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Bishop Celino Ordained El Paso's First Auxiliary Bishop



Above: The Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller, archbishop of San Antonio (left) and the Most Rev. John Stowe, bishop of Lexington (right), look on as the Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, bishop of El Paso, lays hands on the head of Bishop-elect Anthony Celino during his episcopal ordination March 31, 2023. More than 20 bishops from around the country joined more than 100 priests and deacons, and hundreds of the faithful, for the historic ordination — a first for the Diocese of El Paso. **Below:** Bishop-elect Celino lies prostrate during the ordination rite's Litany of Supplication. *Photos by Al Baeza and Fr. Miguel Briseño, OFM Conv.*

Inside:

- A look at the Ordination of Auxiliary Bishop Anthony C. Celino
- 52 years in service of the Lord: A look at a dedicated employee
- The Permanent Deacons of the Diocese of El Paso
- What is Stewardship?



EDITOR'S COLUMN - FERNIE CENICEROS

Ad Multos Anos

Receiving a text message on a Saturday from Bishop Seitz in the middle of the day is not commonplace unless something urgent exists. Of course, my phone dinged with an alert from Bishop Seitz that day asking me to be present at lunch on a Tuesday. The attendees would be Fr. Ben, Fr. Tony, Patricia Lopez, our chancellor, and myself. Quickly, I recognized this was not a request; this was an order. Being ordered to be at lunch with the Bishop, the Vicar General, the Judicial Vicar, and the Chancellor on the Bishop's day off, my thoughts, of course, were, "Uh-Oh, what's waiting for me on the other side of this meeting?" This lunch was no ordinary lunch meeting.

"I have amazing news," Bishop Seitz said with a smile



Fernie Cenicerros

from ear to ear. "We will have an Auxiliary Bishop, and he's in this room," he added. "I'd like to introduce you to the new Bishop-Elect, Anthony Celino," he ended. "What did he just say?" I thought to myself. I was shocked

and pleasantly surprised.

Of course, we congratulated Bishop-elect Tony, but the questions came as soon as we were done. The first question was, of course, mine; "So when do we announce?" The answer was not one I was expecting; with a smile, Bishop Seitz said, "Tomorrow, and for the next 20 hours, no one but the people in this room can know about this; no pressure, right?"

Little did I know that the first 20 hours were the easiest as we pressed forward to Bishop Tony's eventual ordination on March 31st. From a press conference arranged in 24 hours to Ordination Committee meetings to invitations to planning a live simulcast to produce a 74-page commemorative booklet, this was the honor of my life to have

played a role in helping to ordain El Paso's first Auxiliary Bishop.

With all that, I would love to take this opportunity to thank a few people whose help and support I could not have ever finished any of the things tasked to the communications office.

First, I'd like to thank my wife, Chrissy, and my daughters, Anne Marie, and Eva Mae; the patience they offered me was all that I could ask for and more. I love all three of you more than you can ever know. I want to thank Bishop Mark Seitz, Bishop Anthony Celino, Fr. Ben Flores, and Mrs. Patricia Lopez-Rueda for being the most supportive bosses any director could ask for. I want to thank Emily Montelongo and Josie Arellano from my communications staff for their unwavering commitment to this

ministry. I'd like to especially thank Fr. Michael Lewis, Fr. Ivan Montelongo, Fr. Marcus McFadin, Fr. Miguel Briseño, Fr. Frank Hernandez, Fr. Ralph Solis, Fr. Mark Salas, Peter Kolar, Audrey Price, Jan Petrezelka, Brenda DeAnda Swann and everyone at KVIA, and Sofia Larkin. The magazine does not get done without the tireless support of these people; thank you so much.

In the last almost 40 days, I learned so much about what people can do as a team in such a short amount of time. I am grateful to the Lord that he has blessed me with the opportunity to be a part of it—Ad Multos Anos, Bishop Tony; looking forward to the next chapter.

Ad Multos Anos

Recibir un mensaje de texto un sábado del obispo Seitz en mitad del día no es habitual, a menos que se trate de algo urgente. Por supuesto, mi teléfono sonó con una alerta del obispo Seitz ese día pidiéndome que estuviera presente en el almuerzo de un martes. Los asistentes seríamos el P. Ben, el P. Tony, Patricia López, nuestra canciller, y yo. Rápidamente, me di cuenta de que no se trataba de una petición, sino de una orden. Al recibir la orden de almorzar con el Obispo, el Vicario General, el Vicario Judicial y el Canciller en el día libre del Obispo, mis pensamientos, por supuesto, fueron: "Uh-Oh, ¿qué me espera al otro lado de esta reunión?". Este almuerzo no era

un almuerzo ordinario.

"Tengo una noticia asombrosa", dijo el obispo Seitz con una sonrisa de oreja a oreja. "Tendremos un Obispo Auxiliar, y está en esta sala", añadió. "Me gustaría presentarles al nuevo Obispo Electo, Anthony Celino", terminó. "¿Qué acaba de decir?" pensé para mis adentros. Estaba conmovido y gratamente sorprendido.

Por supuesto, felicitamos al obispo electo Tony, pero las preguntas llegaron en cuanto terminamos. La primera pregunta fue, por supuesto, la mía; "¿Y cuándo lo anunciamos?". La respuesta no era la que yo esperaba; con una sonrisa, el obispo Seitz dijo: "Mañana, y durante las próximas 20 horas, nadie más que la gente

de esta sala puede saberlo; sin presiones, ¿verdad?".

Poco me imaginaba que las primeras 20 horas serían las más fáciles mientras avanzábamos hacia la eventual ordenación del obispo Tony el 31 de marzo. Desde una conferencia de prensa organizada en 24 horas hasta reuniones del Comité de Ordenación, pasando por invitaciones, la planificación de una transmisión simultánea en vivo y la producción de un folleto conmemorativo de 74 páginas, fue el honor de mi vida haber contribuido a la ordenación del primer Obispo Auxiliar de El Paso.

Con todo esto, me gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para dar las gracias a algunas personas con cuya ayuda y apoyo no

habría podido terminar ninguna de las cosas encomendadas a la oficina de comunicaciones.

En primer lugar, me gustaría dar las gracias a mi mujer, Chrissy, y a mis hijas, Anne Marie y Eva Mae; la paciencia que me ofrecieron fue todo lo que podía pedir y más. Os quiero a las tres más de lo que podéis imaginar. Quiero dar las gracias al obispo Mark Seitz, al obispo Anthony Celino, al padre Ben Flores y a la señora Patricia López-Rueda por ser los jefes más comprensivos que cualquier director podría pedir. Quiero dar las gracias a Emily Montelongo y Josie Arellano, de mi equipo de comunicaciones, por su compromiso inquebrantable con este ministerio. Quiero agradecer especial-

mente al P. Michael Lewis, al P. Ivan Montelongo, al P. Marcus McFadin, al P. Miguel Briseño, al P. Frank Hernandez, al P. Ralph Solis, al P. Mark Salas, a Peter Kolar, a Audrey Price, a Jan Petrezelka, a Brenda DeAnda Swann y a todos en KVIA, y a Sofia Larkin. La revista no se hace sin el apoyo incansable de estas personas; muchas gracias.

En los últimos casi 40 días, he aprendido mucho sobre lo que la gente puede hacer en equipo en tan poco tiempo. Estoy agradecido al Señor por haberme bendecido con la oportunidad de formar parte de ello—Ad Multos Anos, Obispo Tony; esperando con paciencia el próximo capítulo.

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What a Glorious Day!

What a glorious day was the last day in March! Although it was the final Friday of Lent prior to Good Friday, for us it was already a great day of rejoicing. God broke through the focus of the time of Lenten Penance and gave us an early glimpse of the rejoicing in Christ's victory that lay around the corner. As you will recall, on that day we celebrated the Ordination of one of our own, Fr. Tony Celino, as Auxiliary Bishop of our Diocese!

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishops and Bishops, members of Fr. Tony's family, priests,

deacons, seminarians, religious women and men from around the country filled our beautiful Cathedral along with excited lay members of the Church from around the Diocese. Together we praised God and rejoiced that God had called Fr. Tony to be a successor to the Apostles and that he had given his generous "Yes" to that calling. God's great work was on full display in the midst of the trials and difficulties and shortcomings of our lives.

