Sor Maria's death in Ágreda. Members of Isleta del Norte and the Jumanos tribes joined them. Dr. Casso passed away and did not make it to the celebration. Mr. Mancilla filmed the event and Sor Maria began to intrigue him as coincidences, or 'Diosidencias', as the Immaculate Conceptionist Sisters of the Ágreda convent lovingly call them, opened the way to more filming.

The project continued to grow bigger and bigger as Dr. Casso had always said to Victor, "This is HUGE". The crew met with Mrs. Tilly Chandler from San Angelo, TX and her committee, the Historic Beginnings of San Angelo and The Lady in Blue. Sor Maria had also bilocated to the San Angelo area to the Jumano tribe. The crew was then invited to San Angelo, Texas by the Historic committee and asked to include San Angelo and the Jumanos tribe in the film. They also committed to help fund the filming of the Lady in Blue and sponsored their trip to Rome. Both parties had been invited to Rome for the first Marian Conference with emphasis on Sor Maria de Jesus. They went to Rome with a Jumano native to film and interview attendees. There they met Father Stefano Cecchin who would later

become the Vice Postulator in charge of Sor Maria de Jesus' beatification and canonization. The story was being pieced together.

After filming with Father Cecchin in San Angelo, Texas, they went back to Ágreda, Spain, to film in the convent of Immaculate Conceptionist Sisters of the Ágreda where Sor Maria de Jesus once lived. Filming inside a convent is forbidden and unheard of since men are not allowed in the convent. It was here that I met Victor Mancilla and his crew. I mentioned to them that the Ysleta del Sur was part of that story and that they could not be forgotten. Mr. Mancilla had another "Diosidencia" because months prior he had met the Lieutenant Governor of the Ysleta del Sur tribe at a film festival and thought that they should be part of the film as well.

"Learning about this incredible lady has been fascinating. She wrote, levitated, bilocated, and was the advisor to King Felipe of Spain. She is the first woman to evangelize the new world and is still evangelizing today," Mr. Mancilla said.

The Diocese of San Angelo is having a Marian Conference May 18-20 honoring the Lady in Blue and the Jumano Native Americans. The Lady in Blue Musical, written by Cynthia Jordan will be performed and if completed, the premier of the film by Eravision, 'The Needle and the Thread'.

For more information, visit Lady in Blue Annual Celebration on Facebook or [www.ladyinblue2018.com](http://www.ladyinblue2018.com).

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**Publisher** - Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, D.D.

**Editor** - Nancy Ramos

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*theRioGrandeCatholic* (ISSN#1079-9621) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by the Office of Communications, Diocese of El Paso, 499 St. Matthews St., El Paso, TX 79907. Phone (915) 872-8414, Fax (915) 872-8435. "PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT EL PASO TX." POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to *theRioGrandeCatholic*, 499 St. Matthews St., El Paso, TX 79907.

*the RioGrande Catholic* is a monthly newswpaper assisting the Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso by communicating the events and themes of the faith life of the local and universal church through news reports, features, columns and photograph. Articles and photographs become the property of *the RioGrande Catholic*. If photos are on loan to the newspaper, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope for their return. Advertising deadline is the last Friday of each month.  
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# Documental “Lady in Blue” para incluir el Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Por Martha Vera, Cónsul Honorario de España en El Paso, Texas y por el Rio Grande Catholic

El 6 de marzo, 2018, el Pueblo de Ysleta del Sur tuvo a tres visitantes de Los Angeles, California. Estubieron en la mision de Corpus Christi en Ysleta del Sur Pueblo para filmár la última parte de un documentál que se comenzó en el 2012. El productór, Victor Mancilla, dueño de Eravision y sus asistentes, Christian y Antonio Hernandez filmaron este segmento especial acabó de la bilocación de Sor Maria de Jesús de Ágreda (The Lady in Blue) al Pueblo Isleta del Norte entre 1620 a 1634. Parte del pueblo de Isleta del Norte vinieron con los españoles después de la Revuelta de los Pueblo. Los antepasados de Ysleta del Sur Pueblo habían visto y hablaron con Sor Maria de Jesus, la monja que nunca salió de su celdita del convento de la Inmaculada Concepción en Ágreda, España. Era una monja Concepcionista que se vestía en hábito blanco característico con una capa azul, de ahí su apodo, “La Dama de Azul” o “The Lady in Blue”.

Todo comenzó en el 2012 cuando el Dr. Henry

Casso, profesór retirado de educación en la Universidad de Nuevo Mexico en Albuquerque, Nuevo México, le pidió al Sr. Mancilla que le ayudara con una película documentál de 20 minutos que seria usada para educár a la población en canales de educación como PBS, para introducir a La Dama en Azul. El Dr. Casso era devoto de la Venerable Sor Maria de Jesus de Ágreda y promovia su beatificación en America. El Sr. Mancilla acordó a filmar. La pelicula se llamaria, “La Aguja y el Hilo”.

Con muy poca plata, que mas bien era lo que ellos pusieron, empezaron a filmár el primer sympósio sobre Sor Maria de Jesus de Ágreda. La investigación comenzó. Conocieron a personas de los tribus de Isleta del Norte, Mountinair y Abo. Luego el Dr. Casso oyó de una peregrinación que venia de Ágreda a visitár todos los lugares de Nuevo Mexico donde Sor Maria se habia bilocado. Le avisó al Sr. Mancilla y el y su equipo fueron a Albuquerque a filmarlos.

Estas personas invitaron al Dr. Casso y al equipo de filmación al 350 aniversario de la muerte de Sor Maria en Ágreda. El Dr. Casso falleció antes de hacer el viaje pero miembros del Pueblo de Isleta del Norte y del tribu Jumano los acompañaron. El Sr. Mancilla filmó el evento y Sor Maria lo empezó a intrigár por las coincidencias, o como las Madres del Convento en Ágreda dicen, las ‘Diosidencias’, que empezaron a abrir el camino a filmár mas de su historia.

El proyecto empezó a crecer mas y mas grande como el Dr. Casso siempre le decia a Victor, “Esto es grandisimo”. Conocieron a la Sra. Tilly Chandler de San Angelo, Texas



The crew films and interviews Fr. Miguel Briseños, OFM from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

y a otros miembros del comité, the Historic Beginnings of San Angelo and the Lady in Blue, de Sor Maria. Sor Maria también habia bilocado al tribu Jumano en la area de San Angelo. El comité histórico los invitó que fueran a filmár e incluyeran a San Angelo, Texas, y el tribu Jumano a quien Sor Maria habia visitado.

El comité y Eravision fueron invitados a Roma a la primera conferencia Mariana donde el émphasis era Sor Maria de Jesus. El comite se comitio a fundar el viaje a Roma. Fueron a Roma con un nativo Jumano y filmaron e intrevistaron a los que atendieron la conferencia. Conocieron al Padre Stefano Cecchin que despues de un tiempo llegó ser el Vice Postulador encargado de la beatificación e canonización de Sor Maria de Jesus. La historia se empezo a ser mas completa.

Después de filmár en San Angelo, regresaron a Ágreda a filmár el convento de la Inmaculada Concepción donde antes vivio Sor Maria de Jesus. Grabando adentro era algo que no se habia hecho porque los hombres no pueden

entrár a un lugar claustrado. En Ágreda es donde yo conocí a Victor Mancilla y su equipo. Le mencioné al Pueblo de Ysleta del Sur porque eran decendientes de Isleta del Norte. Victor me platicó de una Diosicencia que le habia sucedido algunos meses antes. Habia conocido al Teniente Gobernador del Pueblo de Ysleta y habian hablalado de la posibilidad de filmár.

“Aprendiendo mas de esta mujer increíble ha sido fasinante. Escribió, se levitaba, se bilocó, fue consejera del Rey Felipe de España. Fue la primera mujer que evangelizó en el nuevo mundo y hoy sigue evangelizando.” dice Mancilla.

La Diocesis de San Angelo tendrá una Conferencia Mariana del 18 al 20 de mayo, 2018, dando honor a la Dama en Azul y al tribu Jumano Nativo Americano. El musical La Dama en Azul escrita por Cynthia Jordan sera realizado y si se puede completár, se enseñara el premier de ‘La Aguja y el Hilo.

Para mas información, visite Lady in Blue Annual Celebration en Facebook o [www.ladyinblue2018.com](http://www.ladyinblue2018.com).



Mancilla speaks to the pueblo about his journey with the documentary.

## Happy Birthday Ordination Annivesary

Fr. Cyprian Uline, OFM Conv.	April 9
Fr. Andres Sosa Medellin, OFM	April 12
Fr. Francisco Javier Rodriguez Roman, OFM	April 18
Fr. Antonio Alano De Guzman Jr.	April 22
Fr. Jorge M. Palacio, OSM	April 22
Fr. Leonides Rivero	April 22
Fr. Allan Oluoch Alaka	April 25
Fr. Richard Weiss	April 25
Fr. Miguel Meneses	April 28
Fr. Anthony C. Celino	April 29
Fr. Armando Reyes (Extern)	April 29

OFM- Order of Friars Minor, OSM- Siervos de Maria

Fr. Esteban Sescon	April 3
Fr. Rodolfo Lacerna	April 6
Fr. Armando Reyes (Extern)	April 6
Fr. Miguel M. Flores, OSM	April 13
Fr. Ronald W.Eid (Marionite)	April 14
Fr. John Paul Madanu (Extern)	April 30
OSM- Siervos de Maria	



# Sisters, Servants, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Poor

By Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

We know them as the “Father Yermo Sisters” and we associate them with the ministry of education for immigrant children in El Paso over the past sixty years. Sister Socorro Garcia teaches religion to students in fifth through eighth grades at Fr. Yermo Elementary School. No surprise, right? That’s what the Fr. Yermo Sisters do! But this very beautiful ministry in our diocese is just one tiny facet of the gemstone that is the vocation of a woman called to consecrated life as a Servant of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor. Prepare to be inspired by Sister Socorro’s story!

Sister Socorro met the Fr. Yermo Sisters when they taught her in school in Guatemala. “When I was 10 or 11 years old we had a play about the congregation. I was asked to play the role of the director of novices

accompanied and helped the Sisters. Finally she faced the decision as she completed high school: go to college or enter the convent. “I sent both applications and I said that whichever returned first would be God’s answer.” One week later she received her acceptance to the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor.

“I was aware that the congregation was not a Guatemalan congregation. They were Mexican and there were just two Guatemalan Sisters ahead of me.” Entering the convent meant going to Puebla for four years of formation. Her parents were very supportive. “My mom was so happy that she said my twin sister should also go to the convent. ‘Oh no, not me!’ she cried. But she was very happy for my decision.” The 18 hour bus ride was exciting and the farewells were not too hard.

But at the moment she exchanged her traditional Mayan dress for the postulant’s uniform Sister Socorro felt a tremendous wrenching in her heart. It was a moment of great detachment.

Sister Socorro made first vows in 1987. Many of the schools the Sisters sponsor are boarding schools so in addition to teaching, they have responsibilities caring for the girls 24/7. This has been a great part of Sister Socorro’s ministry. Six years after leaving Guatemala she was missioned back to her home country as a teacher and boarding school assistant. But Sister felt an inner call to the foreign

missions. That call was confirmed after her perpetual profession of vows when her superiors sent her to Rome to study missiology as preparation for being sent to the congregational missions in Kenya.

From the earliest years of their

founding in 1988 by St. José Maria de Yermo y Parras, the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor have responded to the needs of those on the margins. Fr. Yermo instilled in his spiritual daughters the charism of St. Vincent de Paul, seeking the poor and serving them with the love and mercy of the heart of Jesus. Their congregational virtues are the same as the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul: humility, simplicity and charity. From the first congregational mission among the Tarahumara of Chihuahua the Servants continued to open missions in Guatemala, Nicaragua, the United States, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Italy and since 1975 in Kenya.

Sister Socorro served for eighteen years in the congregation’s missions in Africa. They staff two boarding schools in Kenya where the classes are taught in English (Sister Socorro’s fourth language) but the students and the Sisters-in-training speak Swahili (her fifth language). At one point Sister Socorro lived in a local community with five nationalities represented among the Sisters. The common languages in the house were Spanish and English. Now the congregation has five houses in Kenya, including a formation house for new Sisters and most recently a mission in the slums of Nairobi. In addition to teaching, Sister Socorro served in parish ministries and as mistress of novices. “Our formation is strong and conservative. The ones who are ready for it follow it: the charism, the customs, the language,” Sister noted. “We enter a congregation, not a nationality.” There are about twenty Kenyan and 13 Guatemalan Fr. Yermo Sisters. All of the Sisters come to Puebla for a year in preparation before making their life commitment. They all learn Spanish which is the official language of the congregation. “We are a Mexican congregation on mission in the world.”

After three years in Rome and

eighteen years in Kenya, at a time of spiritual renewal Sister Socorro asked to be closer to her mother who was ninety years old. She was missioned back home to Guatemala in 2015. Surprisingly, it was one of the greatest culture shocks of her life. “Coming back to my Guatemala, how disappointed I was! It was a big challenge to me to understand all the changes. The system of education had changed. It was like another mission land for me to learn.” She had left home at the height of the civil war. People were frightened to gather, to go out at night. By 2015 so much had changed. The rural areas had services like electricity, buses, water, and local schools. Life was easier. There was more freedom, community participation, social activities.

One year after returning to Guatemala Sister Socorro realized that she was missing the stimulation of mission life. Just as she was beginning to notice this nostalgia came the next call. She was asked to accept an assignment as a teacher of religion at Fr. Yermo School in El Paso. The challenge of this new mission began with a six-month application process to obtain a religious worker visa to enter the U.S. During that time Sister Socorro lived and worked with the congregation in Juarez.

The relative ease of life in the U.S. can sometimes be disturbing for Sisters who cherish service to the poorest and most marginalized people. But Sister Socorro

understands the particular poverty of children whose material needs are met but who suffer from family disintegration. “We know this is a developed country but this too can be a place of mission for us. For me, working with the students I can say that they are poor because they experience many difficult situations at home. For me this is the poverty.” Approximately ninety-five percent of the students at Fr. Yermo schools live in Juarez and cross the border every day. This is another stress for students, their families and their teachers.

Sister Socorro’s great hope for her congregation is that they live their charism in service to the poor and give the best of Catholic education to the students in this diocese. “We identify ourselves with Jesus who is servant and who is merciful. Once we are identified with Jesus in this way, we radiate it to the poor through education, health care and social services.”



Sister Socorro in Father Yermo Chapel

and they dressed me as a sister. In that moment I had a great inspiration and I discovered my vocation. That was when I knew that I wanted to be a Sister!” She was encouraged to continue her studies and all the while she



Sister Socorro Garcia, SSHJP in garden at Father Yermo Convent

## Hermanas, Siervas, el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, y los Pobres

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

Las conocemos como las “Hermanas del Padre Yermo” y las asociamos con el ministerio de educación para niños inmigrantes en El Paso durante los últimos sesenta años. La Hermana Socorro García enseña religión a los estudiantes del quinto al octavo grado en la escuela Primaria de Padre Yermo. No es sorpresa, ¿verdad? ¡Eso es lo que hacen las Hermanas del Padre Yermo! Pero este hermoso ministerio en nuestra diócesis es solo una pequeña faceta de la piedra preciosa que es la vocación de una mujer llamada a

la vida consagrada como Sierva del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y de los Pobres. ¡Prepárense para inspirarse con la historia de la Hermana Socorro!