We gave our thanks to God for this gift and with the help of the ancient and beautiful liturgy for Ordination of a Bishop, which

many of us witnessed for the first time, and the uplifting, transformative music of Peter Kolar and our Diocesan Choir, we spent some time united with angels and saints and joined to what must be a taste of the glory of heavenly worship. One of the bishops present, found a word for which I was searching to describe the experience when he called it 'sublime'. It truly was sublime.

We know that not every day can be like that day. We must, like the Apostles after the Transfiguration of Jesus, return to our daily lives and the challenges that life inevitably will bring.



Bishop Mark J. Seitz



Bishop Tony and I will need to start comparing calendars and get to work. But we will do so with the memory of the great grace that God has bestowed upon us

here and the confidence that God, who has begun this work will bring it to completion. ¡Adelante!

Un Dia Glorioso!



Qué glorioso fue el último día de marzo! Aunque era el último viernes de Cuaresma antes del Viernes Santo, para nosotros ya era un gran día de regocijo. Dios irrumpió en la concentración del tiempo de penitencia cuaresmal y nos dio una visión anticipada del regocijo en la victoria de Cristo que estaba a la vuelta de la esquina. Como recordarán, ese día celebramos la Ordenación de uno de los nuestros, el P. Tony

Celino, como Obispo Auxiliar de nuestra Diócesis.

El Nuncio Apostólico, Arzobispos y Obispos, miembros de la familia del P. Tony, sacerdotes, diáconos, seminaristas, religiosos y religiosas de todo el país llenaron nuestra hermosa Catedral junto con miembros laicos emocionados de la Iglesia de toda la Diócesis. Juntos alabamos a Dios y nos alegramos de que Dios hubiera llamado al P. Tony a ser un sucesor de los Apóstoles

y de que él hubiera dado su generoso "Sí" a esa llamada. La gran obra de Dios se manifestó plenamente en medio de las pruebas, dificultades y carencias de nuestras vidas.

Dimos gracias a Dios por este don y, con la ayuda de la antigua y hermosa liturgia para la Ordenación de un Obispo, que muchos de nosotros presenciamos por primera vez, y la música edificante y transformadora de Peter Kolar y nuestro

Coro Diocesano, pasamos algún tiempo unidos a ángeles y santos y nos unimos a lo que debe ser una muestra de la gloria del culto celestial. Uno de los obispos presentes encontró la palabra que yo buscaba para describir la experiencia cuando la llamó "sublime". Fue realmente sublime.

Sabemos que no todos los días pueden ser como aquel. Debemos, como los Apóstoles después de la Transfiguración de Jesús, volver a nuestras vidas cotidi-

anas y a los desafíos que la vida inevitablemente nos traerá. El obispo Tony y yo tendremos que empezar a comparar calendarios y ponernos manos a la obra. Pero lo haremos con el recuerdo de la gran gracia que Dios nos ha concedido aquí y con la confianza de que Dios, que ha comenzado esta obra, la llevará a término. ¡Adelante!

52 Years In Service Of The Lord and Community

By Fernie Cenicerros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

For the past 52 years, Berta Alicia Saenz has been the backbone of Guardian Angel Catholic Church in central El Paso. She started working there when she was just 19 years old and has never looked back. In her own words, she was baptized, confirmed, and received her first communion at this very church. She also attended the Guardian Angel Catholic School and used to participate in Sunday Masses with her family.

Berta's dedication to her job is unparalleled. She is a beloved figure among her colleagues and churchgoers alike. Her co-worker Cruz Rodriguez admires Berta's teaching skills and states that she is tremendously helpful.

"She has God in her soul; she's so easy to work with. She teaches so beautifully because when you come here, you need somebody to teach you. And since she knows everything, oh, she's tremendous. She is." Cruz Rodriguez, Secretary at Guardian Angel Catholic Church, said.

Delia Escarcega, the bookkeeper for the Diocese of El Paso, notes that Berta is a valuable employee and a great friend.

Berta and I go back 50 years. We grew up with Las Hijas de Maria; that's how we met. She's a valuable employee. She can help with anything, and if she



For the past 52 years, Berta Alicia Saenz has been the backbone of Guardian Angel Catholic Church in central El Paso. She started working there when she was just 19 years old and has never looked back. In her own words, she was baptized, confirmed, and received her first communion at this very church. *Photo by Emily Montelongo, Rio Grande Catholic*

can't find something, she'll look for it. She's a very valuable employee there; everybody loves her," Escarcega said.

Berta's dedication to her job and her faith are evident in how she approaches her work daily. She loves people and has a smile

for everyone who crosses her path. Berta's motto in life is "No tengo mucho, pero nada me falta," which means she doesn't need much in life except for a smile and the blessings of God. Her unwavering faith in God and the Virgin Mary has sustained

her through the years. "I'm just one of those persons who loves people. All one needs is a smile and say God bless you," Saenz said.

She starts her day at work by visiting the sanctuary and offering prayers for what the day

may bring. "The Lord and the Virgin Mary have been there for me. I pray a lot to them, and the first thing that I do when I get here is I go to the sanctuary, and I pray, And I offer whatever is that's going to happen today," Saenz said.

Working for the church can be a challenging experience, but Berta's faith has only grown stronger. She believes that being loyal to the church is essential, and her attitude towards parishioners and priests is positive. Berta knows everyone at the church by name and is well-versed in their personal lives, birthdays, and family members. Her friendly nature has won her many friends over the years, and her colleagues love her for her dedication and hard work.

Berta's commitment to Guardian Angel Catholic Church has been unwavering for 52 years. She has turned down job offers from her friends to stay at her happy place, the Guardian Angel Catholic Church. Her loyalty and devotion are an inspiration to us all.

"This is my happy place, this is my place, and I hope to continue as much as I can here," she said. Berta Alicia Saenz is a remarkable woman whose dedication and faith have significantly impacted the Guardian Angel Catholic Church community.

52 Años Al Servicio Del Señor Y De La Comunidad

By Fernie Cenicerros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

Durante los últimos 52 años, Berta Alicia Sáenz ha sido la columna vertebral de la iglesia católica del Ángel de la Guarda, en el centro de El Paso. Empezó a trabajar allí cuando sólo tenía 15 años y nunca ha mirado atrás. En sus propias palabras, fue bautizada, confirmada y recibió su primera comunión en esta misma iglesia. También asistió a la escuela católica Ángel de la Guarda y solía participar en las misas dominicales con su familia.

La dedicación de Berta a su trabajo no tiene parangón. Es una figura muy querida tanto entre sus compañeros como entre los feligreses. Su compañera Cruz Rodríguez admira la capacidad

docente de Berta y afirma que es tremendamente servicial.

"Tiene a Dios en el alma; es muy fácil trabajar con ella. Enseña de maravilla, porque cuando vienes aquí, necesitas a alguien que te enseñe. Y como ella lo sabe todo, oh, es tremenda. Lo es", dijo Cruz Rodríguez, secretaria de la iglesia católica del Ángel de la Guarda.

Delia Escarcega, contadora de la Diócesis de El Paso, señala que Berta es una empleada valiosa y una gran amiga.

Berta y yo nos conocemos desde hace 50 años. Crecimos con Las Hijas de María; así es como nos conocimos. Es una empleada valiosa. Puede ayudar en todo, y si no encuentra algo, lo busca. Es una empleada muy valiosa allí; todo el mundo la quiere", dijo Escarcega.

La dedicación de Berta a su trabajo y su fe son evidentes en cómo afronta su trabajo a diario. Le encanta la gente y sonríe a todo el que se cruza en su camino. El lema de Berta en la vida es "No tengo mucho, pero nada me falta", lo que significa que no necesita mucho en la vida excepto una sonrisa y las bendiciones de Dios. Su fe inquebrantable en Dios y en la Virgen María la ha sostenido a lo largo de los años.

"Soy una de esas personas que aman a la gente. Todo lo que uno necesita es una sonrisa y decir que Dios te bendiga", dice Sáenz.

Comienza su jornada laboral visitando el santuario y ofreciendo oraciones por lo que pueda depararle el día.

"El Señor y la Virgen María han estado ahí para mí. Les rezo mucho, y lo primero que

hago cuando llego aquí es ir al santuario, rezar y ofrecer lo que sea que vaya a pasar hoy", dijo Sáenz.

Trabajar para la iglesia puede ser una experiencia difícil, pero la fe de Berta no ha hecho más que fortalecerse. Cree que ser leal a la Iglesia es esencial, y su actitud hacia los feligreses y los sacerdotes es positiva. Berta conoce a todos los feligreses por su nombre y está al tanto de sus vidas personales, cumpleaños y familiares. Su naturaleza amistosa le ha ganado muchos amigos a lo largo de los años, y sus colegas la quieren por su dedicación y trabajo duro.

El compromiso de Berta con la Iglesia Católica del Ángel de la Guarda ha sido inquebrantable durante 52 años. Ha rechazado ofertas de trabajo de sus amigos

para quedarse en su lugar feliz, la Iglesia Católica del Ángel de la Guarda. Su lealtad y devoción son una inspiración para todos nosotros.

"Este es mi lugar feliz, este es mi lugar, y espero continuar aquí todo lo que pueda", dijo. Berta Alicia Sáenz es una mujer extraordinaria cuya dedicación y fe han impactado significativamente a la comunidad de la Iglesia Católica del Ángel de la Guarda.




HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER!

- Fr. Jose William Arevalo 04/11
- Fr. Andres Sosa Medellian, OFM 04/12
- Fr. Francisco Javier Roman, OFM 04/18
- Fr. Allan Alaka 04/25
- Fr. Lazaro Gonzalez, OFM 04/26
- Fr. Fernando Laguana, OFM 04/30

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

- Fr. Chatles Rajan Michael 04/02
- Fr. Esteban Sescon 04/03
- Fr. John Paul Madanu 04/30



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One Mission

Mayte Elizalde
Hope Border Institute

Did you know that faith organizations and communities all along the border are engaged in the work of welcoming migrants?

From Matamoros and Brownsville on the border in South Texas, to El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, and San Diego and Tijuana, faith communities, including the Catholic Church, are at the forefront of providing migrants shelter and hospitality as well as advocating for their rights and dignity. In fact, this work is undertaken daily by people of faith in communities throughout Latin America and the United States and throughout the world. The

Catholic Church is a worldwide leader in the care for vulnerable people on the move.

What unites all of these efforts is the core belief, grounded in our faith in Jesus Christ, that human life is sacred and that every human person has innate dignity as a child of God. We also believe that we should strive to promote the common good, that is, the good of each person and all persons, as the bedrock of our communities and our society. That includes a special concern and care for the vulnerable, including the poor and the asylum seeker.

Recently, together with my team from the Hope Border Institute (HOPE), I had a chance to visit a great example of the work

the church is doing to support migrants on the Arizona border, the Kino Border Initiative (KBI).

KBI is a binational organization, founded by the Jesuits and based in Nogales, Sonora and Nogales, Arizona, that works on promoting humane immigration policies and provides humanitarian assistance to migrants. KBI provides a great example of holistic accompaniment, offering both material support to migrants, like shelter and medical care, as well as legal and spiritual care and special support for the needs of families, like activities and programming for children.

During my visit, I was struck by the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in a chapel KINO makes available for migrants as

well as the staff and volunteers. It was a visible sign for me of the presence of God through the work of migrant accompaniment, not only in those who care for migrants, but in the migrant journey as well as people migrating themselves.

Like so many organizations along the border, KINO is a powerful embodiment of our tradition of Catholic social teaching and the Gospel, a visible sign of our commitment to the common good and human dignity.

You can get involved, too. In the coming months we expect the number of migrants arriving to our binational community to rise. We know that people of faith here in our community will be part of our El Paso and Ciudad

Juarez community's generous response of love and compassion. Stay tuned and follow the Hope Border Institute on social media for ways that you can be part of this transformative work.

Mayte Elizalde is the communications officer at the Hope Border Institute. Through a robust program of research and policy work, leadership development, and action, we work to build justice and deepen solidarity across the borderlands. For more ways to get involved and support people on the move, visit www.hopeborder.org.

Mayte Elizalde
Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza

¿Sabías que las organizaciones y comunidades religiosas a lo largo de la frontera están comprometidas en la labor de dar la bienvenida a los migrantes?

Desde Matamoros y Brownsville, en la frontera sur de Texas, hasta El Paso y Ciudad Juárez, pasando por San Diego y Tijuana, las comunidades religiosas, incluida la Iglesia católica, están a la vanguardia de la acogida y la hospitalidad de los migrantes, así como de la defensa de sus derechos y su dignidad. De hecho, esta labor la llevan a cabo a diario personas de fe en comunidades de toda América Latina y Estados Unidos y de todo el mundo. La Iglesia católica es líder mundial en la atención a

las personas vulnerables que se desplazan.

Lo que une a todos estos esfuerzos es la creencia fundamental, basada en nuestra fe en Jesucristo, de que la vida humana es sagrada y que toda persona humana tiene una dignidad innata como hijo de Dios. También creemos que debemos esforzarnos por promover el bien común, es decir, el bien de cada persona y de todas las personas, como fundamento de nuestras comunidades y nuestra sociedad. Eso incluye una preocupación y un cuidado especiales por los vulnerables, incluidos los pobres y los solicitantes de asilo.

Recientemente, junto con mi equipo del Hope Border Institute (HOPE), tuve la oportunidad de visitar un gran ejemplo del trabajo que la iglesia está haciendo

para apoyar a los migrantes en la frontera de Arizona, la Kino Border Initiative (KBI).

KBI es una organización binacional, fundada por los jesuitas y con sede en Nogales, Sonora y Nogales, Arizona, que trabaja en la promoción de políticas de inmigración humanas y proporciona asistencia humanitaria a los migrantes. KBI es un gran ejemplo de acompañamiento holístico, pues ofrece tanto apoyo material a los migrantes, como refugio y atención médica, como atención jurídica y espiritual y apoyo especial para las necesidades de las familias, como actividades y programas para los niños.

Durante mi visita, me llamó la atención la presencia del Santísimo Sacramento en una capilla que KINO pone a disposición

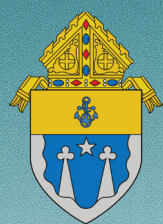
de los migrantes, así como del personal y los voluntarios. Fue para mí un signo visible de la presencia de Dios a través del trabajo de acompañamiento a migrantes, no sólo en quienes cuidan a los migrantes, sino en el viaje de los migrantes, así como en las personas que migran por sí mismas.

Como tantas organizaciones a lo largo de la frontera, KINO es una poderosa encarnación de nuestra tradición de enseñanza social católica y del Evangelio, un signo visible de nuestro compromiso con el bien común y la dignidad humana.

Tú también puedes participar. En los próximos meses esperamos que aumente el número de migrantes que llegan a nuestra comunidad binacional. Sabemos que las personas de fe aquí en

nuestra comunidad serán parte de la generosa respuesta de amor y compasión de nuestra comunidad de El Paso y Ciudad Juárez. Manténgase en sintonía y siga al Hope Border Institute en las redes sociales para conocer las formas en que usted puede ser parte de este trabajo transformador.

Mayte Elizalde es la responsable de comunicación del Hope Border Institute. A través de un sólido programa de investigación y trabajo político, desarrollo de liderazgo y acción, trabajamos para construir justicia y profundizar la solidaridad en las zonas fronterizas. Para conocer más formas de participar y apoyar a las personas en movimiento, visite www.hopeborder.org.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
EL PASO

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CEMETERY

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Bishop Celino Ordained



Deacon Fred Solano (left) and Deacon Danny Bejarano hold the Book of Gospels above Bishop-elect Anthony Celino as Bishop Mark J. Seitz prays the Prayer of Ordination.



Bishop Mark is the first to lay hands on Bishop-elect Tony's head before the other bishops do the same.