Hna. Socorro se encontró con las Hermanas del Padre Yermo cuando era estudiante en la escuela en Guatemala. “Cuando tenía 10 u 11 años tuvimos una obra sobre la congregación. Me pidieron que interpretara el papel de maestra de las novicias y me vistieron de hermana. En ese momento tuve una gran inspiración y descubrí mi vocación. ¡Fue entonces cuando supe que quería ser Hermana!

“. Se animó a continuar sus estudios y todo el tiempo acompañado y ayudando a las Hermanas. Finalmente se enfrentó a la decisión c u a n d o c o m p l e t ó la escuela preparatoria: ir a la universidad o ingresar al convento.

“Envié ambas solicitudes y dije que cualquiera que regresara primero sería la respuesta de Dios”. Una semana más tarde recibió su aceptación de los Siervas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y de los Pobres.

“Sabía que la congregación no era una congregación guatemalteca. Era mexicana y solo había dos hermanas guatemaltecas delante de mí.” Entrar al convento significaba ir a Puebla durante cuatro años de formación. Sus padres fueron muy solidarios. “Mi madre estaba tan feliz de que le decía mi hermana gemela que también debería ir al convento. ‘¡Oh, no, yo no!’ gritó. Pero, ella estaba muy feliz por mi decisión.” El viaje en autobús de 18 horas fue emocionante y las despedidas no fueron demasiado difíciles. Pero en el momento en que intercambió su vestido tradicional maya por el uniforme de postulante, Socorro sintió una tremenda conmoción en su corazón. Fue un momento de gran desapego.

La Hermana Socorro hizo los primeros votos en 1987. Muchas de las escuelas que las Hermanas patrocinan son internados, por lo que además de enseñar,

tienen la responsabilidad de cuidar a las muchachas las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana. Esto ha sido una gran parte del ministerio de Hna. Socorro. Seis años después de dejar Guatemala, fue enviada de regreso a su país de origen como maestra y asistente de internado. Pero la hermana sintió un llamado interno a las misiones extranjeras. Ese llamado fue confirmado después de su profesión perpetua de votos cuando sus superiores la enviaron a Roma para estudiar misionología como preparación para ser enviada a las misiones congregacionales en Kenia.

Desde los primeros años de su fundación en 1988 por San José María de Yermo y Parras, los Siervas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y de los Pobres han respondido a las necesidades de los marginados. Padre Yermo inculcó en sus hijas espirituales el carisma de San Vicente de Paúl, buscando a los pobres y sirviéndoles con el amor y la misericordia del corazón de Jesús. Sus virtudes congregacionales son las mismas que las Hijas de la Caridad de San Vicente de Paúl: humildad, sencillez




Sister Socorro with St. José María de Yermo y Parras

y caridad. Desde la primera misión congregacional entre los Tarahumaras de Chihuahua, las Siervas continuaron abriendo misiones en Guatemala, Nicaragua, Estados Unidos, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Italia y desde 1975 en Kenia.

La Hermana Socorro sirvió durante dieciocho años en las misiones de la congregación en África. Cuentan con dos

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<div><p>Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz Bishop of El Paso</p></div>		
Appointed to the Office of Pastor	Parish	Effective
Fray Juan Antonio Gutierrez Gonzalez, OFM	Our Lady of Guadalupe	3-1-2018
Fray Andres Sosa Medellin, OFM	All Saints	3-1-2018
Dean of Religious Formation		
Fray Francisco Javier Rodriguez Roman	St. Anthony's School Of Theology	2-23-2018



# The Wrong-Headedness of “Wrongful Birth” Lawsuits

At its core, the idea of a “wrongful birth” claim is unreasonable and ethically incoherent. Parents who bring these lawsuits against obstetricians and hospitals claim that medical professionals should have detected a particular disease or defect in their unborn baby through prenatal testing and informed them about it. Had they been given this information, their argument continues, they would have chosen to abort their baby, rather than spending years of their lives caring for a less-than-perfect, possibly infirm child. Wrongful birth lawsuits enable the parents to seek legal redress, often in the form of multi-million dollar settlements.

In 2013, for example, a jury in Washington state awarded a \$50 million payout to a couple who claimed they would have aborted their five-year-old son Oliver if they had known he had an “unbalanced chromosomal translocation.” Because of the mismatched chromosomes he received from his parents, he has an IQ of less than 70 and is unable to walk.

Rachelle Harz, a malpractice lawyer who spearheaded one of these lawsuits in New Jersey in 1999, expressed some of the

tortuous thinking that goes into these cases during an interview for 60 Minutes. She noted that although the physician in this case, “didn’t cause the child’s retardation, what he caused was not giving the proper information to the parents to allow them the choice to abort the child.” She concluded that the doctor “caused the birth of this very, very neurologically impaired child.”

The fundamental flaw in her argument, of course, is the claim that the doctor “caused the birth” of the baby, when, in fact, the birth was caused by an activity that took place nine months prior between the husband and wife. That action of the mom and dad, not an action by the doctor, resulted in the birth.

What the doctor actually “caused” by not discovering and sharing specific medical information with the parents was the preservation of the child’s life. These lawsuits rely on fundamentally flawed logic: first, that it is wrong and illegal for a doctor not to know or to withhold medical information such that a life that would have been ended is saved; second, that a doctor is somehow obligated to facilitate or cooperate in harmful or lethal actions that parents intend to carry out against their

own offspring. The medical profession, however, has long professed allegiance to the creed of “do no harm,” so that doctors can serve uniquely as healers, not killers. For obstetricians in particular, the unborn children they track and follow during pregnancy count as that doctor’s patients in the same way that the mothers do.

Whenever a couple sets out with the intention of aborting an imperfect child and requests that prenatal testing be performed for this purpose, the process of testing itself becomes immoral. In the same way, any physician or health care professional who arranges for such tests, if they have prudential certainty that a couple intends to abort an imperfect child, would be guilty of cooperating in evil when that abortion takes place.

To consider a parallel example, if a physician believed that a child arriving to the hospital emergency room had been physically abused or severely beaten by his parents, he would be duty-bound, not to mention legally obligated, to report that abuse to authorities. He would not be permitted to turn a blind eye, or otherwise cooperate in the ongoing harm to that child by his or her parents. Similarly, obstetricians who work with

## Making Sense Out of Bioethics

By  
Fr. Tad  
Pacholczyk



pregnant couples should not be expected to turn a blind eye and provide diagnostic information to parents that will encourage them fatally to assault their unborn child.

None of us is perfect. None of us is born into this world completely free of defects, whether physical or psychological. Those limitations, however, never entitle others to place our lives in the crosshairs and pull the trigger — especially our own parents! In sum, these wrongful birth cases promote catastrophic misunderstandings about parental duties and about the physician’s obligations towards mothers and their children in pre-natal care settings.

Recognizing that some parents will face considerable expense, labor and difficulty in raising a child who requires special care and attention

due to disabilities, it seems reasonable to promote a pro-life and supportive response on behalf of these families, rather than encouraging the corrosive practice of wrongful birth lawsuits. That supportive response should include the expectation of everyone chipping in and helping out, whether through insurance, taxes or crowd-funding, or through other forms of civic, societal or ecclesial outreach.

**Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)**

## Second Collections in April

### Collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal

There will be a Special Collection on Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29, 2018 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.

### Collection for the Major Seminary Fund Appeal

There will be a Special Offering on Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8, 2018 for the Major Seminarians Program.

One of the most pressing needs in the Diocese of El Paso is the recruitment and education

of seminarians. The purpose of the Major Seminarian Office is to provide for the pastoral care of the diocesan seminarians and offer them support and guidance once they have entered one of the major seminaries.

One of the greatest success stories of our Diocese is its efforts in the last few years

in increasing the number of seminarians who will dedicate their lives to the service of the church and God’s people. Currently the Diocese of El Paso has 28 seminarians studying at Assumption Seminary (San Antonio), Mundelein Seminary (Chicago), St. Mary’s Seminary (Houston), Conception College

in Missouri, and Sacred Heart Seminary in Milwaukee. The Diocese expects a total of 30 seminarians during the next academic year starting in August. The Diocese must cover the expenses of the students’ tuition, room and board, and medical insurance.

On the weekend of April 7 and 8 please take the opportunity to contribute to the education of the future priests of the Diocese. Thank you for your support.

## Segunda Colecta en Abril

### Colecta para El Llamado para las Misiones Católicas Domésticas

Habrà una Ofrenda Especial Anual el sàbado 28 de abril, y el domingo 29 de abril del 2018 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 28 y 29 de abril del 2016, por favor sean tan generosos como les sea posible, sus donaciones benefician a nuestra Iglesia local. Muchas gracias por su apoyo.

### Colecta para los Seminaristas Mayores Cta. #2320

Habrà una Ofrenda Especial el sàbado, 7 y domingo 8 de abril del 2018 para los Seminaristas Mayores.

Una de las necesidades más urgentes de la Diócesis de El Paso es el reclutamiento y la educación de seminaristas. El propósito del Programa de los Seminaristas Mayores es el de

proporcionar el cuidado pastoral a los seminaristas diocesanos y de ofrecerles guía y apoyo una vez que han ingresado a uno de los seminarios mayores.

Unas de las historias más impactantes de nuestra Diócesis a sido el esfuerzo en estos últimos años de incrementar el número de seminaristas que consagran sus vidas al servicio para la iglesia y la de los feligreses. Actualmente hay 28 seminaristas estudiando

en el Seminario de Asunción (San Antonio), Seminario Mundelein (Chicago), Seminario Santa Maria (Houston), Seminario Concepción (Missouri) y Sagrado Corazon en Milwaukee. La Diócesis espera un total de 30 seminaristas para agosto de este año. La Diócesis los ayuda económicamente con los gastos del seminario, su alimentación, hospedaje y seguro médico.

Por favor dé se la oportunidad de contribuir a la educación de los futuros sacerdotes de nuestra Diócesis. Muchas gracias por su apoyo.

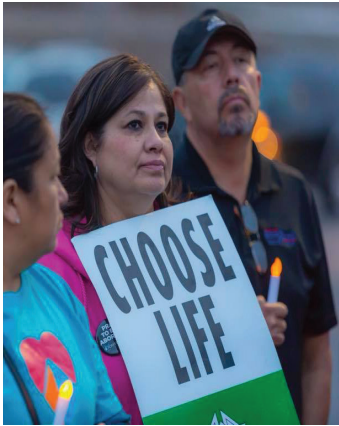




# 40 Days for Life Vigil Saved Lives

By Mark Cavaliere, Executive Director Southwest Coalition for Life

With a broad smile, a young woman eagerly announces to the Hnat family, “I’m having a baby!” The Hnat family is a volunteer family that at that moment was praying in front of the clinic. In the background, the young womans mother throws her hands up in the air and echos in excitement, “Woo! We’re having a baby!” Those present erupt in joyful cheers, tearful laughter,



Many gathered to pray holding signs for Life.

and congratulatory applause in celebration of this new, unique,

and precious life gifted to us by our loving God.

This young woman and her mother that ended up announcing the decision to keep their baby drove to the most notorious of El Paso’s three local abortion facilities last month. Upon approaching they slowed down at the amazing sight of nearly a dozen people including children kneeling on the hard concrete sidewalk in the brisk early morning hours in peaceful prayer. Surprised and moved by their loving witness, the women initially kept driving past the facility, but soon returned and entered the center. The prayer on the sidewalk only intensified until the young woman and her mother realized the witness they observed was a sign from God and rushed out to gratefully announce their change of heart and mind.

We have all had moments similar to this among friends and family, but this is one birth announcement that volunteer Christa Hnat and her family will never take for granted, as it took place between complete strangers on the sidewalk in front

of El Paso’s “Hill Top” abortion facility during the most recent 40 Days for Life vigil which just completed on March 25. Christa Hnat is one of the prayer volunteers blessed to witness one of the several lives saved during this Lenten campaign, exclaiming, “Our prayers for God’s grace and mercy turned into joyous prayers of thanksgiving!”

Just two days prior, Bishop Mark Seitz stood in the exact same spot on the sidewalk surrounded by fifty of the 250+ prayer volunteers who took weekly one-hour shifts to create an organized unbroken chain of nonstop prayer from 7AM to 7PM each day for 40 days straight. Before leading a rosary, Bishop Seitz drew a parallel between the “Dreamers” facing deportation with the repeal of DACA and “our unborn children who are seeking to migrate from what’s supposed to be a protected place in their mother’s womb.”

Explaining that he sees much convergence between these issues, Bishop elaborated, “Our culture fears people who come from other countries because we

don’t know them, we haven’t seen their faces, we haven’t talked to them, we don’t know their story. We also fear that unborn child, because we don’t know them as a person, we haven’t yet held them in our arms, we don’t know their story, but God knows their story!” He continued, “If we just trust God, that He has a good plan for every child. God doesn’t make mistakes! We need to learn to respect every human person, from natural conception to natural death!” Bishop concluded, “God is at work, calling us to speak up for them. Pray that we will give these unborn dreamers a chance to live and pursue life, liberty, and happiness!”

Based on the most recent reported data, premeditated elective abortion claims the lives of at least three innocent and defenseless children each and



Bishop Seitz speaks to the crowd gathered at the clinic to pray.

every day right here in El Paso alone, harming local women, men, and families emotionally, spiritually, and sometimes physically. Learn more about our renewed and growing movement to build a local culture of life and love to end the local violence of abortion, peacefully and prayerfully, through the Southwest Coalition for Life at [www.southwest.life](http://www.southwest.life) or by calling 833-388-LIFE.

# 40 Días de Vida Vigil Salva Vidas

By Mark Cavaliere, Director Ejecutivo de Southwest Coalition for Life

Con una amplia sonrisa, una mujer joven anuncia ansiosamente a la familia Hnat; “¡Voy a tener un bebé!”. La familia Hnat es una familia voluntaria que en ese momento estaba rezando frente a la clínica. Hacia el fondo, la madre de la jovencita levanta las manos en el aire y escucha con emoción: “¡Woow! ¡Vamos a tener un bebé! “Los presentes estallan en alegres y llorosas risas y aplausos de felicitación en celebración de esta nueva, única y preciosa vida que nos ha regalado nuestro amoroso Dios.

Esta joven y su madre, quienes terminaron anunciando la decisión de mantener a su bebé, habían manejado a la más notoria de las tres instalaciones locales de aborto en El Paso el mes pasado. Al acercarse, disminuyeron la velocidad ante la increíble vista de casi una docena de personas, incluidos niños arrodillados en la dura acera de concreto durante las frescas horas de la madrugada en una oración pacífica. Sorprendidas y conmovidas

por ese amoroso testimonio, las mujeres inicialmente siguieron conduciendo más allá de las instalaciones, pero pronto se regresaron y entraron al centro. La oración en la acera solo se intensificó más hasta que la joven y su madre se dieron cuenta de que el testimonio que habían observado era una señal de Dios y se apresuraron a anunciar con gratitud su cambio de corazón y mente.