Bishop Mark anoints the head of Bishop Tony with sacred chrism as Bishop John Stowe looks on.



By Fernie Cenicerros
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

The Diocese of El Paso marked a historic occasion on March 31, 2023, as Bishop Mark J. Seitz presided over the ordination mass of the diocese's first auxiliary bishop, Anthony C. Celino, at St. Patrick Cathedral.

Co-consecrators Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio and Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, as well as the papal nuncio and 20 other bishops from across the United States, joined Bishop Seitz to welcome the new bishop to his role.

Bishop Seitz expressed his gratitude and excitement at the ordination mass, noting that Bishop Celino's appointment would help strengthen and support the El Paso community. "I am thrilled to have Bishop Celino as my partner in ministry, and I know that together we will be able to continue serving the people of this diocese with love and dedication," said Bishop Seitz.

The ceremony included the

traditional symbols of the episcopacy, including the presentation of the Book of the Gospels and the anointing with holy oils. The congregation erupted into applause as Bishop Seitz and the other bishops gave their brotherly embrace of the newly ordained Bishop Celino, symbolizing his entry into the apostolic succession.

Bishop Celino's journey to the episcopacy has been long and distinguished. An immigrant from the Philippines, he has been a member of the El Paso community since 1993 and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of El Paso in 1997. He has served in various roles in the diocese, including as a pastor, diocesan chancellor, vicar general and most recently, judicial vicar and pastor of St. Raphael's Parish.

In his remarks following the ordination, Bishop Celino expressed his gratitude and humility at his appointment. "I am honored to serve as auxiliary bishop of El Paso, and I am committed to working with Bishop Seitz and the entire community to further

the work of the Church in this region," said Bishop Celino. "I am humbled by the responsibility that has been entrusted to me, and I pray for the grace to serve the people of this diocese with dedication and love."

The presence of 20 various bishops at the ordination mass underscored the significance of the occasion. The papal nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, conveyed the blessings of Pope Francis and presented the papal bull to the new bishop. Other bishops from across the United States attended, including Bishop Emeritus Armando X. Ochoa, former bishop of El Paso, Bishop Guadalupe Torres-Campos of Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, and Bishop Peter Baldacchino of Las Cruces.

The ordination mass of Bishop Anthony C. Celino marked an important moment in the history of the Diocese of El Paso. As Bishop Seitz welcomed his new brother bishop and assistant, he reminded the congregation of the importance of continued service to the community and the enduring power of faith.

Obispo Celino Ordenado



Left: Bishop-elect Tony shows the Vatican's decree of ordination to his family and friends after it was read by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Above: Bishop-elect Tony lies prostrate in front of the altar during the Litany of Supplication, when the intercession of the saints is invoked on behalf of the candidate for ordination.



Bishop Mark places the mitre on Bishop Tony's head. The mitre, along with the ring and crosier, are the insignia of a bishop's office.



Bishop Tony gives the fraternal greeting to the Most Rev. Armando Ochoa, the former bishop of El Paso and retired bishop of Fresno.

Por Fernie Cenicerós
Editor, Rio Grande Catholic

La Diócesis de El Paso celebró una ocasión histórica el 31 de marzo de 2023, cuando el Obispo Mark J. Seitz presidió la misa de ordenación del primer obispo auxiliar de la diócesis, Anthony C. Celino, en la Catedral de San Patricio. Los co-consagradores, el arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio y el obispo John Stowe de Lexington, así como el nuncio papal y otros 20 obispos de todo Estados Unidos, se unieron al obispo Seitz para dar la bienvenida al nuevo obispo a su cargo.

El obispo Seitz expresó su gratitud y emoción en la misa de ordenación, señalando que el nombramiento del obispo Celino ayudaría a fortalecer y apoyar a la comunidad de El Paso. “Estoy encantado de tener al Obispo Celino como mi compañero en el ministerio, y sé que juntos podremos continuar sirviendo a la gente de esta diócesis con amor y dedicación”, dijo el Obispo Seitz. La ceremonia incluyó los

símbolos tradicionales del episcopado, como la presentación del Libro de los Evangelios y la unción con los santos óleos. La congregación prorrumpió en aplausos cuando Mons. Seitz y los demás obispos abrazaron fraternalmente al recién ordenado Mons. Celino, simbolizando su entrada en la sucesión apostólica.

El camino del obispo Celino hacia el episcopado ha sido largo y distinguido. Inmigrante filipino, pertenece a la comunidad de El Paso desde 1993 y fue ordenado sacerdote de la Diócesis de El Paso en 1997. Ha desempeñado diversas funciones en la diócesis, como párroco, canceller diocesano, vicario general y, más recientemente, vicario judicial y párroco de la parroquia de San Rafael.

En sus palabras tras la ordenación, el obispo Celino expresó su gratitud y humildad por su nombramiento. “Me siento honrado de servir como obispo auxiliar de El Paso, y estoy comprometido a trabajar con el obispo Seitz y toda la comunidad para promover el trabajo de la Iglesia

en esta región”, dijo el obispo Celino. “Me siento humilde por la responsabilidad que se me ha confiado, y rezo por la gracia de servir a la gente de esta diócesis con dedicación y amor”.

La presencia de 20 obispos distintos en la misa de ordenación subrayó la importancia de la ocasión. El nuncio papal, el arzobispo Christophe Pierre, transmitió las bendiciones del Papa Francisco y presentó la bula papal al nuevo obispo. Otros obispos de todo Estados Unidos asistieron, entre ellos el obispo Emiritus Armando X. Ochoa, ex obispo de El Paso, el obispo Guadalupe Torres-Campos de Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, y el Obispo Peter Baldacchino de Las Cruces.

La misa de ordenación del Obispo Anthony C. Celino marcó un momento importante en la historia de la Diócesis de El Paso. Mientras el Obispo Seitz daba la bienvenida a su nuevo hermano obispo y asistente, recordó a la congregación la importancia del servicio continuo a la comunidad y el poder perdurable de la fe.

SIDEWALK JESUS

Breathe, Just Breathe



Janet M. Crowe

Oh, no! After months, actually years, of being so very careful, this happens. Drat! How can this be? Why now, when we have finally made so many special plans? Will this change everything? Of course, it will. All I can see are ruined plans, disappointed friends and family. What am I going to do?

Slow down, I told myself. Just breathe for a minute. Maybe the test was wrong? No, it wasn't.

Breathe. Everything will work out. Maybe I'm just overreacting.

For over three years now, we have been very conscientious about wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, avoiding crowds and following all the guidelines. Now, just when we start to relax and feel a little comfortable, of course, now Covid rears its ugly head and catches us at exactly the time when we have so many plans scheduled for the next couple months. Arrrrggghh!

Yeah, I know, many people will think that I was overreacting, and maybe I did. Everyone who has been affected by this cruddy virus has suffered differing hardships – many have endured terrible,

life-altering problems and even suffered from the deaths of loved ones – so I should be ashamed about my reaction to getting sick. I guess I was scared. Of course, I was scared, isn't everyone scared when they see the test result show positive?

This doesn't just affect us either. Our precious granddaughter was born with a heart defect and our son and daughter-in-law have been extremely, and rightfully, careful to keep her safe from contracting any viruses while she is very young and vulnerable. With that in mind, I was so afraid that our son would be mad at us. I could just hear his response to learning that we caught Covid: "Mom, Dad, were you wearing your masks? Were you staying away from people? How can we protect our little one if you aren't doing your part to keep her safe?" That is what I told myself he would say. Instead, using one of the online delivery services he's used during the last few years, our sweet son sent us a care package – ordering chicken soup, fresh fruit, honey and toilet paper (of course, toilet paper, as a little joke carried over from the early pandemic panic). Not one hint of recrimination or disappointment from him. I cried at his loving response.

But wait, how can I breathe when there are still others affected by this also. What about my sister who's a recent cancer survivor with a weakened immune system? Why did this have to happen right when the two of us were enjoying



some "girl time" together on a mountain retreat? My feelings of guilt intensified my fear and I pray that I have not exposed her or anyone else to this scummy virus. Yes, I now have lots of adjectives for the Covid virus – cruddy, scummy, yucky, nasty, revolting, horrid, disgusting, repugnant, and the list goes on.