Todos hemos tenido momentos similares a este entre amigos y familiares, pero este fue un anuncio de nacimiento que Christa Hnat y su familia nunca darán por hecho, ya que tuvo lugar entre completos extraños en la acera frente al “Hill Top” de El Paso, instalaciones de aborto, durante la última vigilia de 40 Días por la Vida, la cual acaba de finalizar el 25 de marzo. Christa Hnat es una de las voluntarias de oración muy bendecida al para presenciar una de las varias vidas salvadas durante esta campaña cuaresmal y donde exclamó:

“Nuestras oraciones por la gracia y misericordia de Dios” se convirtieron en alegres oraciones de ¡acción de gracias!”

Justo dos días antes, el Obispo Mark Seitz estaba en el mismo lugar en la acera, rodeado de cincuenta de los más de 250 voluntarios de oración, quienes tomaban turnos semanales de una hora para crear una cadena ininterrumpida y organizada de oración ininterrumpida de las 7 a.m. a las 7 p.m. todos los días, durante 40 días seguidos. Antes de dirigir el rosario, el obispo Seitz trazó un paralelo entre los “Soñadores” quienes enfrentan la deportación con la derogación del DACA y “nuestros niños no nacidos que buscan emigrar de lo que se supone es un lugar protegido en el vientre de su madre”.

Al explicar que ve mucha convergencia entre estos temas, el Obispo explica: “Nuestra cultura teme a las personas que vienen de otros países porque no los conocemos, no hemos visto

sus caras, no hemos hablado con ellos, no conocemos sus historias.” También le tememos a ese niño por nacer, porque no lo conocemos como persona, todavía no lo hemos tenido en nuestros brazos, no conocemos su historia, ¡pero Dios conoce su historia!” continuó, “Si solo confiamos en Dios, que Él tiene un buen plan para cada niño. ¡Dios no comete errores! ¡Tenemos que aprender a respetar a cada persona humana, desde la concepción natural hasta la muerte natural!” el Obispo concluyó, “Dios está trabajando, llamándonos para hablar por ellos. ¡Oremos para que les demos la oportunidad a estos soñadores de nacer, de vivir y buscar la vida, la libertad y la felicidad! “

En base a los datos más recientes, el aborto electivo premeditado cobra la vida de al menos tres niños inocentes e indefensos todos los días aquí mismo en El Paso, dañando emocionalmente, espiritualmente y a veces físicamente a mujeres, hombres y familias locales.



Many held candles during vigil.

Conozca más sobre nuestro movimiento renovado y creciente para construir una cultura de vida local y amor para terminar con la violencia local del aborto, pacíficamente y en oración, a través de “Southwest Coalition for Life” en [www.southwest.life](http://www.southwest.life) o llamando al 833-388-LIFE

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internados en Kenia donde las clases se imparten en inglés (cuarto idioma de la Hna. Socorro) pero los estudiantes y las hermanas en formación hablan Swahili (su quinto idioma). En un momento, la Hna. Socorro vivía en una comunidad local con cinco nacionalidades representadas entre las Hermanas. Los idiomas comunes en la casa eran el español y el inglés. Ahora la congregación tiene cinco casas en Kenia, incluida una

casa de formación para nuevas hermanas y, más recientemente, una misión en los barrios marginales de Nairobi. Además de enseñar, la Hna. Socorro sirvió en los ministerios parroquiales y como maestra de novicias. “Nuestra formación es fuerte y conservadora. Las que están listas se puedan seguirla: el carisma, las costumbres, el lenguaje “, señaló la hermana. “Ingresamos a una congregación, no a una nacionalidad”. Hay unas veinte kenianas y 13 guatemaltecas Hermanas del Padre Yermo. Todas las Hermanas vienen a

Puebla por un año en preparación antes de comprometerse con su vida. Todos aprenden español, que es el idioma oficial de la congregación. “Somos una congregación mexicana en misión en el mundo”.

Después de tres años en Roma y dieciocho años en Kenia, en un momento de renovación espiritual, la Hermana Socorro pidió estar más cerca de su madre, que tenía noventa años. Fue asignada a su hogar en Guatemala en 2015. Sorprendentemente, fue una de las mayores conmociones culturales de su vida. “¡Volviendo a mi Guatemala, qué decepcionada estaba! Fue un gran desafío para mí entender todos los cambios. El sistema de educación había cambiado. Era como otra tierra de misión que tenía que aprender “. Ella había dejado su casa en el punto álgido de la guerra civil. La gente tenía miedo de reunirse, de salir por la noche. Para 2015, todo había cambiado. Las áreas rurales tenían servicios

como electricidad, autobuses, agua y escuelas locales. La vida fue más fácil. Hubo más libertad, participación comunitaria, actividades sociales.


Un año después de regresar a Guatemala, Hna. Socorro se dio cuenta de que estaba extrañando el estímulo de la vida misionera. Justo cuando estaba empezando a notar esta nostalgia llegó su siguiente llamado. Se le pidió que aceptara una tarea como maestra de religión en la Escuela Padre Yermo en El Paso. El desafío de esta nueva misión comenzó con un proceso de solicitud de seis meses para obtener una visa de trabajadora religiosa para ingresar a los EE. UU. Durante ese tiempo, la Hermana Socorro vivió y trabajó con la congregación en Juárez.

La relativa facilidad de la vida en los EE. UU. a veces puede ser inquietante para las Hermanas que aprecian el servicio a las personas más pobres y marginadas. Pero la Hna. Socorro entiende la pobreza particular de los niños cuyas necesidades

materiales se satisfacen pero que sufren desintegración familiar. “Sabemos que este es un país desarrollado, pero este también puede ser un lugar de misión para nosotras. Para mí, trabajando con los estudiantes, puedo decir que son pobres porque experimentan muchas situaciones difíciles en el hogar. Para mí, esta es la pobreza “. Aproximadamente el noventa y cinco por ciento de los estudiantes de las escuelas del Padre Yermo viven en Juárez y cruzan la frontera todos los días. Este es otro estrés para los estudiantes, sus familias y sus maestros.

La gran esperanza de Hna. Socorro para su congregación es que vivan su carisma al servicio de los pobres y que den lo mejor de la educación católica a los estudiantes de esta diócesis. “Nos identificamos con Jesús que es siervo y que es misericordioso. Una vez que nos identificamos con Jesús de esta manera, lo irradiamos a los pobres a través de la educación, la atención médica y los servicios sociales”.

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



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



# Bishop, Advocates from El Paso, Go to Congress In Race to Save DACA

“God’s dream is for every child and every family to enjoy safety and security. The aspirations and hard work of Dreamers have renewed everyone’s faith in the American dream and the hope of a reform that keeps families together and protects the vulnerable who seek refuge at the border.” With these words, Bishop Mark J. Seitz and local immigration advocates travelled to Washington, DC on March 5 in a race to save the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

Although the Trump administration planned to end the federal government’s program for Dreamers on March 5, the courts have recently ordered the administration to continue to process DACA renewal

lawmakers from the Senate and House of Representatives to pass legislation to protect Dreamers without further militarizing the border.

In addition to visits to lawmakers, the bishop participated in a congressional policy briefing sponsored by the Hope Border Institute (HOPE), a Catholic advocacy organization that partners with border dioceses on issues migration and social justice. During the briefing, *Sealing the Border: Border Wall, Militarization of Border Communities and Criminalization of Asylum Seekers in the Trump Era*, the bishop was joined by experts from HOPE, the Center for Migration Studies as well as Linda Rivas, an El Paso attorney with the Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center.

Speaking to dozens of representatives from offices of congressional leaders throughout the country, the bishop urged those involved in the legislative process to listen to the voice of conscience and the voice of migrants, and encouraged them to “stand for something. Don’t be guided by the political morass in Washington, DC.” He noted that “the Church approaches migration from a moral perspective. Jesus taught us to stand on the side of the vulnerable. We are not johnnies-come-lately to this issue.”

During the briefing, Dylan Corbett, executive director of HOPE, explained how the Trump administration’s increased

immigration enforcement has negatively impacted border communities and those who continue to arrive to the border, especially asylum seekers from Central America. According to Mr. Corbett, “the Trump administration has weaponized border enforcement against the most vulnerable, forcing asylum seekers looking for refuge and protection at our border to make the painful choice between deportation and prolonged detention. We forget that asylum seekers are coming here legally, looking for safety and security.”

Kevin Appleby, senior migration policy director with the Center for Migration Studies, stated that proposals to build a wall on the southern border with Mexico were misguided. “The wall is a solution in search of a problem.” He noted that immigration from Mexico as well as the undocumented population in general in the United States had seen dramatic declines in recent years. He also noted that most undocumented persons in the United States have overstayed their visas and not crossed the border illegally.

Mr. Corbett stated that even though the federal courts have intervened to stop the termination of DACA, a permanent legislative solution is still necessary. “Congress still needs to act,” he said. “Hundreds of thousands of DACA-eligible youth who did not or could not apply before the Trump administration terminated the program will soon be in



Panel Included Kevin Appleby- Center for Migration Studies, Dylan Corbett- Hope Border Institute, Linda Rivas- Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center & Leah Chavla, Women’s Refugee Commission and Bishop Seitz

jeopardy. We need to fix DACA in a way that doesn’t sacrifice border communities. One in five Dreamers live on the border. Faith communities throughout the country and border communities have come together to demand a clean Dream Act. We’re grateful that faith leaders like Bishop Seitz are leading the charge.”

In the days leading up to the planned termination date for DACA, two Catholic bishops visited Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Interestingly, both had El Paso connections: Bishop Seitz and the former vicar general of the Diocese of El Paso, Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., who now leads the Catholic community in the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky.

Before advocating on the Hill, Bishop Seitz joined hundreds of Dreamers in a rally near the Washington monument. The bishop prayed with them before they marched to Congress to press for the Dream Act. “You, Lord, are the God who overcomes borders. You called us from slavery into freedom. Grant that our country will once again live up to its high ideals and welcome those who come seeking life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

**More information about Dreamers and Church teaching on migration can be found on the HOPE website at [www.hopeborder.org](http://www.hopeborder.org).**



applications. DACA shields the nearly 700,000 young people throughout the country who arrived to the United States as children from deportation and family separation.

While in Washington, DC, Bishop Seitz advocated with

## Migrants Bring Parish Together

“Forgive my tears. You understand a mother’s love. I’m afraid for my daughter; I can’t imagine being apart from her.” With these words, Maria addressed over 100 parishioners from St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church on El Paso’s east side.

Maria was one of the speakers at the parish’s recent “Border Encuentro”, a training for parishioners to understand the complex realities of migration and the social teaching of the Catholic Church. The event was sponsored by the parish’s migrant ministry, the Jesuit Social Research Institute, the Hope Border Institute and the diocese’s recently formed Migration Commission.

Maria spoke about her experience as an asylum seeker from Ciudad Juarez as well as the challenges she has faced in caring for her daughter. Alia is 8-years-old and is struggling with the effects of several battles with cancer. Maria and her family fled to El Paso after the murder of her

husband by criminal elements and after having received death threats herself. Since then she has taken care of Alia, who has received multiple operations and treatment for complex types of cancer. Despite Alia’s ongoing need for care, ICE is now considering deporting Maria back to Mexico.

Other speakers included Father Rafael Garcia, S.J. and Dylan Corbett, Executive Director of the Hope Border Institute. Father Garcia explored the biblical inspirations for the Church’s teaching on welcoming the stranger and Mr. Corbett discussed the how the complex realities of immigration policy impact border communities. After their presentations, parishioners spoke with one another on their understanding of the Church’s teaching and also shared their family’s stories of migration and considered ways they could get more involved in ministry to migrants.

The parish dialogue

was based on a model developed by the Jesuit Social Research Institute. Father Garcia, a priest of the Society of Jesus, explained that the event at St. Francis Xavier Cabrini was inspired by Bishop Seitz’ recent pastoral letter on migration, *Sorrow and Mourning Flee Away*. In the pastoral, the bishop says that “parishes should be hubs of prayer, study and dialogue, where Catholics can get involved in the work of building a more humane border through education and advocacy.”

According to Father Garcia, the event represents “a partnership between the diocese, Hope Border Institute and the Jesuit Social Research Institute in order to deepen consciences on the Church’s call to stand with the vulnerable.” He indicated that there are plans to bring the experience to other parishes.

Mr. Corbett is also the chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Migration. Speaking about the number of parishioners who turned out for

the training, he said that “there is hunger in our parishes for ways to get involved in the Church’s works of justice. Here in El Paso, we understand the challenges of migration like nowhere

else, and our people know that migrants are a gift for our community. They bring their talents, they renew our hope in the American dream, and as we reach out and welcome the stranger, our community is drawn closer together.”



Fr. Rafael Garcia, S.J. speaks with Maria and her family.



Father Garcia engages the parish with a presentation on migration.


One of the organizers for the Encuentro was Luz

Juarez, who is involved in the parish’s migration ministry and is also a graduate of the diocesan Migration Academy. The Migration Academy, organized by the Hope Border Institute, is an intensive formation course on the Church’s teaching on migration which was also inspired by the bishop’s pastoral letter.

At the end of the training, Luz told the team of parish volunteers, “We should

celebrate and be proud of our parish’s work. Every step we take towards welcoming the stranger and helping our immigrant sisters and brothers is a good thing.”

**Bishop Seitz’ pastoral letter can be found at [www.elpasodiocese.org](http://www.elpasodiocese.org) and [www.bordermigrant.org](http://www.bordermigrant.org).**



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# Our Lady of Assumption Parish: A Legacy of Catholic Education that Continues to Live

By Rev. Saul Pacheco, Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption

Many thought Jesus Christ and his mission were in a definitive death after his crucifixion. It is a joy to discover that He is risen from the dead and his saving work has not been stifled. The community of Our Lady of Assumption suffered a great challenge last year with the closing of our parish school. Many efforts were made to sustain the school, but the losses that took place in the last three years posed a financial burden to the school and the parish that were too strong to sustain. The school closed in May of 2017 as the Blessed Sacrament processed by the classrooms and children and staff celebrated the opportunity to serve God through many years of dedication to Catholic Education. Yet, the closing of the school did not opaque the community's dedication to Catholic Education. This past month of February, Our Lady of Assumption Parish continued its annual fundraising dinner, organized by the Ladies of Our Lady of Assumption (LOLAs) and with my full support. Many parishioners, and members of the community at large, gathered for

a time of celebration and a great dinner (catered by Cattleman's Restaurant in Fabens) as we renewed our commitment to Catholic education. While many would find this absurd, given the fact that the parish's own school has closed, members of the Our Lady of Assumption Parish feel a commitment to support Catholic education beyond its parish boundaries. One hundred and ninety people gathered for the Cattleman's Dinner and together we raised \$6,500 to support Catholic education in the diocese. The funds were distributed to three of the schools that have received students formerly at Our Lady of Assumption, yet great consideration was given to support the schools who are currently struggling due to a shortage of enrollment. Saint Pius School received \$700, Saint Patrick School received \$1,800, and Holy Trinity School received \$4,000. For many parish communities, the funds that were raised in the dinner might appear easily within reach. It is admirable for a struggling parish with many financial difficulties

of its own to respond with such generosity to a need outside of its own community. Our Lady of Assumption is living its catholic identity through this commitment. The word "catholic" means universal. Catholics have a commitment not only to their own congregants at their home parish; they exist in relationship with the wider church. This is especially experienced by the average catholic in the realm of the diocese; their parish community belongs to a wider network of parishes, ministries, schools, and civil society. At the same time, aside from fulfilling this aspect of Catholic identity, Assumption Parish gives testimony that while the academic program that was once present in the school has ended, our mission is only beginning. The painful



The LOLAs and their OLA Pastor: Norma Cordova, Lupe Haner, Dolores Romo, Jackie DeWees, Fr. Pacheco, Tricia Carrillo, Mary Colmenero, Armida Paredes, Susan Danley and Lupe Carcerano.

loss of our own school has been transformed into consideration and concern for the struggle that other schools are experiencing. The mission to support catholic education continues, although in a different manner. The commitment of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, with limited resources, is a hopeful sign of greater things to come in our Catholic community in this diocese. Our Lady of

Assumption gives testimony that it is possible for other catholic communities who do not have a school to support catholic education. Furthermore, it is possible for every Christian to leave aside self-pity in order to partake in solidarity with others who are currently suffering. The temptation is to desire the misfortune one has experienced on others who are walking in the path we once walked. The Christian response is to lighten the burden of another, even if this means that they suffer far less than we ever did. May the challenges that our larger community faces in the present move our hearts so that we may become one with the weakest and vulnerable members in our society.



## Father Maldonado Continues to Evangelize

By Deacon Jesus Cardenas, Director Tepeyac Institute

Saturday March 24th, 45 parishioners of the Diocese of El Paso did something out of the ordinary. We went to take the evangelizing message of the life of Saint Pedro de Jesus Maldonado to the Diocese of Ciudad Juarez and performed the musical based on the life of the saint. This event had moments full of joy and praise, where all the audience was singing along with the actors the hymn of the

Cristeros; it also had moments of tears because of sadness and frustration as they contemplated the way that Father Maldonado surrendered his life for his faith. The message of Father Maldonado is one of love over war, understanding over stubbornness, and surrender over selfishness. The same words that Father said in his life were beautifully set to music by Sandra Salas so our neighboring

diocese can also hear his cry of wishing to be always "Between Heaven and the Monstrance". Bishop Mark Seitz was so excited about the music and the message of the musical that he encouraged us to professionally record the soundtrack of the drama. The CD contains 15 songs that we were eager to make available to the audience of this musical. In the pictures we can see a perspective of the theater

and in the other the moments when the group of actors were recording their voices for the musical. Now, the next step is Chihuahua City! We have been invited to take this musical about the pride and joy of Chihuahuenses, Saint Pedro de Jesus Maldonado.



Actors & Singers recording the Maldonado Musical on CD.

## El Padre Maldonado Sigue Evangelizando

Por Diacono Jesus Cardenas, Director del Instituto de Tepeyac

Sábado 24 de marzo, 45 parroquianos de la Diócesis de El Paso hicimos algo fuera de lo normal, fuimos a llevar el mensaje evangelizador de la vida de San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado a la Diócesis de Ciudad Juárez y presentamos el musical sobre la vida de este santo. Este evento tuvo momentos llenos de alegría, de alabanza, donde toda la gente presente cantaba junto con los actores el himno de los Cristeros,


así también como momentos de lágrimas de tristeza y frustración al contemplar la manera en que el Padre entrego su vida por la fe. El mensaje del Padre Maldonado es uno de amor sobre la guerra, de comprensión sobre la cerrazón, y de entrega sobre el egoísmo. Con las mismas palabras del Padre, musicalizadas espléndidamente por Sandra Salas, la comunidad de la vecina diócesis escucho su clamor de

desear estar siempre "Entre el Cielo y el Sagrario". El Obispo Mark Seitz estaba tan entusiasmado con la música y el mensaje del musical, que había pedido que hiciéramos una grabación profesional con las canciones de la obra, y estuvimos listos para ofrecerla al público que vio esta presentación. En las fotos podemos ver una perspectiva del teatro, y en la otra, al grupo de actores, con todo amor y empeño,

en el momento en que se grababan las voces para el disco. Ahora el siguiente paso es la ciudad de Chihuahua a donde hemos sido invitados para llevar este musical del orgullo de los chihuahuenses, el Padre Pedro de Jesus Maldonado.



Actors pose after Juarez performance with El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz and Juarez Bishop José Guadalupe Torres Campos



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# The Practice of Hospitality: Open Arms to Everyone

By Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator

Elia Cardenas from St. Mark Parish gave a presentation about the Practice of Hospitality in parishes on Tuesday, February 27 at the Pastoral Center. Elia explained the Biblical meaning of hospitality, provided activities and gave attendees moments for reflection.

By the end of the workshop, attendees were able to share that a hospitality minister should be a person with a

- positive attitude,
- attentive,
- inviting,
- respectful and
- someone who is able to provide guidance.

Hospitality is one of the main pillars of a stewardship parish. Think about it, how often do you return to a place you don't feel welcome? Not very often. True hospitality is a spiritual discipline that reminds us of how

we ourselves have been received by Christ. If you feel you relate to the characteristics of a hospitality minister, don't hesitate to inform your Pastor.

The Stewardship Office at the Foundation will provide three more workshops to help ministers promote a stewardship way of life at their parishes. Topics will be about service, prayer and giving. Workshops are free of cost and refreshments are

provided. They are open to all active parish ministers.

Next training session will be on Tuesday, April 24 at the Pastoral Center.

If you would like more information about upcoming stewardship workshops for the Diocese, please contact Karina Sandoval at the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso at 915-872-8412 or at [ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org)



## STEWARDSHIP OFFICE

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# Hospitalidad: Con Los Brazos Abiertos

Por Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad

Elia Cardenas de la Parroquia de San Marcos nos deleitó con su presentación sobre como practicar la hospitalidad en las parroquias el pasado 27 de febrero en el Centro Pastoral. Elia explicó durante la presentación el significado Bíblico de la palabra hospitalidad, realizo actividades y ofreció momentos de reflexión.

Al final del taller, los asistentes compartieron que un ministro de hospitalidad debe ser una persona con

- actitud positiva,
- atenta,
- alentadora,
- respetuosa,
- Alguien que es capaz de guiar a los demás,

La hospitalidad es esencial en una parroquia corresponsable. Piénselo, ¿Que tan seguido regresamos a un lugar donde no nos sentimos bienvenidos? No muy seguido. Una verdadera hospitalidad es una disciplina espiritual que nos recuerda como nosotros hemos

sido recibidos por Cristo. Si te sentiste identificado con las características de un ministro de hospitalidad, no tardes en comunicárselo a tu Pastor.

La Oficina de Corresponsabilidad de la Fundación proveerá tres talleres durante el año para ayudar a ministros a promover una vida corresponsable en sus parroquias. Los temas tratarán sobre servicio, oración y donación. Los talleres son gratis y se ofrecerán refrigerios. Los talleres son

dirigidos para todo servidor activo en las parroquias.

La siguiente sesión será el martes, 24 de abril en el Centro Pastoral

Si usted desea más información sobre los talleres de corresponsabilidad para la Diócesis, favor de contactar a Karina Sandoval en la Fundación para



la Diócesis del Paso al 915-872-8412 o a [ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:ksandoval@elpasodiocese.org)

# The Death Penalty is Biased and Flawed

By Pat Delgado, Diocesan Restorative Justice Ministry

On February 22nd, something new happened in Texas. The Governor granted clemency to a man about to be executed. On the advice of the Bureau of Pardons & Paroles, Governor Abbott reduced the death penalty sentence to Life Without Possibility of Parole. The man is 38 years old. Life Without Parole is no easy sentence, and he had to waive all right to appeal. But the offender, Thomas

Whitaker, was the person responsible for the deaths of his mother and brother, and he chose to remain in prison for the rest of his life, to reduce the suffering of his father, the victim in this case, who had begged the District Attorney not to request the execution of his only remaining son. In addition, the guards on death row had reported that Thomas Whitaker was a calming influence there.

This is Restorative Justice—the recognition that a person can repent, apologize, and do restitution, even while society can be protected—without the need for us all to be part of killing the perpetrator. We don't have to be forced to be part of the death penalty system—so biased, flawed, expensive and political—a throwback to the time of lynching. We have just come through Holy Week, placing us

in the crowd shouting “Crucify him!” Let us resolve to do better than continue this barbaric, unnecessary system.

**For More information on this ministry please call or email Pat Delgado, Diocesan Restorative Justice Ministry [phdelgado@hotmail.com](mailto:phdelgado@hotmail.com) 740-3962**



# La Pena de Muerte es Discriminante e Imperfecta

Por Pat Delgado, Ministerio Diocesano de Justicia Restaurativa

El 22 de febrero, algo nuevo sucedió en Texas. El gobernador concedió clemencia a un hombre que estaba a punto de ser ejecutado. Siguiendo el consejo de la Oficina de Perdones y Libertad Condicional, el gobernador Abbott cambió la pena de muerte a Vida sin derecho a libertad condicional. El hombre tiene 38 años. La vida sin libertad condicional no es una sentencia fácil, y tuvo que renunciar a todo derecho a apelar. Pero el delincuente, Thomas Whitaker, fue la persona responsable de la muerte de su

madre y su hermano, y optó por permanecer en prisión por el resto de su vida, para reducir el sufrimiento de su padre, la víctima de este caso, que suplicó al fiscal del distrito que no pidiera la ejecución del único hijo que le queda. Además, los guardias en el corredor de la muerte informaron que Thomas Whitaker era una influencia calmante allí.

Esta es la Justicia Restaurativa, el reconocimiento de que una persona puede arrepentirse, disculparse y hacer restitución, y a la vez la sociedad puede estar protegida,

sin la necesidad de que todos seamos culpables de la muerte del perpetrator. No tenemos que ser forzados a ser parte del sistema de pena de muerte, tan discriminante, imperfecto, costoso y político, un retroceso a los tiempos cuando había linchamientos. Acabamos de pasar la Semana Santa, colocándonos en la multitud



gritando “¡Crucificalo!”. Resolvamos hacer algo mejor que continuar con este sistema bárbaro e innecesario. Para mas informacion sobre

este ministerio habla or por email a Pat Delgado, Ministerio Diocesano de Justicia Restaurativa [phdelgado@hotmail.com](mailto:phdelgado@hotmail.com) 740-3962

# Pax Christi presents *Before the Flood*

“Before the Flood” is perhaps the most important documentary on climate change in a generation. Leonardo DiCaprio travels the world to learn more about possible ways to prevent catastrophic damage. Along the way, he speaks with Pope Francis, tech innovator Elon Musk, Barack Obam, nd other influential persos and makes a speech before the United Nations.

It will be shown at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 8, in St. Joseph School auditorium as part of the Meaningful Movies series sponsored by Pax Christi El Paso and the Peace and Justice Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso. Admission is free. Enter through the school parking lot across from the church rectory at 1315 Travis Street. Information: (915) 740-3962.





# Let Us Be Easter Fools

April Fools! Oh, how I hate the jokes and pranks played on the first day of April when people make fun of others and think it's laughable to be mean. Maybe I'm antagonistic toward the foolishness of this day because my precious daughter was born on the first of April. No, she was not an April Fool's baby, she was a Good Friday baby. Born at 3:22 pm on the day we commemorate Christ's death, she made this day forever a joyous celebration in our family.

As she grew up, she encountered those who would laugh when they discovered that her birthday was April first. However, from her early years and throughout high school, her consistent response was to proudly say she was a Good Friday baby, no matter the date that Easter occurred that particular year.

When I think about it, however, maybe we should all be April fools or Good Friday people since the Easter resurrection

follows Good Friday. Consider how people reacted to the apostles whose beloved leader and friend had died a humiliating death upon a cross. Yet, the apostles were going around the town joyfully proclaiming that Jesus was not dead but miraculously alive. Certainly, people laughed at the foolish apostles who obviously were out of their minds with grief to be spreading such nonsense of Jesus being raised from the dead and walking amongst the living.

Yet again, I wonder why the people were so unbelieving. Had they not seen the miracle when Jesus called Lazarus to rise and come forth from his tomb? If they were able to believe their own eyes at this event, would they not have hoped that Jesus could do the same for Himself? Ah, but our faith is weak. We tend to make up stories that are easier to believe. Such as, Lazarus was not really dead, he was hiding in the tomb. For four days? Bound in cloths and lying in the dark with no food or water? But some

prefer to ignore reality when their version better suits their purpose.

Today is no different. Miracles happen every day, but people hide from the truth. Pregnancy is a miracle. God blessed womankind by allowing us to share with Him in the amazing creation of a new person. This was an acknowledged fact throughout the ages, even when science was in its beginning stages of awareness, that a pregnant woman was known to be carrying a human child. Now, when scientific advances allow us to see into the womb and witness the development, growth, movements, even hiccups of a preborn baby, people today claim that there is not a person deserving of protection within the womb. Some people prefer to ignore reality because such falsehood allows their greed and thirst for power to prosper at the expense of both mother and child.

How does such greed overcome reality? Because there are not enough of us with

the faith to act – like Martha did – and assist in the miracles. I have always liked Martha, the sister of Lazarus, who responded to Jesus, “Lord,

by now there will be a stench.” Martha knew Lazarus was truly dead, but she also did not doubt that Jesus could raise him back to life. Martha was simply practical in thinking of the problems to be encountered.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all follow the example of Martha's absolute faith? She accepted the miracle that Jesus would raise her brother from death and began to busy herself with what needed to be done after the miracle. While it doesn't say so in John's gospel, I'm sure it was Martha who called for someone to help clean up Lazarus while she brought him food and water.

Today, we need to be



## Sidewalk Jesus by Janet M. Crowe

like Martha – an Easter fool who faithfully follows Christ by doing what we can to help. What does the baby need when he leaves the hidden world of the womb? What does the new mother need to help her assist God in her pregnancy miracle and bring a healthy child into the world? What does the mother need after the miracle of birth when she is faced with the stinkiness of diapers, the changes to her routine, and the blessings of her new life with God's precious gift?

How can we be more like Martha and ask “Lord, how can I help to protect this woman and her child from the stench of abortion-minded fools?” Let us be Easter fools and raise ourselves up to do God's work!

# Seamos Todos Inocentes de Pascua

¡Día de los Inocentes! Ah, cuánto odio las bromas y los chistes que se juegan el primer día de abril, cuando la gente se burla de los demás y piensan que se pueden reír de algo malo que han hecho. Tal vez es que soy una antagonista de la tontería de este día porque mi preciosa hija nació el primero de abril. No, ella no fue una inocente bebé de Abril, ella fue un bebé de viernes Santo. Nacida a las 3:22 p.m. del día en que conmemoramos la muerte de Cristo, ella hizo de este día una feliz celebración en nuestra familia.

Cuando creció, se encontró con aquellos que se reían cuando descubrían que su cumpleaños era el primero de abril. Sin embargo, desde sus primeros años y durante toda la escuela secundaria, su respuesta consistente fue decir con orgullo que era un bebé del Viernes Santo, sin importar la fecha en que ocurrió la Pascua ese año en particular.