What about the friend with whom we had planned a special trip to celebrate her anniversary after losing her husband not too long ago? This revolting virus has spoiled those plans. Even closer to my heart, what about our dear daughter's birthday? We had planned a trip to visit her, and I had made decorations for a wonderful surprise party for her. Over a month of work to surprise her with a special party and, now, for what? Will we be able to make it? I may be just a bit grumpy; can you tell? Maybe I'm being a little bit petty also. Are these

important in the long run? Well, yes, keeping my loved ones safe is certainly important but some of these gripes are minor ones.

Breathe. Oh, dear, how narrow-minded of me! How could I not see the parallel of my own panic over a positive Covid test and that of a young unmarried woman staring at a positive pregnancy test? All of her future plans, not just for the next month or two, but for her entire life, flash before her as crumbling heaps of broken dreams. How will her family react? Will they be mad at her? Will they hate her for ruining their hopes, their plans, both for her and for themselves? Will this crush their own expectations for their future? How could she do this to them? Or maybe, just maybe, it isn't the end, maybe it will just be Different. Will they react with loving care?

Take a breath. Take a moment. Think.

Yes, breathe. This is the end of Lent. Think back to the plans that the apostles thought they were making for their future with Jesus. Holy Thursday probably confused them a little. Good Friday devastated them. Holy Saturday left them empty and feeling alone. They could not see any further into the future. They could not see past their own grief and suffering. Not only had they lost someone they loved, but their entire future had just crumbled into dust.

Wait! We know the end of this story! Easter brings Hope and Love with capital letters!

We may not know what happens tomorrow in our own lives but we know that God is always with us, through the tough times as well as the easy paths. We just need to do as the apostles did and share Christ's beacons of Light and Love with those who are going through their own personal Saturday troubles, leading them into the Hopefulness of Easter Sunday morning! Helping others to rise from the ashes into a glorious, but maybe different, future filled with possibilities will put our smaller problems into perspective.

Thank you, Lord, for Your Love. Help me to remember that You are always with me. Help me not to be overwhelmed but to remember that the Light of Your loving presence will dispel the darkness. Help me to always be an Easter person to everyone I meet.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Holding the Line on Brain Death



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

How do we determine that someone has died? The Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA), which has been an important part of the medical and legal landscape in the U.S. for more than 40 years, states:

"An individual who has sustained either irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem, is dead. A determination of death must be made in accordance with accepted medical standards."

The UDDA, originally drafted in 1981 by a special Presidential Commission, was designed to serve as a legal standard and a uniform framework for determining that someone has died, as well as to provide a clear legal foundation for declaring someone dead by means of "neurological criteria," also known as

"brain death."

Since that time, the UDDA has served as an important benchmark for the medical profession, and a point of reference for legislative standards adopted throughout the United States, with all 50 states relying on language borrowed from the UDDA in their legal definitions of death.

Clearly defining and ascertaining when someone has died is important for a number of reasons: grieving can begin; burial arrangements can be made; and organ procurement can take place if the person had indicated a desire to become a donor. Most importantly, establishing that someone has not yet passed on helps us provide appropriate care and medical treatments until the time of death.

Recently, a group of physicians, ethicists, and lawyers recommended revising the wording of the UDDA. Their proposal adjusts the definition of brain death from whole-brain death to less-than-whole-brain death.

Whenever brain death assessments are done today, physicians carry out a series of bedside clinical tests. They check whether the patient can gasp or initiate a breath when taken off the ventilator (known as an "apnea test"). Any attempt at taking a breath

would indicate that the person's brainstem is still functioning, and that he or she is still alive. Physicians also check for other reflexes and responses mediated by the brain: Do pupils of the eye respond to light? Is there any reaction to, or withdrawal from painful stimuli? Is there any gag reflex when an object is placed in the back of the throat? If such reflexes are present, the individual is still alive.

For somebody to be deceased, then, there needs to be evidence of a catastrophic neurological event that has caused their brain to become irreversibly non-functional. One type of brain function that is not routinely assessed by doctors when carrying out brain death testing involves the hypothalamus. This important region of the brain coordinates with the pituitary gland to enable the secretion of hormones and small molecules that regulate the function of the kidneys and other organs, and helps control salt and water balance in the body. Sometimes a person can pass all the tests for being brain dead, but still have hypothalamic function.

If a patient has continuing hypothalamic function in this way, it seems clear that he or she does not manifest "irreversible cessation of all functions of the

entire brain" as delineated in the UDDA.

Regrettably, some are now proposing that a person in this situation should still be considered brain dead, and they are seeking to revise the wording of the UDDA to reflect this, substantially lowering the standard for a declaration of brain death. They declare, without compelling support, that the persistence of neurosecretory function by the hypothalamus is consistent with brain death.

In cases of genuine brain death, when all functions of the entire brain have ceased, the bodies of these individuals can typically continue to function on a ventilator only for a matter of hours or perhaps a few days before their various subsystems, like blood pressure, electrolytes, and fluid balance become erratic and dysregulated, leading to cardiac arrest.

Meanwhile, some brain-injured individuals who have retained hypothalamic functioning have survived for months or years on a ventilator after losing both their brain-mediated reflexes and their ability to breathe. Even though these patients suffer an extremely severe central nervous system injury, they are clearly still alive.

Even to be "slightly alive" is still to be alive. If the language of the UDDA ends up being changed to allow for a declaration of brain death even with continued hypothalamic functioning, individuals who are not-quite-dead will be treated as if they were already dead.

Rather than revising the language of the UDDA and seeking to lower the standards for declaring brain death, the battery of routine reflex and apnea tests used for ascertaining brain death needs to be expanded to include tests that can verify the loss of hypothalamic function.

Such improvements in testing will help ensure that people are not declared deceased prematurely. It will also help strengthen public confidence in the life-saving work of organ transplantation.

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

Arriba Las Buenas Noticias!



Padre Wilson Cuevas

Un joven se acerca al sacerdote: Es una historia larga de pecados, derrotas y sufrimientos. El Padre lo interrumpe de improviso. Porque no me dices primero todas las cosas buenas que has realizado en estos años? El muchacho lo mira a la cara asombrado y rompe a llorar. Por primera vez, alguien le mostraba que en su vida también la bondad había fructificado.

El mundo actual se ha llenado de noticias desoladoras. No solo por las cosas que ocurren, sino porque cada uno de nosotros se volvió un portador de malas noticias. Lo cual nos ha llevado a desconfiar, por sistema, de los demás. A imaginarnos siempre lo peor. A saborear morbosamente los errores y las tragedias ajenas. Cristo vino a traernos Buenas Noticias de un Dios que ama a sus hijos e hijas. A nosotros nos toca difundirlas en todos los ambientes y situaciones. Al esposo o a la esposa que ya no saben luchar más, al limitado físico, al anciano que empieza a sentirse inútil para todo, al obrero que no es calificado, al sacerdote que flaquea, al hijo que se equivoca procurando estrenar la libertad, hemos de llevar la buena noticia de Jesús, con actitudes de amor y esperanza. En determinado momento cada uno de nosotros comprueba que es pobre, que esta cautivo, que sufre en la opresión, que lo aqueja una ceguera interior.

Quien no ha sufrido en soledad y ha deseado una palabra, una voz, una persona que lo anime, que le diga que no todo anda



mal, que no es tan pecador como se cree, que todavía hay remedio? Que hay Alguien que lucha a nuestro lado? Alguien que ve lo pesado de nuestra cruz y lo doloroso de nuestro cansancio? Afortunadamente, siempre nos encontramos con personas generosas y dispuestas a ayudarnos. Que se interesan en devolvernos la esperanza y confianza en Dios y en los seres humanos. Tendemos a dejar que nuestras circunstancias dicten lo que sentimos, lo que a su vez influye en la forma como actuamos. Con esa mentalidad sombría, enseguida parece que nada importa, que independientemente de lo que hagamos, en realidad nada cambia.