Sin embargo, cuando lo pienso, tal vez todos deberíamos ser inocentes de abril o gente del Viernes Santo, ya que la resurrección de Pascua sigue al Viernes Santo. Considere usted

cómo es que la gente reaccionó a los apóstoles, cuyo amado líder y amigo había muerto una muerte humillante en una cruz. Sin embargo, los apóstoles recorrían la ciudad proclamando con alegría que Jesús no había muerto, sino que estaba milagrosamente vivo. Ciertamente, la gente se reía de los inocentes apóstoles que obviamente estaban fuera de sí por difundir esas tonterías de que Jesús había resucitado de entre los muertos y que caminaba entre los vivos.

Una vez más, me pregunto por qué es que la gente era tan incrédula. ¿No habían visto ya el milagro cuando Jesús llamó a Lázaro para que se levantara y saliera de su tumba? Si pudieron creer con sus propios ojos en ese evento, ¿no habrían esperado que Jesús pudiera hacer lo mismo por Sí Mismo?

Ah, pero nuestra fe es débil. Tendemos a inventar historias que son más fáciles de creer. Tal como; es que Lázaro no estaba realmente muerto, estaba escondido en la tumba. ¿Por cuatro días? ¿Enlazado con paños y acostado en la oscuridad sin comida ni agua? Pero algunos prefieren ignorar la realidad

cuando su versión se adapta mejor a su propósito.

Hoy no es diferente. Los milagros ocurren todos los días, pero la gente se esconde de la verdad. El embarazo es un milagro. Dios bendijo a la mujer al permitirnos compartir con Él en la increíble creación de una nueva persona. Este fue un hecho reconocido a través de las edades, incluso cuando la ciencia estaba en sus etapas iniciales de conciencia de que una mujer embarazada era conocida por llevar en sí misma a un ser humano. Ahora, cuando los avances científicos nos permiten ver en el útero y ser testigos del desarrollo, crecimiento, movimientos e incluso del hipo de un bebé antes de nacer, hoy la gente afirma que no hay una persona que merezca protección dentro del útero. Algunas personas prefieren ignorar la realidad porque tal falsedad permite que su codicia y sed de poder prosperen a costa de la madre y del hijo.

¿Cómo vencer tal codicia a la realidad? Porque es que no hay suficientes de nosotros con la fe para actuar, como lo hizo Marta al ayudar en los milagros. Siempre me

ha gustado Marta, la hermana de Lázaro, quien le respondió a Jesús: “Señor, ahora habrá un hedor”. Marta sabía que Lázaro estaba realmente muerto, pero tampoco dudaba de que Jesús pudiera resucitarlo. Marta era simplemente práctica al pensar en los problemas que se encontrarían.

¿No sería maravilloso si todos siguiéramos el ejemplo de la fe absoluta de Marta? Ella aceptó el milagro de que Jesús resucitaría a su hermano de la muerte y comenzó a ocuparse de lo que había que hacer después del milagro. Aunque no lo dice en el evangelio de Juan, estoy segura de que fue Martha quien llamó a alguien para ayudar a limpiar a Lázaro mientras ella le traía comida y agua.

Hoy, tenemos que ser como Marta, inocentes de Pascua quienes fielmente siguen a Cristo haciendo lo que podemos

para ayudar. ¿Qué necesitará el bebé cuando abandone el mundo oculto del útero? ¿Qué necesitará la nueva madre para que ella pueda ayudar a Dios en su milagro del embarazo y traer al mundo a un niño sano? ¿Qué necesita la madre después del milagro del nacimiento, cuando se enfrenta al mal olor de los pañales, los cambios en su rutina y las bendiciones de su nueva vida con el precioso regalo de Dios?


Cómo podemos ser más como Marta y preguntar: “Señor, ¿cómo puedo ayudar a proteger a esta mujer y a su hijo del hedor de los tontos con mentalidad abortista?” ¡Seamos inocentes de Pascua y alcémonos para ayudar a hacer el trabajo de Dios!



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79902



# La Generosidad: Una Clave del Cambio

Las personas más felices que conozco son también las personas más generosas. Su generosidad se manifiesta de tantas maneras: Son generosos con su TIEMPO, con sus TALENTOS, con su DINERO y sus POSIBILIDADES; pero su generosidad va más allá de estas áreas. Lo que más admiro es que poseen una ESPIRITUALIDAD DE GENEROSIDAD, que llega hasta lo más profundo de cada rincón de su vida. Ser generosos no es algo que ellos hacen; es una parte de quienes son: Siempre están dispuestos a dar, les gusta servir, son amorosos, viven alegres, animan y consuelan a otras personas, no esperan que se les pida, siempre están buscando oportunidades para ser generosos... Su amplia generosidad hace que las personas que están a su lado los quieran mucho, atreves de ellos ven palpitante la bondad de Dios.

Nuestra sociedad debe cambiar: El egoísmo y el individualismo esta empobreciendo a los hombres y mujeres de hoy. El monopolio de la riqueza y bienes creados para todos en manos en unos pocos está provocando la lucha de clases sociales, el inconformismo y el resentimiento social. Solo la generosidad que nos lleva a dar, pero sobre todo, a darse es la clave para crear un mundo más humano. La justicia no basta, es insuficiente, ha dicho San Juan

Pablo II (Dives in misericordia, #12). El amor misericordioso debe traducirse hoy en generosidad. Alguien ha dicho: “Nadie es tan pobre que no tenga nada que dar, ni nadie tan rico que no tenga algo que pedir” Que puede dar el pobre? Que puede necesitar el rico? Hay frases celebres que nos hacen pensar: “Solo el que vive para servir; sirve para vivir” (A. Einstein). “La vida que Dios nos da la merecemos dándola” (R. Tagore). “El hombre no se perfecciona en el egoísmo, sino en la entrega” (J. Vieujan).

Solo se vive una vez. Solo hay un tiempo para hacer el bien. Nuestra jornada en la tierra! Cada día se nos presenta con sus propias oportunidades de darnos a los demás y ese día no se volverá a repetir. El favor que negamos, la visita al amigo enfermo que no hicimos, la limosna que no dimos, las palabras de aliento que no dijimos... Serán otros puntos oscuros a la hora de nuestra muerte. La vida se nos dio para irla gastando en el servicio del prójimo y para prepararnos a la vida eterna. No malgastemos el tiempo en odios, rencores y egoísmos. Decía monseñor Gerardo Valencia: “La causa de muchos conflictos y sufrimientos en lo MIO y lo TUYO, cuando lleguemos a reconocer que todo es NUESTRO, florecerá la alegría de compartir y saber vivir juntos como hermanos y hermanas”.

DAR VALE MAS QUE

RECIBIR. Toda persona que te busca, de seguro va a pedirte algo. No te impacientes. Piensa en esto: La ley escondida que reparte misteriosamente las excelencias, se ha dignado otorgarte el privilegio de los privilegios, el bien de los bienes, DAR! TU PUEDES DAR! en cuantas horas tiene el día, tu das, aunque sea una sonrisa, aunque sea una mirada amorosa, aunque sea un apretón de manos aunque sea una palabra de aliento! En cuantas hora del día TE PARECES A JESUS, QUE NO ES SINO DONACION PERPETUA Y REGALO PERPETUO! Debieras caer de rodillas ante el Padre y decirle: “Gracias porque puedo dar, Padre mío! Nunca más pasara por mi semblante la sombra de una impaciencia!” Nunca te niegues a hacer el bien que puedes... El mundo da muchas vueltas y todo corre muy aprisa; hoy eres tu el que da el pan, mañana puede que seas tu el que lo esté recibiendo. Qué bien nos sentimos cuando tenemos la oportunidad de alegrar la vida de otros! nos sentimos profundamente agradecidos por la oportunidad de mostrar nuestra buena voluntad y generosidad. (cf. Hechos, 20,35).

El mundo propone el egoísmo como camino a la felicidad. Dios propone la generosidad como camino a la felicidad. Conozco a muchas personas egoístas, siempre parecen intranquilas y

descontentas. Mas también conozco a personas muy generosas y su felicidad no depende de cosas que tienen ni de conseguir lo que quieren; su felicidad está enraizada en la vida de Dios. Son felices ayudando, sirviendo y dándose a los demás. Veamos este caso: Un famoso cirujano sonrió a la delicada anciana: “Ya lo logro, señorita Tica! puede irse mañana a su casa”. “Yo no lo logre, Doctor, fue su habilidad, su gran bondad” Titubeo y luego continuo: “Sus cuentas son siempre tan pequeñas, doctor y aunque tengo que recordarle que me las envíe. No tengo mucho, pero quiero pagar. Por favor no lo olvide y dígame cuanto le debo”. El cirujano asintió con la cabeza rápidamente: “No lo olvidare. Ya le diré.” Dos días después la señorita Tica recibió la cuenta. El total era tremendamente alto, pero cruzando la hoja en la parte de abajo, la mano firme del doctor escribió estas palabras: “Pagado de sobra con una amable personalidad”.

Todos los días tenemos numerosas oportunidades de ser generosos, especialmente con aquellos que lo necesitan. Deberíamos ser generosos no solo con dinero, sino con nuestro tiempo y esfuerzos. Hay mucha



Vida del Espiritu  
por el Padre Wilson Cuevas

gente a la que puede ayudársele mejor con una amorosa consideración para ellos y sus problemas. (1 Cor. 9,7). Cuanto más demos de lo que tenemos, mas nos vaciamos. Y cuanto más vacío, más cabida queda. Dios nos pide que hagamos sitio, que nos vaciemos de nosotros mismos para poder darnos y llenarnos más. Poco o mucho? Con Dios no importa. Lo importante es que sea todo, para que El pueda dárse nos también del todo. Una verdad conviene tener clara: Dios no se deja vencer en generosidad, es decir: Dios es campeón en generosidad.!!!

Yo te invito a celebrar la Semana Santa y la Pascua, no como un show, no a mirar sino a creer, no a asistir sino a celebrar, no a morir sino a resucitar. Acompañemos a Jesús para aprender de Él a servir y amar con palabras y buenas obras y que El nos transforme en nuevas personas que espero seamos a partir de hoy. Felices Pascuas.!!!

## Generosity: A Key to Change

The happiest people I know are also the most generous. Their generosity manifests itself in so many ways: they are generous with their TIME, with their TALENTS, with their MONEY and their POSSIBILITIES; but their generosity goes beyond these areas. What I most admire is that they possess a SPIRITUALITY OF GENEROSITY, which reaches deep into every corner of their life. Being generous is not something they do; it is a part of who they are: they are always willing to give, they like to serve, they are loving, they live cheerfully, they encourage and comfort other people, they do not wait to be asked, they are always looking for opportunities to be generous ... Their ample generosity makes the people who are close to them love them very much, and through them they see the goodness of God in a palpable way.

Our society must change: selfishness and individualism is impoverishing the men and women of today. The monopoly of wealth and goods created for all is causing the struggle of social classes, nonconformity and social resentment. Only the generosity that leads us to give, but above all, to give cheerfully, is the key to creating a more human world. Justice is not enough, it is insufficient, said St. John Paul II (Dives in Mercy, # 12). Merciful love must be translated today by generosity. Someone has said: “No one is so poor that he has nothing to give, nor is anyone so rich that he has nothing to ask for” What can the poor person give? What can the rich man need? There are famous phrases that make us think: “Only the one who lives to serve, serves to live” (A. Einstein). “The life that God gives us is deserved by giving it” (R. Tagore). “Man does not perfect himself in selfishness, but in surrender” (J. Vieujan).

You only live once. There is only one time to do well on our journey on earth! Each day

He presents himself with his own opportunities to give to others and that day will not be repeated. The favor that we denied, the visit to the sick friend that we did not do, the alms we did not give, the words of encouragement that we did not say ... will be other dark points at the time of our death. Life was given to us to spend it in the service of our neighbor and to prepare us for eternal life. Let’s not waste time on hatred, resentment and selfishness. Monsignor Gerardo Valencia said: “the cause of many conflicts and sufferings in the MINE and YOURS mindset, but when we come to recognize that everything is OURS, the joy of sharing and knowing how to live together as brothers and sisters will flourish.”

TO GIVE IS WORTH MORE THAN TO RECEIVE. Everyone who looks for you, will surely ask you for something. Do not be impatient. Think of this: The hidden law that mysteriously distributes the excellences, has deigned to grant you the privilege of privileges, the good of goods, GIVE! YOU CAN GIVE!.. in the many hours of your day, even a smile, a loving look, even a handshake or a word of encouragement!

In how many hours of the day DO YOU ACT LIKE JESUS, WHICH IS ONLY A PERPETUAL DONATION AND A PERPETUAL GIFT! You should fall on your knees before the Father and say: “Thank you Lord, because I am able to give, my Father! Never again will the shadow of impatience cross through my countenance!” Never refuse to do the good that you can ... the world is constantly turning and everything runs along very fast; today you are the one who gives the bread, tomorrow it may be you who is receiving it. What a good feeling it is when we have the opportunity to brighten the lives of others! We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to show our goodwill and generosity. (Acts, 20,35).

The world proposes selfishness as a way to happiness. God proposes generosity as a way to happiness. I know many selfish people; they always seem to be stressed and dissatisfied. I also know very generous people and their happiness does not depend on things they have or on what they want; their happiness is rooted in the life of God. They are happy helping, serving and giving to others. Let’s look at this case: A gray-haired surgeon smiled at the delicate old woman: “You have done it, Miss Tica! You can go home tomorrow.” “I did not succeed, Doctor, it was your ability, your great kindness”. She hesitates and then continues “Your bills are always so small, doctor, and I always have to remind you to send them. I do not have much, but I want to pay.

Please do not forget it and tell me how much I owe you.” The surgeon nodded quickly:” I will not forget. I will tell you”. “Two days later, Miss Tica received the bill; the total was tremendously high, but on the page below, the doctor’s firm hand wrote these words:” Paid in full with a pleasant personality “.

Every day we have many opportunities to be generous, especially with those who need it. We should be generous not only with money, but with our time and efforts. There are many people who can be helped better with just showing loving consideration for them and their problems. (1 Cor 9,7). The more we give of what we have, we empty ourselves. And the emptier, the more room there is. God asks us to make room, after we empty ourselves

to be able to give of ourselves, he then fills us up with more. A little or a lot? With God it does not matter. The important thing is that it be everything we can give, so that He in turn can give to us, also completely. One truth should be clear: God does not let himself be matched in generosity, that is to say: God is a champion in generosity! I invite you to celebrate Holy Week and Easter, not as a show, not to just watch but to believe, not to attend but to celebrate, not to die but to resurrect. Let us accompany Jesus to learn from Him to serve and love with words and good works that He may transform us into new people that I hope we will become starting today. Happy Easter.!!!

## Peregrinación Tierra Santa y Egipto

Del 14 al 27 de mayo

### Tierra Santa

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

### Egipto:

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

\*\*Pregunta por nuestro descuento de San Valentin

Cupo limitado

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



# Loretto LEGO League Teams Travel to Legoland

About 10 year ago, Loretto Academy started the tradition of having FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition for Science and Technology) Lego League teams. Throughout the years, we had made a name for all our Angelbots teams; and we are recognized for our effort and enthusiasm for sharing this passion with others. To this day L o r e t t o A c a d e m y has teams from 1st grade all the way through 12th, into 3 different categories: JrFLL (Jr Lego League, 1st-4th grade), FLL (FIRST Lego League, 5th-8th), and FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition, 9th -12th grade).