Esto no es vivir en la vida abundante del Cristo Resucitado. Las circunstancias siguen estando fuera de nuestro control y nuestras almas a veces tendrán dolor con el penoso peso

de la decepción. Pero cuando nuestra esperanza está en Cristo, podemos ver más allá de nuestra momentánea incomodidad. Podemos confiar en Dios con nuestro pasado, presente y futuro. Incluyendo nuestro legado.

Uno de los signos de la Presencia de Cristo Resucitado en nuestra vida es vivir alegres, no obstante los dolores, las enfermedades, los problemas; es un don del Señor. Nuestra alegría forja la infraestructura para las tres virtudes teologales. Dios admira el milagro de nuestra monotonía. Esa que tiene el hermoso nombre de fidelidad, porque es hermana pequeña de la fe. A Dios le encanta nuestro esfuerzo por seguir amando, a pesar de las fallas ajenas, de las propias, del peso de la vida y los fracasos. A Dios le complace el milagro de nuestro entendimiento, cuando nos abrimos en comunión a la luz, a la ciencia, al espacio infiniti-

to, a la incognita del futuro y a la magia de las palabras. Dios se pone feliz ante el milagro de la paz. Cuando resolvemos convertir los fusiles en instrumentos de labranza, los presupuestos para aviones de guerra y misiles en escuelas, parques, centros deportivos... borrando del corazón los recuerdos amargos y nos sentimos otra vez hermanos.

Somos protagonistas de numerosos milagros. El Señor sabe que ese poder y mucho mas, nos viene de su mano, pero se hace el desentendido. No nos damos cuenta de tantas maravillas y a rato creemos que nuestra vida no vale nada. Seguimos siendo niños.

Encontré una hermosa oración para calmar el tumulto de un corazón tentado por la poca fraternidad y el egoísmo: “Señor, enséñame la dulzura de pensar bien”. En la conversación agrada mas hablar mal que bien. O,

alineando los elogios para luego introducir un malvado “pero”. Tiene muchas cualidades, pero... Sin encolerizarnos siguiera, ya hemos demolido a alguien. Con nuestros pensamientos! Allí se juega todo. Pensar bien de alguien sin ningún bemo, no es común. Sin embargo que dulzura por descubrir, el esfuerzo por mantenerse en un estado habitual de pensamientos buenos. Pero allí surgirán, naturalmente las sonrisas, las palabras y los comportamientos fraternos. Para animarnos a adquirir esta constante benevolencia, pensemos en lo agradable que será vivir junto a nosotros! Recordemos siempre que la gran noticia que los cristianos debemos compartir a todos, es que Cristo ha Resucitado y ya nada es igual, todo ha cambiando. Las personas y las cosas tienen un nuevo sentido y un nuevo propósito. Amino!

Bring The Good News!

A young man approaches a priest: “It is a long story of sins, defeats and sufferings.” The priest interrupts him suddenly. Why don’t you first tell me all the good things you have done over the years? The boy looks him in the face in astonishment and bursts into tears. For the first time, someone was showing him that in his life, too, goodness had borne fruit.

Today’s world is filled with heartbreaking news. Not only because of the things that happen, but because each of us has become a bearer of bad news. This has led us to systematically distrust others. To always imagine the worst. To morbidly savor the mistakes and tragedies of others. Christ came to bring us the Good News of a God who loves his sons and daughters. It is up to us to spread them in all environments and situations. To the husband or wife who no longer knows how to fight, to the physically handicapped, to

the elderly person who begins to feel useless for everything, to the worker who is not qualified, to the priest who falters, to the son who makes mistakes while trying to start his freedom, we have to bring the Good News of Jesus, with attitudes of love and hope. At a certain moment each one of us realizes that he is poor, that he is captive, that he suffers oppression, that he is afflicted by an inner blindness.

Who has not suffered in loneliness and wished for a word, a voice, a person to encourage him, to tell him that not everything is wrong, that he is not as sinful as he thinks he is, that there is still a remedy? That there is Someone who fights by our side? Someone who sees how heavy our cross is and how painful our weariness is? Fortunately, we always meet people who are generous and willing to help us. Who are interested in restoring our hope and trust in God and in human beings. We tend to let our cir-

cumstances dictate how we feel, which in turn influences how we act. With that gloomy mindset, it immediately seems that nothing matters, that no matter what we do, nothing really changes.

This is not living in the abundant life of the Risen Christ. Circumstances remain beyond our control and our souls will sometimes ache with the painful weight of disappointment. But when our hope is in Christ, we can see beyond our momentary discomfort. We can trust God with our past, present and future. Including our legacy.

One of the signs of the Presence of the Risen Christ in our lives is to live joyfully, despite pain, sickness, problems; it is a gift from the Lord. Our joy forges the infrastructure for the three theological virtues. God admires the miracle of our monotony. That which has the beautiful name of fidelity, because it is the little sister of faith. God loves our effort to continue loving,

despite the failures of others, despite our own failures, despite the weight of life and failures. God is pleased by the miracle of our understanding, when we open ourselves in communion to light, to science, to infinite space, to the unknown of the future and to the magic of words. God becomes happy before the miracle of peace. When we resolve to turn rifles into farming tools, budgets for warplanes and missiles into schools, parks, sports centers.... erasing bitter memories from our hearts and we feel like brothers again.

We are the protagonists of numerous miracles. The Lord knows that this power, and much more, comes from his hand, but he pretends not to notice. We do not realize so many wonders and sometimes we believe that our life is worthless. We are still children.

I found a beautiful prayer to calm the tumult of a heart tempted by little fraternity and

selfishness: “Lord, teach me the sweetness of thinking well”. In conversation it pleases more to speak evil than good. Or, lining up praise and then introducing a wicked “but”. It has many qualities, but... Without getting angry, we have already demolished someone. With our thoughts! That’s where it all comes down to it. To think well of someone without any flat is not common. However what a sweetness to discover, the effort to remain in a habitual state of good thoughts. But there will arise, naturally, smiles, words and fraternal behaviors. To encourage us to acquire this constant benevolence, let us think how pleasant it will be to live together! Let us always remember that the great news that we Christians must share with everyone is that Christ is risen and nothing is the same anymore, everything has changed. People and things have a new meaning and a new purpose. Amino!

Deacons of the Diocese of El Paso Humbly Give of Themselves

By Tina Edwards-Milam,
Annual Appeal Director

The permanent deacons of the Diocese of El Paso humbly give of themselves to spread the good news of Jesus Christ with servant hearts filled with joy.

Formation to the Permanent Diaconate is a four-year program, which includes a year of discernment and three years of candidacy consisting of formation seminars, academic courses, annual retreats, and parish assignments.

In the Diocese of El Paso, we are blessed to have 45 ordained Permanent Deacons who are currently serving in 32 parishes of the Diocese of El Paso, and 22 men who are candidates for the Permanent Diaconate in their first year of formation. In addition, the Permanent Diaconate Program has commenced the screening process for the next group of deacon aspirants which is scheduled to start in January 2024.

Deacon Orlando Sanchez, ordained May 31st, 2003, as a permanent deacon by the late Archbishop Joseph Myers at Newark, NJ Basilica of Sacred Heart, will celebrate his 20th Anniversary as a deacon in May 2023. Deacon Orlando has faithfully served the Diocese of El Paso for 11 years at Queen of Peace Parish.

My family and I are blessed to have had the opportunity to build a close relationship with Deacon Orlando and his wife, Rosanna, throughout the years. Deacon Orlando has selflessly shared tears of joy and sadness with our family. A moment that stands out was when my Mother transitioned from this Life into Eternal Life, and Deacon

Orlando accompanied us every step. No matter the time, day or night. We are eternally grateful to Deacon Orlando for his heartfelt love and support. Deacon Orlando was the Face of Jesus for our family during such a difficult time. In the Diocese of El Paso, we are truly blessed to have an abundance of Deacons willing to give of themselves to support our community selflessly.

I was blessed to have an opportunity to speak with Deacon Orlando about his "calling story."

The younger of four siblings, a cradle catholic early in life, Deacon always knew God was calling him. This inclination was something he said he could not figure out. At an early age, taking advantage of having church just a block and a half away, Deacon would sometimes sneak out of the house, rush to the church, go inside, stare at the crucifix, then run back home before his parents ever noticed he was gone. He was always, at most, 5 minutes away from home. For Deacon Orlando, this was an extraordinary personal secret between God and himself.

Even from a very young age, he began his formation with the Christian brothers (Saint John Baptist of La Salle) from kindergarten through high school. At age 11, he felt attracted to join a multi-school youth group led by a Jesuit priest, Fr. Arango (God rest his soul), who became a close friend and mentored him through his formation, demanding that every group member read at least one book per month from his vast collection. This priest became his spiritual director in time, so he knew Deacon Orlando from a spiritual perspective even better than his parents.



By the time he finished High School and before starting college, Deacon Orlando visited his old friend Fr. Arango because he thought he might have a priestly vocation. When Deacon Orlando told Fr. Arango about his thoughts, his first question looking into his eyes, was: "did you hear the call?" Deacon then responded with his question: "What call?" So, Fr. replied, "you didn't hear anything." Fr. then told him that he should finish his studies, get a profession, marry, and who knows if God would call him to the permanent diaconate. Deacon Orlando did not understand what Fr. Arango was referring to. This was his first time hearing the words permanent diaconate, but he trusted

Fr. Arango with his life and did as Fr. had told him.

Deacon Orlando married young, into his 2nd yr. in college, he received his degree and then went on with life as usual. Due to his excellent work history, he was offered a job in New Jersey, and he and his wife moved there from New York. By the grace of God, they joined a married couples ministry from the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ. Several years later, while serving in ministry, Deacon received an application for a Permanent Diaconate formation program. Somehow, he felt he had to fill out that application, and so he did. As Deacon Orlando was filling out the application, he came upon a question that still gives him

goosebumps today. It read, "DID YOU HEAR A CALL?"..... and at that moment, he wholeheartedly understood the question Fr Arango had asked him almost 17 years prior because he felt it deep inside his heart. God had spoken to him clearly! And he joined the program. And we, in the Diocese of El Paso are the blessed recipients of the fruits of those labors.

Please help us support those most in need through the hard work and dedication of our Ministries. Please pray and, if you have not yet done so, prayerfully discern making a sacrificial gift in love to the Progress: Catholic Ministry Appeal today. Visit www.2023progress-cma.org

Los Diáconos de la Diócesis de El Paso se entregan humildemente

Por Tina Edwards-Milam,
Directora de la Campaña Anual

Los diáconos permanentes de la Diócesis de El Paso se entregan humildemente para difundir las buenas nuevas de Jesucristo con corazones llenos de alegría. La formación para el Diaconado Permanente es un programa de cuatro años, que incluye un año de discernimiento y tres años de candidatura que consisten en seminarios de formación, cursos académicos, retiros anuales y asignaciones parroquiales. En la Diócesis de El Paso, tenemos la bendición de contar con 45 Diáconos Permanentes ordenados que actualmente sirven en 32 parroquias de la Diócesis de El Paso, y 22 hombres que son candidatos al Diaconado Permanente en su primer año de formación.

Además, el Programa del Diaconado Permanente ha comenzado el proceso de selección para el próximo grupo de aspirantes al diaconado que está programado para comenzar en enero de 2024. El diácono Orlando Sánchez, ordenado el 31 de mayo de 2003 como diácono permanente por el difunto arzobispo Joseph Myers en la Basílica del Sagrado Corazón de Newark, NJ, celebrará

su 20 aniversario como diácono en mayo de 2023. El Diacono Orlando ha servido fielmente a la Diócesis de El Paso por 11 años en la Parroquia Reina de la Paz. Mi familia y yo estamos bendecidos de haber tenido la oportunidad de construir una relación cercana con el Diácono Orlando y su esposa, Rosanna, a través de los años. El Diácono Orlando ha compartido desinteresadamente lágrimas de alegría y tristeza con nuestra familia. Un momento que se destaca fue cuando mi Madre hizo la transición de esta Vida a la Vida Eterna, y el Diácono Orlando nos acompañó en cada paso. No importaba la hora, el día o la noche. Estamos eternamente agradecidos al Diácono Orlando por su amor y apoyo de corazón.

El Diacono Orlando fue el Rostro de Jesús para nuestra familia durante un tiempo tan difícil. En la Diócesis de El Paso, estamos verdaderamente bendecidos de tener una abundancia de Diáconos dispuestos a dar de sí mismos para apoyar a nuestra comunidad desinteresadamente. Tuve la bendición de tener la oportunidad de hablar con el Diácono Orlando sobre su "historia de llamado" El menor de cuatro hermanos, católico de cuna

desde muy joven, el Diácono siempre supo que Dios lo llamaba. Esta inclinación era algo que, según él, no podía descifrar. A una edad temprana, aprovechando que tenía la iglesia a una manzana y media de distancia, Deacon a veces se escapaba de casa, corría a la iglesia, entraba, miraba el crucifijo y volvía corriendo a casa antes de que sus padres se dieran cuenta de que se había ido. Siempre estaba, como mucho, a 5 minutos de casa. Para el diácono Orlando, se trataba de un extraordinario secreto personal entre Dios y él. Ya desde muy joven comenzó su formación con los Hermanos de las Escuelas Cristianas (San Juan Bautista de La Salle), desde el jardín de infancia hasta el bachillerato. A los 11 años, se sintió atraído a unirse a un grupo de jóvenes de varios colegios dirigido por un sacerdote jesuita, el padre Arango (que en paz descanse), que se convirtió en su amigo íntimo y le sirvió de mentor durante su formación, exigiendo que cada miembro del grupo leyera al menos un libro al mes de su vasta colección. Este sacerdote se convirtió con el tiempo en su director espiritual, por lo que conocía al diácono Orlando desde una perspectiva espiritual

incluso mejor que sus padres. Cuando terminó el bachillerato y antes de empezar la universidad, el diácono Orlando visitó a su viejo amigo el P. Arango porque pensaba que podría tener vocación sacerdotal. Cuando el Diácono Orlando le contó sus pensamientos al P. Arango, su primera pregunta mirándolo a los ojos, fue: "¿escuchaste el llamado?". El Diácono entonces respondió con su pregunta: "¿Qué llamada?" Entonces, el P. le contestó: "no escuchaste nada". El P. le dijo entonces que debía terminar sus estudios, conseguir una profesión, casarse, y quién sabe si Dios le llamaría al diaconado permanente.

El diácono Orlando no entendía a qué se refería el P. Arango. Era la primera vez que escuchaba las palabras diaconado permanente, pero le confió su vida al P. Arango e hizo lo que el P. le había dicho. El diácono Orlando se casó joven, en su segundo año de universidad, recibió su título y luego siguió con su vida como de costumbre. Debido a su excelente historial laboral, le ofrecieron un trabajo en Nueva Jersey, y él y su esposa se trasladaron allí desde Nueva York. Por la gracia de Dios, se unieron a un ministerio de

matrimonios de la Archidiócesis de Newark, NJ. Varios años después, mientras servía en el ministerio, el Diácono recibió una solicitud para un programa de formación para el Diaconado Permanente.

De alguna manera, sintió que tenía que llenar esa solicitud, y así lo hizo. Mientras el Diácono Orlando llenaba la solicitud, se encontró con una pregunta que todavía hoy le pone la piel de gallina. Decía: "¿Escuchó usted una llamada?"..... y en ese momento, comprendió de todo corazón la pregunta que el P. Arango le había hecho casi 17 años antes, porque la sintió en lo más profundo de su corazón. Dios le había hablado claramente. Y se unió al programa. Y nosotros, en la Diócesis de El Paso, somos los bendecidos receptores de los frutos de esa labor.

Por favor ayúdenos a apoyar a los más necesitados a través del arduo trabajo y dedicación de nuestros Ministerios. Por favor, oren y, si aún no lo han hecho, discernan en oración hacer un regalo de sacrificio en amor al Progreso: Llamamiento de los Ministerios Católicos. Visite www.2023progress-cma.org

What is Stewardship? It's "You and Me."