Angelbots Confetti  
2016-2017

For those that are not aware of what JrFLL entails, this is the challenge that was released for this season: FIRST® LEGO® League Jr. AQUAADVENTURES Challenge The 2017-2018 AQUA ADVENTURE Challenge will reach over 65,000 children, ages 6-10, from 43 countries and help them learn where the water they use every day comes from, as well as what happens to it on its journey through the water cycle. Each year since 2004, FIRST LEGO League Jr. presents a new and exciting challenge to ignite creativity in young children. This year, while exploring the real-world theme of how water is used by humans, teams will use LEGO® Education WeDo to build and program a model that moves, learning basic engineering and programming concepts. They will also illustrate their research through a Show Me Poster. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under a signature set of Core Values, which

emphasize collaboration, discovery, and respect. New this year is an exclusive LEGO Education Inspire Set containing 700+ LEGO® bricks and elements teams can use to construct their team model. This set will also include a yearly model – a water pump for this season – that serves as a starting point for teams. www.firstinspires.org We want to share with you about Loretto’s youngest members on our robotics teams JrFLL: The adventure for our 1st-4th grade students began last year, when we opened for the first time this opportunity for our future engineers and scientist. Teachers, parents, and administrators supported our dream and we started 3 teams. One of those teams “Angelbots Confetti” was invited to present their research at the World Festival Expo in Houston, TX. Where World’s Championship takes places for all the different

categories and teams from all over the world compete against each other, while demonstrating gracious professionalism and cooperation. This season 2017-2018, our 3 JrFLL teams participated at the West Texas JrFLL Expo at UTEP, and then was invited to participate at the “FIRST LEGO League LEGOLAND California International Open” that took place last week March 9th and 10th at Legoland, CA. Ms. Patty Herrera, Ms. Gabriela Gonzalez, Ms. Liza Harvey and Ms. Pilar Gonzalez and their students as well were delighted to have such experience of share their research with children from South Korea, Japan, Mexico and different states of our own country. During this Expo, the students also learned life guard skills, and understood the physics of sliding in the water slides while having the whole Water Park open only for the teams. They exchanged small souvenirs, buttons and candies

with other teams, and learned about different cultures while sharing the same enthusiasm for robots and research. Our teams Angelbots Confetti, Angelbots Aqua and H y d r o Angels were a w a r d e d with trophies for Teamwork, Innovative Model and Awesome Poster. Loretto Academy wants to invite you to support our Angelbots Gold FRC 6144, we will be competing at El Paso Convention Center, March 29th – 31st, 2018.



Hydro Angels, Angelbots Confetti and Angelbots Aqua

# St. Patrick Cathedral Hosts First Ever Kermes

St. Patrick Cathedral Community held its first-ever kermes



Rev. Trini Fuentes, St. Patrick Cathedral Rector and Steve Sanchez, El Paso Catholic Schools Interim Superintendent show their Irish spirit.

17-18, on the school’s outdoor basketball court and the parking lot in front of the school. It’s believed to be the first kermes in the Cathedral’s 100-year history. It was organized in conjunction with the administration at St. Patrick Cathedral School. School principal, Liliana Esparza, said organizers weren’t too sure if St. Patrick Cathedral has held a kermes on the Cathedral grounds, “but if there has been a St. Patrick kermes, it has certainly been a very long time.”

The kermes was a two-day event and featured everything from food, snacks, drinks and game booths to a variety of musical performances. Organizers began planning for the kermes back in December and wanted to make sure it offered the Cathedral community a fun-filled festival for the entire family. “We want the St. Patrick

Cathedral Community Kermes to grow into the city’s largest family-oriented St. Patrick’s Day event down the road,” said Esparza.

The cathedral’s annual ACTS Shamrock Run and the school’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade preceded the kermes and the kermes kicked-off at noon on St. Patty’s Day. The sun was shining brightly both days with the wind kicking up on the second day. But that did not hamper spirits as attendees had a variety of food booths to choose from such as gorditas, enchiladas, bratwurst, corn in a cup, hamburgers and hot dogs during the kermes. There were also booths offering kettle corn, popcorn, sodas, aguas frescas and raspas.

The event offered more than just the favorite kermes food. Games such as a fishing pond, cakewalk and loteria were also part of the festivities. Even the school’s

gym was utilized for lazer tag. And it was the fact that the entire school and church grounds were used collectively, which made the event so unique. It truly was a joint effort by both Cathedral parish staff and the school’s teachers/staff. “Each grade level participated in both the parade and the kermes,” said Esparza. “Then each grade had a booth at the kermes offering everything from hamburgers to loteria. The church had Knights of Columbus and ACTS manning booths also. It was definitely a team effort on everyone’s part.”

The St. Patrick’s Day Kermes, Parade and Run were a huge success and organizers hope to grow the event next year with an even bigger and more successful St. Patrick’s Day celebration.



Bishop Seitz waves to the crowd during parade.

## Holy Land

October 1 - 11, 2018

\$4,146 Per Person

*Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus*



Jerusalem - Bethlehem  
Tiberias - Sea of Galilee  
Mt. Tabor - Cana  
Jordan River - Dead Sea  
Holy Sepulchre & More!

**Fr. Beto Lopez**



**Fr. Allan Alaka**

Lourdes - Fatima  
Barcelona - Rome  
Vatican City - Assisi  
Lisbon & More!

## Marian Shrines & Rome

October 1 - 12, 2018

\$4,446 Per Person

*Italy - France - Spain - Portugal*

## Footsteps of St. Paul

September 15 - 27, 2018

\$4,198 Per Person

Thessaloniki - Philippi  
Athens - Corinth  
3-Day Aegean Cruise  
Ephesus - Patmos  
Santorini and More!

**Fr. Saul Pacheco**  
**Fr. Mariano Lopez**



**Fr. Frank Lopez**

Rome - Vatican City  
Sorrento - Isle of Capri  
Amalfi Coast - Loreto  
St. Padre Pio's Tomb  
Crypt of St. Matthew +



## Rome & Southern Italy

September 17 - 27, 2018

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

- Saint Augustine

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News Around Catholic Schools

Most Holy Trinity

MHT Students Excel at Sun Country Science Fair

Three Most Holy Trinity students- Carl Frede, Luke Lopez and Cassandra Sanchez- represented MHT at the Sun Country Regional Science Fair on Saturday, February 17th. Carl placed second in Biochemistry and is now qualified to go to the Exxon Mobile Texas State Science Fair in San Antonio March 24, 2018. Luke just missed qualifying for state with a fourth place finish in his category.

When Carl found out he was going on to State Science Fair, “I was ecstatic, I knew my project was good but I didn’t know if I was going to move on” Carl is already preparing for state, by reviewing his board. “My teacher (Jolen Confer) thinks my project has a chance to move on to national science fair.

Carl’s father, Carl Frede III, is a Most Holy Trinity graduate. When asked about his son’s achievement Carl’s father said, I am very proud of Carl’s performance and achievements. Carl is a very hard worker, and he dedicates all his attention and focus to the task he is performing. Carl’s drive and motivation is what impresses me most, and his motivation is in part fueled by the teachers and staff at Most Holy Trinity Catholic School. As it was when I attended, Most Holy Trinity provides a high quality education with teachers who are willing to help and motivate students to succeed. Carl has been blessed to have the teachers that have guided him and given him the drive to excel in his education. With this guidance, they have given him a path for future achievements.

We are very proud of our students’ accomplishments, and we are also proud of the fact that Carl’s father, Carl Frede III, Luke’s mother and father, Mary and Rick Lopez, and Cassandra’s father, Gerardo Sanchez, are all MHT graduates. A tradition of academic excellence has been passed on to the next generation of students. At MHT we are working very hard to see that this tradition continues.

Loretto Academy



welcomes 4 new scholars to the Challenge Program for the 2018-2019 school year!

On February 27th, four young ladies earned the Loretto Academy Challenge Program Scholarship. After a vigorous eight-month application process that included testing, classwork, homework and numerous individual, group, and family



interviews, the girls were rewarded with this prestigious invitation to attend Loretto. Not only have these young women already shown a joy for learning and great work ethic, they’ve demonstrated their dedication and perseverance to make their dream to attend Loretto a reality. These four scholars are awarded financial coverage of tuition and fees until high school graduation, are assigned a mentor, prepared for college, and receive several other benefits.

Congratulations to our newest Loretto Angels- Hailey Garcia, Karen Hernandez, Alyssa Lujan and Valerie Sanchez! We celebrated with their family, friends, and elementary school administration and faculty. Loretto Academy, representatives from The Challenge Foundation, The Richard G. Miller Foundation and The Mary L. Peyton Foundation, current scholars, program mentors and individual donors were on hand to welcome each student to the Loretto Academy family!

Future Scientists Win Big! Sisters Samantha Perez, 9th grade and Dinorah Perez, 10th grade were one of two winners chosen to represent El Paso in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May. They bested more than 630 of the area’s best and brightest elementary through high school students. There were more than 520 projects at the Sun Country Regional Science & Engineering Fair at Pebble Hills High School last month. The Perez sisters created a blanket with a specific type of blue light that will be able to treat an infant with jaundice. This will allow the mother to hold her baby during treatment. Congratulations Samantha & Dinorah!

St. Patrick Cathedral School SEED Award nominees St. Patrick Cathedral School has nominated five individuals from the school to represent St. Pat’s at the annual diocesan SEED Awards. The nominees include: Mike Dipp Jr. (Alumni), Alex Aguirre, (Benefactor), Martha Nevarez (Volunteer), Laura Truhill (Support

Staff) and Julian Salcido (Campus Teacher of the Year). The El Paso Catholic Schools created the annual awards to publicly acknowledge the contributions of the many people who, on behalf of Catholic education, have shared their gifts of time, talent and treasure, and have given back to the civic community and the Church. The



El Paso Catholic Schools annual SEED Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 19, at Grace Gardens Event Center.

23 St. Patrick Cathedral School students to receive First Holy Communion

Twenty-three students from St. Patrick Cathedral School will be making their First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m. in the St. Patrick Cathedral. Twenty of the students are in second grade, and three are currently third-graders. The students are: Martin Arias, Santiago Ayala, Esmeralda Barba, Isabel Bermea, Micaela Candelaria, Jesus Carrillo, Luisa Catano, Giovana Cervantes, Leonard Coleman, Analee Garza, Liam Hegeman, Maximiliano Molina, Marian Montoya, Alejandra Nevarez, Alejandro Ortega, Luka Ramos, Juliette Salcido, Ranae Sanchez, Carolyn Stein, Emma Tollen, Jaiden Duenez, Max Martinez and Roberto Martinez. The catechumens will also receive the sacrament of penance during their First Reconciliation on April 25, prior to their first communion. Registration for 2018-2019 school year is open

The decisions you make today will have a lasting impression on your children. Please consider giving them the gift of a Catholic education at St. Patrick Cathedral School. Since its establishment in 1923, by the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross, St. Patrick Cathedral School has been the only school in the Catholic Diocese of El Paso directly related to the St. Patrick Cathedral. Our students excel in academics, and achieve high test scores; receive Gifted and Talented instruction; enjoy quality instruction enriched by technology, sports, art, music, and theatre; have the opportunity to participate in the only mariachi program in the Diocese; earn and enhanced quality education with real-world application; and most importantly attain a strong faith formation that is integral to their spiritual and social development. St. Patrick Cathedral School is now registering students in grades 3K to 8th grade. We offer discounts for multiple student families, referrals, first responders and active military. For more information, visit us at 1111 N. Stanton or call 915-532-4142 or visit our website at stpatrickelpaso.org.

St. Pius X Catholic School Student Body Throws Surprise Party Robert Granillo, Maintenance Director of St. Pius X Catholic School, was surprised with a birthday celebration by the entire campus. Granillo has been at St. Pius X for over 35 years. Keeping a surprise from Granillo was a big accomplishment since he wears so many hats for the school. But with a lot of effort, the students managed to pull it off with a generous supply of cupcakes, handmade birthday cards and a tear-jerking serenade. Granillo has also coached SPX students for years and is well-known among the other Catholic schools for his loud winning coaching style. A coaching style his team players love. The fun, tough character he portrays on the outside, is complimented by his soft teddy bear heart. In fact, his nickname among the campus is “guardian



angel.”

Granillo was n’t only celebrating his birthday that day, but a major

accomplishment in the life of his son, Roberto Granillo Jr., who was born and raised in El Paso. After a 14-year career with the Navy and five deployments, Jr. started college a week after getting out of the Navy. Granillo Jr. worked various jobs until he got his big break when he was hired by Space X and was responsible to help build Merlin Vacuum Engines. He recently assisted in building four-second latest technology engines and space capsules for astronauts which was successfully launched. He has been assigned to the Dragon Team in building spacecrafts for the International Space Station and Crew missions. This is a dream come true for his son and a source of pride for out “guardian angel” Robert Granillo. Saddle Up and Read

St. Pius X Catholic School roped in a whopping \$7,200 at this year’s Scholastic Book Fair “Saddle Up and Read.” The money raised is used to enhance the school library. The week-long event opened with an exciting assembly celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday and a cowboy rodeo. Hometown sheriff, Fr. Frank Hernandez was special guest along with a popular rodeo clown played by parent, Louis Linggi. The library club transformed the library into the Wild West. A life-size, handmade long-horn was the star of the decorations. One of the many highlights of the fair was the Jail. Students could pay to have a warrant written to have their teachers or friend locked-up! Parents and Fr. Frank volunteered to be sheriffs and rounded up the students. The lock-up was a great success.

St. Raphael Catholic School Registration is open for the 2018-2019 school year

Academic excellence and strong Christian Formation are the building blocks of a solid, well-rounded Catholic education. At St. Raphael Catholic School, “We will strive to form future generations of leaders grounded in faith and gospel values”. In 1980, St. Raphael School was established by the hard work of parents and parishioners to provide that solid Catholic education.

Our students achieve academic excellence through their hard work and the dedication of our teachers. In addition to academics, our students receive strong Catholic theology. Their educational journey



is enriched by Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), art, music, band, and sports. Our students participate in robotics, Team Quest, and the Times Spelling Bee (our 6th grade student Stephan Hatem finished 2nd place in the city spelling bee!).

We are now registering students for the 2018-2019 school year. Come for a tour and see our school. We also have open house every Tuesday from 9a.m. to 11a.m. For more information please call 598-2241, or visit us at 2310 Woodside Drive, or visit our website at www.straphaelelpaso.org. We look forward to seeing you.

Currently, our 4th – 8th grade students are preparing for their annual Lenten Program. They re-enact the passion of Christ for the rest of the student body, teachers and staff to prepare us for Holy Week and Easter. Recently, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday where our pre-kinder and kindergarten participated in various activities throughout the week such as Crazy Hat, Crazy Glasses, Crazy Socks, and Crazy Hair Day. We had our guest library readers read Dr. Seuss books to our students.

We had our Spring Disco themed Book Fair where our students grooved into reading and even Clifford



dropped on by to encourage our students that reading is fun.

We want to congratulate our 5th grade Basketball team for placing 2nd in the championship. Go Stallions!

Cathedral High School

Speak with your son's future teachers

Learn about our student organization and athletic teams

Tour the school with our student guides

Meet with members of Cathedral's leadership team

Enjoy free food and drinks

**April 28th, 12PM – 2PM**  
**MEET, EAT, AND GREET Cathedral's Houghton MPB**

The Music, Eat, and Greet is Cathedral's welcome event for prospective students of all ages and their families. We invite you to come and meet the people at Cathedral High School who will offer an integral role in your son's development while also ensuring other future Catholic families.

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**April 19, 2018 from 5:30 – 8:00 PM at Grace Gardens 6709 Westside Dr.**

*The SEED Awards Banquet is an annual affair honoring the achievement of the teachers in our Catholic schools. Each school's Teacher of the Year is recognized and a Diocesan Teacher of the Year is chosen from among them.*

*The SEED Awards also recognizes the contributions made to Catholic education by school's support staff, volunteers, alumni, and benefactors.*

*The public is invited to join in the celebration of teaching and learning. Tickets for the dinner banquet are \$45. Per person. For additional information and/or to purchase tickets, please contact Angie Rojas at (915) 872-8426 or e-mail to arojas@elpasodiocese.org.*

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# The Easter Mystery and the Vocation Office

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Vocation Office

Easter brings the hope of new things to come. Concretely, as Christians we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. His disciples found themselves in the midst of hopelessness, lack of faith, confusion, and fear. Yet, the Lord brings new life as he presents his risen self to all, inviting them to leave behind their former ways and to engage in his mission of redemption and renewal for the world.

In the recent days, the resurrection has been reflected in creation as birds begin to make a nest for their young, and as plants and flowers bud. The mornings are often beautiful as the freshness of a new day is contextualized by the singing of birds and a new butterfly appears in the midst of this scene.

After the Lenten season of penance, fasting and almsgiving, the Christian finds himself surrounded by God's incredible grace. Each person can discover this grace as he or she finds renewed strength to fulfill his mission. Families are able

to experience the risen Christ as they reconcile and come together in faith and in peace. Individuals who carry heavy crosses (in the form of addictions, depressions, financial burdens and legal status) can encounter the risen Christ as they find consolation from these burdens in the word of God, the sacraments and in the company of the faith community. The Lord is risen in deed.

As a diocese, we continue to find the Easter experience in the increase of vocations to the priesthood. We currently have 28 seminarians in formation for the priesthood for the Diocese of El Paso. In a time when faith seems so scarce, and materialism seems to be a plague that threatens our Christian identity, we continue to find God's grace providing us with men who are willing to become His Shepherds, in the image of Christ, the Risen Good Shepherd.

This April 22nd, as we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday), the Diocese of El Paso

will celebrate this day with many fruits. There are currently 10 men who are applying, and discerning, to be seminarians for the Diocese of El Paso next fall. Many more are discerning. The Pre-Seminario (or discernment day for young high school men) has reinitiated after being dormant for several months. This past March, after having no attendance, this event was attended by seven high school boys who want to learn more about priesthood and vocations. Similarly, after having zero participation, the Young Adult Men Discernment Meetings have reinitiated with a few young men participating directly, while others are attentive to the possibility of participating in the next available discernment meeting, in order to further discern what God is calling them to. Two seminarians will be ordained transitional deacons (as they prepare for priesthood ordination the following year) and two men will be ordained priests this summer. There are also new initiatives in the works, on behalf of the office for Consecrated Life

in the Diocese, which will be fruitful.

Just as the disciples continued their journey of Easter mindful of Christ's love that conquers death in the midst of persecution, our Diocesan Vocation Office continues to walk it's Easter path with Christ in the face of many challenges. The slow advancement of the Progress Campaign, and the desire to sustain many other ministries, have made it difficult to sustain seminarian education and to provide further guidance and formation for those who have responded to the call of priesthood. The large volume of seminarians continues to be sustained by the few means that are available. All of this happening in a context in which the human being struggles to maintain his dignity and in which the world has become more vulnerable to forgetting its belongingness to its Creator. Yet, the challenges are not able



Fr. Mariano López visits Seminarians Edrond Jean, Peter Venegas, and Cesar García as they advance in their formation by receiving the ministry of lector at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

to obscure the light of Christ that is shining as young people are seeking to glorify God with their lives. Many have made it their purpose to unite themselves to the Easter experience as they make spiritual and material commitments to the formation of seminarians. The Lord is risen, indeed!

# El Misterio Pascual y La Oficina de Vocaciones

By Father Mariano Lopez, Director-Oficina de Vocaciones

La Pascua trae consigo la esperanza de la novedad. Concretamente, los cristianos celebramos la resurrección de Cristo entre los muertos. Sus discípulos se encontraron rodeados de desesperación, falta de fe, confusión y temor. Sin embargo, el Señor trae la esperanza al presentarse resucitado a todos, invitándoles a dejar atrás su vida antigua y participar en su misión de redención y renovación.

En días recientes, la resurrección se ha visto reflejada en la creación mientras las aves desarrollan nidos para sus pichones, y mientras la plantas y las flores retoñan. Las mañanas son bonitas y llenas de frescura mientras las aves cantan y alguna que otra mariposa aparece en medio de esta escena.

Después de la Cuaresma de penitencia, ayuno y ofrenda de limosna, el Cristiano se encuentra rodeado de la gracia increíble de Dios. Cada persona descubre esta gracia al encontrar nuevas fuerzas para cumplir con su misión. Las familias pueden

vivir la resurrección de Cristo al reconciliarse y reunirse en fe y paz. Aquellos que cargan cruces pesadas (en forma de adicción, depresión, dificultades económicas, y estatus legal) pueden encontrar al resucitado en el consuelo de la Palabra de Dios, los sacramentos y la compañía de la comunidad de fe. Verdaderamente, el Señor ha resucitado.

Como diócesis, continuamos encontrando la resurrección en el aumento de vocaciones al sacerdocio. Actualmente tenemos 28 seminaristas en formación para el sacerdocio para la Diócesis de El Paso. En un tiempo cuando la fe parece ser escasa, y el materialismo parece contaminar nuestra identidad cristiana, continuamos encontrando la gracia de Dios que nos proporciona hombres dispuestos a convertirse en Sus Pastores, en la imagen de Cristo, el Buen Pastor Resucitado.

Este 22 de abril, al celebrar el Día Mundial de Oración por Las Vocaciones

(tradicionalmente conocido como Domingo del Buen Pastor), la Diócesis de El Paso celebrará este día con muchos frutos. Actualmente hay 10 hombres aplicando, y discerniendo, para ser seminaristas para la Diócesis de El Paso el siguiente otoño. Muchos más están discerniendo. El Pre-Seminario (día de discernimiento para adolescentes varones de preparatoria) ha reiniciado después de varios meses de no tener participación. Este pasado marzo, el evento contó con la participación de siete muchachos de preparatoria que quieren aprender más sobre el sacerdocio y las vocaciones. Simultáneamente, después de no tener participación, la Reunión de Discernimiento de Adultos Jóvenes Varones han reiniciado con algunos jóvenes participando directamente, y otros que están atentos a la siguiente posibilidad de participar, para descubrir lo que Dios les pide. Dos seminaristas serán ordenados diáconos transitorios este verano (mientras siguen su preparación para el sacerdocio el año que entra) y dos

serán ordenados sacerdotes este verano. También hay nuevas iniciativas en desarrollo, de parte de la Oficina de Vida Consagrada de la Diócesis, que darán mucho fruto.

Así como los discípulos vivieron la jornada pascual en medio de persecuciones, la Oficina de Vocaciones



Fr. Mariano López and Fr. Saul Pacheco at the monthly Mass with the Friends of Saint Charles.

sigue su jornada desafiando varios retos. El desarrollo lento de la Campaña de Progreso, y el deseo de sostener varios otros ministerios, han hecho que sea difícil sostener la formación de seminaristas y proporcionar acompañamiento y formación para aquellos que responden al llamado al sacerdocio. El gran volumen de seminaristas continúa sosteniéndose con los pocos medios disponibles. Todo esto sucede en un contexto

donde el ser humano lucha para mantener su dignidad y en un mundo que está predispuesto a olvidar que le pertenece a su Creador. Sin embargo, los retos no pueden oscurecer la luz de Cristo que está brillando cuando los jóvenes buscan glorificar a Dios con sus vidas. Muchos han hecho el propósito de unirse a la experiencia pascual al comprometerse espiritualmente y materialmente con la formación de seminaristas. ¡Verdaderamente ha resucitado el Señor!

# Pecos' Deacon Vasquez is Laid to Rest

A longtime Pecos business owner and deacon in the Catholic Church passed away March 2, 2018 in Odessa Texas. George Vasquez was 90 years old when he passed. The funeral Mass was held on Saturday March 10, 2018 at Santa Rosa Catholic Church with Most Reverend Bishop Mark Seitz presiding.



Deacon Vasquez was born at Ruidosa, Texas to Jesus and Maria Vasquez on November 17, 1927. He married Lois Matta on December 25, 1950. He served in World War II in the United States Army Air Force. He worked for White's Stores for 15 years. In 1965, Vasquez became manager of Terrazas Furniture. The following year he bought 50 percent interest in the store at Second and Oak streets. In 1971, he bought the other half of the store interest along with the building where he continued to work and changed the name to Vasquez Home Furnishings in 1985. His business became a well-known entity in the Pecos community. Vasquez eventually retired and closed his furniture store in 1999.

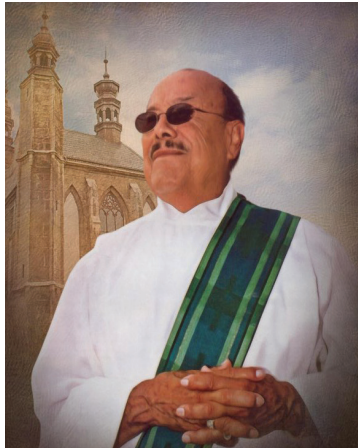
On January 7, 1977 George was ordained as permanent deacon for the Diocese of El Paso. He was actually one

of the first permanent deacons ordained in West Texas. Deacon George served at St. Catherine's Catholic Church and Santa Rosa Catholic Church as well as the other catholic parishes in the surrounding area.

Diocese of El Paso Vicar General, Father Ben Flores, remembers, "Deacon George always wore a smile on his face, grateful for everything the Good Lord had given him, the good and the bad. He was one of the best. He was one of Pecos' best and will be dearly missed. One of his memorable dichos was, "con el favor de Dios" or "with God's help" expressing not only his faith but equally so his dependency on the Father's love for all things. I am grateful for the support and kindness he always offered me as well as all the parish priests that served the good people of Pecos. Rest in Peace good and faithful servant of God."

Following his retirement, he continued his service to the Lord by becoming Chaplain at the Reeves County Detention Center 1 & 2 and held that position for 12 years. Father Fabian Marquez remembers Deacon Vasquez fondly and reminds us, "Deacon George had a deep desire to serve those who needed Christ the most. His presence at the prison brought peace and faith to the inmates. Deacon George firmly carried the faith to those living in the margins of our society."

Deacon George is preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sisters, and his son, Thomas Allen Vasquez. He is survived by his wife Lois Vasquez, his sons David Vasquez, Eddie Vasquez, and Mickey Vasquez, his daughters Suzi Brizzi with partner Bonnie Valles, and Milissa Aranda with her husband Arthur Aranda, eleven



grandchildren, and thirteen great grandchildren.

The Vasquez family extended their sincere thanks to all the wonderful people of Pecos and elsewhere that offered prayers and support as well as those who provided meals. The family also thanked Star Hospice of Odessa for their care and compassion during this trying time.



# Cristo Rey Lenten Missions: Life and Death of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado

By Manny Barrios, LBSW, MPS-Cristo Rey Parish

It began for me during the week of January 22nd through the 26th when I attended the San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado 100th ordination anniversary events and celebration at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. I watched and listened to the priests from the Diocese of Chihuahua, Mexico and to the family members of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado, as they gave their stories of the life of the saint. Something happened to me as my hand touched the personal pix of the saint that the saint used to give communion to the sick. I have to admit that I immediately felt San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado calling me. It was then that I realized that the subject matter for this year’s Lenten missions would be on the

life and death of the saint. On the week of March 12th through the 15th, the Cristo Rey Lenten missions began with the topic of spirituality that would ultimately lead up to the life and death of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado. Close to one hundred people in attendance discovered for the first time, that San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado was ordained at El Paso’s St. Patrick Cathedral on January 25, 1918. He was ordained here in El Paso just before going back to Chihuahua, Mexico to serve as a priest with the Diocese of Chihuahua before his martyrdom at the age of 42. A presentation was given about the life and death of the saint and how we can use his example in

our own journey to sainthood. Attendees got a private screening of the Diocesan video about San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado titled Birth of A Saint. We shared the estimony of a 98-year-old woman by the name of Ana Martinez Gandara, who gave testimony to being present at the saint’s funeral at the age of 18. Holy mass was celebrated by Fr. Esteban Sescon, Sacramental Minister along with Deacon Joe Zaragoza with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of this year’s missions. What an amazing experience it was to share with our community at Cristo Rey the life of a saint that is ours like San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado. The community of Cristo Rey Catholic Church wishes to

thank all those who made our Lenten missions possible and memorable this year especially Joe Najera, Photojournalist for the Diocese, who shared his experience while traveling to the different parts of Chihuahua associated with San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado and Father Fabian Marquez of Buen Pastor Catholic Church for his efforts in getting the relics of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado to be taken to Cristo Rey parish during the missions in the care of the Knights of Columbus.



Knights of Columbus, Father Sescon and Deacon Zaragosa stand next to the Reliquary of San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado

## Misiones Cuaresmales de Cristo Rey: Vida y Muerte de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado

Por Manny Barrios, LBSW, MPS-Parroquia de Cristo Rey

Todo empezó la semana del 22 de enero a través de la 26 cuando asistí al 100 aniversario de la ordenación sacerdotal de San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado, en la Catedral de San Patricio. Escuche a los sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Chihuahua, México y a los miembros de la familia de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, sus historias de la vida del santo. Algo ocurrió a mí cuando mi mano tocó el pix personal del santo que usaba para dar la comunión a los enfermos. Tengo que admitir que me sentí inmediatamente llamado por San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado. Fue entonces que me di cuenta de que el tema de las misiones Cuaresmal de este año, serían sobre la vida y

la muerte de San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado. En la semana del 12 de marzo a través de la 15, las misiones cuaresmales comenzaron con el tema de la espiritualidad, siguiendo con la vida y la muerte de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado. Mas de 100 personas en asistencia, descubrieron por primera vez que San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado fue ordenado en El Paso, Texas en la Catedral de San Patricio el 25 de enero de 1918. Despues de ser ordenado, regreso a Chihuahua, México, a servir como sacerdote Diocesano de Chihuahua antes de su martirio, que fue a la edad de 42 años. Se dio una presentación de la vida ejemplar y muerte del

santo que nos ayuda en nuestro camino a la santidad. Se enseñó un video Diocesana llamado “El Nacimiento de un Santo.” Ana Martinez Gándara de 98 años de edad, dio su testimonio de a ver sido presente durante el funeral del santo cuando ella tenía solamente 18 anos. La santa misa fue celebrada por el Padre Esteban Sescon, Ministro Sacramental, junto con el Diácono Joe Zaragoza, y se termino con la exposición del Santísimo Sacramento. Qué experiencia tan maravilloso que pude compartir con la comunidad de Cristo Rey, la vida de un santo, como el de San Pedro de Jesus Maldonado. La comunidad de Cristo

Rey está muy agradecido con todas las personas que hicieron nuestras misiones cuaresmales posibles. Gracias a Joe Nájera, fotógrafo del periódico noticiero del Río Grande que dio informes sobre su experiencia al viajar a las diferentes partes de la ciudad de Chihuahua asociados con San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado, y en particular, al Padre Fabián Márquez de la parroquia del Buen Pastor por su esfuerzo de traer las reliquias de San Pedro de Jesús Maldonado a la parroquia de Cristo Rey por el cuidado de los Caballeros de Colón.