By **Karina Sandoval**
Stewardship Coordinator

I have encountered many people asking me the meaning of Stewardship. Since I began the role of Stewardship Coordinator for the Catholic Foundation "Is it about money?" "What does it mean?" "What is your job exactly in the Diocese?"

It's hard to explain the meaning of Stewardship in a border community where our faith has been shared by our "abuelitas" from a whole different Catholic perspective that what we live today. Sometimes it seems that Stewardship sounds unfamiliar to the catechism and theology, but let me explain to you that Stew-

ardship is "you and me," you and me trying our very best to place God above all things, is "you and me" discovering what am I good at, what am I able to help others? Is "you and me" managing our finances and giving what we have to the needs of my parish community, is "you and me" trying our best to follow God in our world today.

The United States Bishops defines Stewardship as the generous giving of time, talent and treasure, as Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gracefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord." "As each one has received a gift, use

it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 PT 4:10)

So basically, it doesn't necessarily mean "money or tithing," it means the desire of giving that God has grant to each one of our hearts, to freely give of ourselves to one another, we are created to give and to love, "Man occupies a unique place in creation, he is in the image of God" -Catechism of the Catholic Church 355, it seems that when we are not giving of ourselves or our prayer life decreases we become empty and restless because we are looking for ways to fill those holes that ache.

The Catholic Foundation invites you with open arms to start,

re-start, re-charge, or whatever your faith status or your desire of "giving" to God and one another may be. It's never too late to initiate your attendance to the Eucharist, your service to ministry, or to start a conversation with your Pastor to ask the needs of the parish.

"People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered. Forgive them anyway, if you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway, if you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies, succeed anyway, if you are honest and sincere people may deceive you, be honest anyway, what you spend years creating,

others could destroy overnight, create anyway, if you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous, be happy anyway, the good you do today will be often be forgotten, do good anyway, give the best you have, and it will never be enough, give your best anyway, in the final analysis, it is between you and God, it was never between you and them anyway." – Mother Teresa

For Parish information and Mass schedule please visit www.elpasodiocese.org, for more information about the meaning and practice of Stewardship please contact Karina Sandoval, Stewardship Coordinator at 915-872-8412 or at ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org

¿Que es Corresponsabilidad? Somos tu y yo.

Por **Karina Sandocal**
Coordinador de Mayordomía

Me pasa muchas veces que las personas me preguntan sobre que significa Corresponsabilidad desde que comencé mi rol de Coordinadora de Corresponsabilidad para la Fundación Católica "¿Es sobre dinero? ¿Que significa? ¿Cual es tu rol exactamente en la Diócesis?"

Es difícil explicar el significado de Corresponsabilidad en una comunidad fronteriza donde nuestra fe ha sido enseñada de parte de nuestras "abuelitas" donde ellas tenían una perspectiva católica diferente a la que vivimos hoy. A veces el concepto de Corresponsabilidad no nos suena familiar a lo que hemos aprendido en el catecismo y en las clases de teología, pero déjenme les explico que Corre-

sponsabilidad somos "Tu y yo." Tu y yo intentando lo posible de poner primero a Dios sobre todas las cosas, somos Tu y yo descubriendo en que somos buenos, ¿en que podemos ayudar a los demás? Somos tu y yo manejando nuestras finanzas y donando a las necesidades de nuestra comunidad parroquial, somos tu y yo intentando lo mejor posible de seguir a Dios en el mundo de hoy.

Los Obispos de los Estados Unidos definen Corresponsabilidad como la donación generosa de nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro, como cristianos Corresponsables, recibimos los dones de Dios por la gracia y los cultivamos responsablemente, los compartimos justamente con los otros y los damos en incremento al Señor. "Que cada uno ponga al servicio de los demás el carisma

que ha recibido y de este modo serán buenos administradores de los diversos dones de Dios." (1 Pedro 4:10)

Básicamente, corresponsabilidad no significa dinero o finanzas, si no mas bien significa que Dios nos ha dado a cada uno de nuestros corazones la libre donación de nosotros mismos a los demás, estamos creados para dar y amar, "El hombre ocupa un lugar único en la creación, el es la imagen de Dios." Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, 355. Parece ser que cuando no nos damos a los demás o nuestra vida de oración se debilita nos convertimos en personas vacías e inquietas porque buscamos maneras de llenar esos vacíos que duelen.

La Fundación Católica te invita con brazos abiertos a que comiences, re-inicies o cual-

quiera que sea tu situación de fe tu deseo de darte a Dios y a los demás. Jamás es tarde para iniciar tu asistencia a Misa, tu servicio al ministerio o comenzar una conversación con el párroco de tu Iglesia para hablar sobre las necesidades de la Iglesia.

"A menudo la gente es irrazonable, ilógica y egocéntrica, perdónalos de todas formas, si eres amable, la gente puede acusarte de egoísta o de tener segundas intenciones, se amable de todas formas, si eres exitoso, ganaras falsos amigos y algunos verdaderos enemigos, ten éxito de todas formas, si eres honesto y franco la gente puede engañarte, se honesto y franco de todas formas, lo que tardas años en construir, alguien puede destruirlo en un instante, construye de todas formas, si encuentras serenidad y felicidad, pueden tener celos, se

feliz de todas formas, el bien que haces hoy, a menudo será olvidado mañana, haz el bien de todas formas, da al mundo lo mejor que tienes y puede que jamás sea suficiente, da al mundo lo mejor que tengas de todas formas, veras, el análisis final es entre tu y Dios, nunca será entre tu y ellos de todas formas." – Santa Teresa de Calcuta.

Para información de las parroquias de El Paso y el horario de Misas favor de visitar la pagina web de la Diócesis de El Paso en www.elpasodiocese.org para mas información sobre el significado y la practica de Corresponsabilidad favor de contactar a Karina Sandoval, Coordinadora en Corresponsabilidad al 915-872-8412 o al ksandoval@catholicfoundationelpaso.org

Special Collection - Coleccion Especial

There will be a Special Collection on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30, 2023 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:

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.

Habrá una Ofrenda Especial Anual el sábado 29 de abril, y el domingo 30 de abril del 2023 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:

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 29 y 30 de abril del 2023, por favor sean tan generosos como les sea posible, sus donaciones benefician a nuestra Iglesia local. Muchas gracias por su apoyo.



The Shepherd's Corner Gifts & Books

Hours of Operation:

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

Wednesday - Friday 9 am -12 pm

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

Saturday 5 - 6

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



CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

NEW! **STEPS OF ST. PAUL/GREECE**
 Includes a 3 Day Aegean Sea Cruise
Fr. Frank Lopez - St. Matthews
September 15 - 24, 2023

ATHENS - THESSALONIKI - PHILIPPI - DELPHI
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Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul as we explore
 the treasures and beauty of this magical country.

\$4,999 Includes R/T Air from El Paso
 Based on Double Occupancy



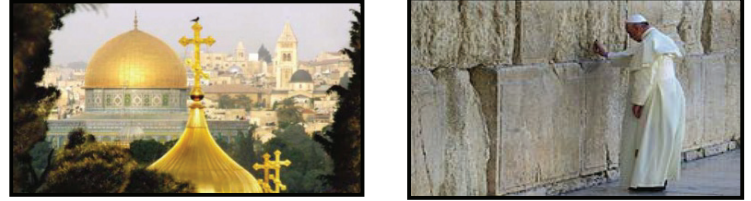
CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Father Ed Roden-Lucero - Holy Land
8 Day Pilgrimage
October 18-25, 2023

JERUSALEM - BETHLEHEM - MT. TABOR - CANA
 HOLY SEPULCHER (Daily Masses)

Renew your Marriage at Cana - Renew your Baptism
 in the Jordan River. And so much more!

\$4,399 Includes R/T Air from El Paso
 Based on Double Occupancy



CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

NEW! *Fr. Nathan Mamo*
CATHOLIC IRELAND
September 26 - October 7, 2023
 (12 Days)

Knock Shrine - Cliffs of Moher - Daily Mass
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SEINE RIVER
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