Manny Barrios gives Lenten Mission presentation.

# Diocesan Garden held its First Planting

Planting season is upon us and the gate to the Diocese of El Paso’s Pastoral Center Community Garden is now open. On the morning of March 24, 2018 the initial garden community gathered for the official First Planting. The garden is situated at 8330 Park Haven next to Casitas San Mateo at the Diocese of El Paso Pastoral Center in El Paso’s lower valley. Inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si, the Diocese of El Paso organized an environmental committee appropriately named the Laudato Si Committee to help identify ways in which the Diocese could live out the true essence of the Pope’s encyclical. This encyclical, Laudato Si, encourages the Church and all human beings to care for our common home with programs of sustainability, renewable energy and many more eco-friendly programs. The Diocese took its

cue to create a garden accessible to its local community and to work to encourage neighbors, both near and far, to join the cause. The garden includes raised beds set around a double canopy with a row of fig trees and pomegranate bushes newly planted. Each of the raised beds was being planted with different crops chosen by the initial gardeners adopting beds. First crops planted included onions, tomatoes, eggplants, collard greens and jalapeños just to mention a few. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service County Extension Agent, Denise Rodriguez and El Paso Texas Master Gardeners, Janet Petrzelka, Stella Aguilar and Janet Miller began the morning with gardening demonstrations and offered all types of advice to the gardeners. “We Master Gardeners love to come out to the community and teach how to garden. We are happy to help the Diocese give life to this garden. I tell everyone there is no such thing as a green thumb or black thumb. All you need to know is how to plant and what to plant that is best for the El Paso climate,” said Master Gardener, Janet Petrzelka. Denise Rodriguez shared “It is so great to see the Diocese venturing into the community garden

arena. This garden can help promote sustainable gardening for the local neighborhood, for the Pastoral Center employees and ultimately for all the parishes and ministries in the Diocese of El Paso.” Many people joined in to watch the first planting and to receive tours of the garden. Many visitors signed up for bed adoptions as the Diocese is building out additional plant beds as requests come in for adoption. Neighboring school Marion Manor Elementary will soon involve its Random Acts of Kindness club in adopting a community bed of flowers. Diocese of El Paso Chancellor, Pat Fierro, adopted a bed and is eager to plant all things “Salsa”. Fierro says, “I wanted to plant something I could definitely cook with and I am a big fan of salsa. So onions, chiles and tomatoes are staple ingredients that I knew I could also use in

other recipes. We are happy to offer anyone interested the same opportunity to garden.” The Diocese of El Paso will continue its outreach programs to the surrounding community in hopes that more people in the area or even out of the area will decide to adopt a bed. The Diocese has planned a second planting and possible third planting. There is still time to sign up for a bed of your own. Beds are being adopted for a \$30 & \$50 annual fees.



Bishop Seitz at official ribbon cutting ceremony and blessing.



Brother Dave Semmens works on his bed with little helpers.



Many Gardeners gather to applaud Ribbon Cutting

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# Spring Is In The Air-Your Ministries At Work



The 17 ministries of the Diocese of El Paso that are supported by the Progress Appeal are growing and expanding. We are blessed with an abundance of ministry events to share with you.

- The Diocese radio station, The Bridge, offers a variety of Catholic programming including music, prayer, news, and diocesan events. Listen to it today by visiting [www.elpasodiocese.org](http://www.elpasodiocese.org).

[elpasodiocese.org](http://elpasodiocese.org).

- The Diocese of El Paso is been blessed with many new seminarians. Seminarians Germán Alzate and Victorino Loresca will be ordained to the priesthood on June 28 at St. Patrick Cathedral and two seminarians will be ordained to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate on May 25, also at the Cathedral. Please join us in celebrating these ordinations which are made possible by your generous gifts to the Progress Appeal.
- The Diocese of El Paso has over 600,000 Catholics and growing. We are blessed with a growing and loving community. To stay connected with your parish and your community, download myParish app today

and select your parish to keep up to date on Mass times and upcoming parish events.

**Make Your Donation Today!**  
The Diocese of El Paso includes 10 counties in West Texas and serves thousands of families; one of the main ways that the Diocese is able to serve families is through the Progress Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made your donation to Progress, we ask that you please do so today by visiting [www.progress2018.org](http://www.progress2018.org) or calling 872-8412.

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Major Seminarians Program | Permanent Diaconate Program | St. Charles Seminary | Vocations Ministry

# La Primavera Esta En El Aire-Tus Ministerios Trabajando



Los 17 ministerios de la Diócesis de El Paso, quienes están respaldados por la Campaña de Progreso, están creciendo y expandiéndose. Estamos muy bendecidos con una gran cantidad de eventos ministeriales que queremos compartir con ustedes.

- La estación de radio de la Diócesis, The Bridge, ofrece una variedad de programación católica que incluye música, oración, noticias y eventos diocesanos. Escúchelo hoy visitando [www.elpasodiocese.org](http://www.elpasodiocese.org).
- La Diócesis de El Paso

ha sido bendecida con muchos nuevos seminaristas. Los seminaristas Germán Alzate y Victorino Loresca serán siendo ordenados al sacerdocio el 28 de junio en la Catedral de San Patricio y dos seminaristas serán ordenados a la Orden Sagrada del Diaconado el 25 de mayo, también en la Catedral. Únase a nosotros para celebrar estas ordenaciones y que son posibles gracias a sus generosos obsequios a la Campaña de Progreso.

- La Diócesis de El Paso tiene más de 600,000 católicos y está creciendo continuamente. Estamos muy bendecidos con una comunidad creciente y amorosa. Para mantenerse conectado con su parroquia y su comunidad, descargue la aplicación myParish hoy y seleccione su parroquia para mantenerse al día sobre los horarios de misas y los próximos eventos parroquiales.

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10 condados en el oeste de Texas y sirve a miles de familias; una de las principales formas en que la Diócesis puede servir a las familias es a través de la Campaña Anual de Progreso. Si aún no ha hecho su donación a Progreso, le pedimos que lo haga hoy visitando [www.progress2018.org](http://www.progress2018.org) o llamando al 872-8412.

Su Donación Apoya las Maravillosas Obras de Dios en Nuestra Comunidad de Fe

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Ministerios que supervisan nuestras escuelas católicas, brindan apoyo a los programas de catequesis de la parroquia y capacitan a ministros laicos

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Ministerios que reclutan y entrenan a los seminaristas y diáconos permanentes para la Diócesis de El Paso

Programa de seminaristas principales | Programa de diaconado permanente | Seminario de San Carlos | Ministerio de Vocaciones

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# Loretto Alumna Inspires Women in Science & Engineering Festival

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

Nicole Cobb grew up in El Paso, attending St. Patrick Cathedral School and Loretto Academy. After graduating in 2002, she did her undergraduate studies in chemistry at Harvard University and then pursued a Master’s Degree in Biochemistry and worked in a virology lab at Stanford. It was through her job as a teaching assistant working with Stanford undergraduate students, and the time she spent volunteering with middle school students through a community program, that she fell in love with teaching and subsequently received a Master’s Degree in Education at the Stanford School of Education. Nicole taught in California as well as at El Paso Community College and is in her second year at Loretto.

The WiSE (Women in Science & Engineering) Festival was a project that Ms. Cobb undertook with three of her science classes this year. Instead of a traditional science fair, the students wanted to try something different that would be both educational and hands-on to engage their peers and

school community in science. They decided to create a different format that would also celebrate women in science, and the WiSE Festival was born.

WiSE participants wrote research papers on topics that were relevant to the curriculum and sparked their interest. The students then had to decide how to pursue topics that included addiction, sedentary lifestyles, the impact of meat on the world, molecular gastronomy, and composting. Some employed a TED-like talk, others created interactive booths for their peers or for elementary students, and others decided to do the traditional science fair project. They also developed their concept, created a logo, and found sponsors for the event.

The first day of the Festival included two kick-off assemblies where selected students shared their TED-like talks with the school community. One WiSE assembly was geared toward middle school students, and the other was for the high school student body. It opened with a look at the gender gap

among Nobel Prize winners and the emphasis on encouraging young women to pursue studies in science. Since the first Prize was awarded in 1901, organizations have received the Nobel Prize 26 times, women have won it 49 times, and men 825 times. Ms. Cobb then asked, “What does science look like?” and a student dressed in a white lab coat and wild Einstein hair bounded onto the stage. While the audience full of Loretto women roared with laughter, the presentation shifted to one slide after another showing Loretto ladies participating in STEM programs like Robotics with Ms. Cobb stating proudly, “This is what science looks like at Loretto” to great cheers from the enthusiastic crowd.

Over the next two days, the other students hosted the elementary, middle and high school students at a wide array of science-related booths in the Hilton-Young Hall (gymnasium). Elementary and middle school students were given “tours” during the Festival where guides led them to the various booths and the students hosting the booths

facilitated science demonstrations and explained the science behind the experiments.

One of Nicole’s goals as a science teacher is to spark curiosity and celebrate that spirit of inquiry. This Festival allowed for students to see lots of exciting and fun science in a short period of time and really enjoy it. She also wants students to see the real world relevance of science and develop scientific literacy. “Science is all around them and I want them to love it and not be scared of it.” This Festival allowed students to pursue their interests and passions in science and share that through educating others.

The WiSE Festival was sponsored by the Chiu Family, Deander Family, Moreno Family and the El Paso Orthopaedic Group. The goal for the Festival in the future is to see it grow to



include other members of the El Paso community.

*You can reach Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin (Loretto Academy Class of 1987) at 915.872.8412 or [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org). The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is located at 499 St. Matthews Street and office hours are Monday – Friday, 9-12, 1-5, and by appointment. Visit our website at [elpasodiocesefoundation.org](http://elpasodiocesefoundation.org).*

## 4 Common Planned Giving Myths Busted: Discover the Truth About Charitable Festival



**PRAY. SERVE. GIVE.**

First, what is Planned Giving? Defined, planned giving is a way to support charitable organizations, like the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso, by making gifts using your estate. It’s also an excellent way to support a cause that matters most to you. These gifts require some planning, and, often help from your professional advisers. They can be made now to immediately support our needs or they can take effect in the future as a final way

to leave your legacy.

**First Myth:** Planned gifts are too complicated and confusing.

**Truth:** There are many types of planned gifts—most are simple and affordable, like a gift in your will or living trust. You just need to find the one that best fulfills your goals.

**Second Myth:** My estate has to be large to make an impact.

**Truth:** By including the

Foundation in your estate plan in any amount, you make a lasting impact and a tremendous difference. One option is to designate a percentage of your estate.

**Third Myth:** I’m too young to be thinking about making a will.

**Truth:** Planning your estate is an important step at any stage of your life. A simple meeting with an estate planning attorney can help you ensure that your intentions

are carried out, and it can help establish a plan to receive the best tax benefits for your assets.

**Fourth Myth:** Charitable giving’s main benefit is to reduce your tax burden.

**Truth:** Research shows that 65% of people who donate to nonprofits do so because helping others makes them feel good.

*Find your charitable giving solution. Simply contact Sofia Larkin at 915.872.8412 or [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org) to learn about charitable giving solutions for you and your family or to let us know if you have any questions. The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is located at 499 St. Matthews Street and office hours are Monday – Friday, 9-12, 1-5, and by appointment. Visit our website at [elpasodiocesefoundation.org](http://elpasodiocesefoundation.org).*

## Special Benefit for Seminarians at El Paso’s Alamo Drafthouse Cinema



Father Beto Lopez and Seminarians

Join the Catholic Foundation for a private viewing of *Risen*, the story an agnostic Roman Centurion charged by Pontius Pilate to investigate rumors of a risen Jewish Messiah, at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on April 18. Tickets are \$12. 100% of the proceeds benefit Seminarian Education.

The Catholic Foundation and Alamo Drafthouse Cinema proudly present *Risen* on 3 Screens on Wednesday, April 18 from 6-9pm. Special Guests Fr.

Tony Celino, Fr. Mariano López, Rector of St. Charles Seminary, and Fr. Saúl Pacheco will provide introductions to the film prior to the viewing and seminarians will join us in each theater to introduce themselves. Each guest will receive 1 raffle ticket and a chance to win fun prizes. The Alamo Drafthouse is located at 250 E. Montecillo Boulevard on the west side. Tickets are \$12 per person, there are only 402 seats total, and seating is first-come, first-served. Order award-

winning cuisine at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema restaurant and dinner will be delivered directly to your seat by the Alamo “Ninjas”.

Tickets can be purchased online at [Pray4Priests.org](http://Pray4Priests.org) or by phone at 915.872.8412, and must be picked up at the Catholic Foundation at 499 St. Matthews Street, Building G by Monday, April 16. Tickets will not be sold at the theater and there is no Will Call. Proceeds benefit the Seminarian

Education Endowment Fund. The Seminarian Education Endowment Fund is the primary focus of the Foundation. Inviting more men to discern their priestly vocation is a top priority of the Diocese.

The Seminarian Education Endowment Fund was created to ensure continual resources for the recruitment and training of seminarians to serve as the future leadership of our diocese. Recruiting and educating seminarians is a significant and critical investment. The responsibility of providing priests for the Diocese of El Paso, both spirituality and financially, belongs to all of us.

We have 28 seminarians in formation, a 160% increase from 2008, and more men beginning their formation in the fall. The fund value is \$1.9 million and our short-term goal is to get that to \$5 million to generate a \$200,000 annual distribution for seminarian education. Mark your calendars for two ordinations to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate on May 25, 2018 at 6:30pm, and two ordinations to the Priesthood on June 28, 2018 6:30pm. The ordination Masses will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral.



Come out and support our future priests by watching a movie and enjoying a deeper sense of fellowship. The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema offers the best film, food and drink all in one seat and has a zero tolerance for talking or cell phone use of any kind during movies.

*For more information contact Catholic Legacy Fund Program Assistant Javier Zamarripa at 915.872.8412 or [jzamarripa@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:jzamarripa@elpasodiocese.org).*



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