

the Rio Grande Catholic

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**InSeitz- Into The Faith
I'll Be Home for Christmas**

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SERVING 646,340 CATHOLICS IN THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

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River of Life o Río de Muerte? Border Mass 2017- Misa Fronteriza 2017

By Marco Raposo, Director of Diocesan Ministry of Peace and Justice and Rio Grande Catholic

On November 4, 2017 the Catholic Dioceses of El Paso, Las Cruces and Ciudad Juarez held their annual Border Mass, Misa Fronteriza. Over 500 people attended the mass on the US side of the Rio Grande river and hundreds more on the Mexico side. This joint celebration of mass on the US-MEXICO border by the three border dioceses started in 1998 and was held at the US-MEXICO border fence in Anapra for 18 years. In 2016, the mass was moved to the Rio Grande on the banks of the river near the Santa Fe Bridge but never inside the canal. In 2017, for the first time ever, the mass was conducted inside the canal where Bishop Seitz actually walked in the water of the Rio Grande river. In this time of high polarization around the immigration debate, discrimination, militarization of the border and a wide spread spirit of exclusion in our nation, the Border Mass continues to remind us, missionary disciples of Christ, that we are primarily called to live in communion as one family of God. Borders, in the spirit of the Eucharist, exist not to separate and divide us, but to identify and to produce collaboration between us. Borders are where we encounter each other and create thriving communities in unity and in diversity. Borders are places where we share each other's journey. Bishop Mark Seitz delivered the following inspirational homily to those gathered for this special mass and Rio Grande Catholic would like to share it

with you, our faithful readers. Homily on the River – Border Mass 2017 Bp. Mark J. Seitz

Tenemos mucha agua aquí en el río durante este tiempo. Tengo una pregunta, ¿este,

Rio Grande, es un río de vida, o un río de la muerte? Is this river a river of life, or a river of death? It is in some ways both. Who can forget? We must not forget that crossing the water of this river, just a few months ago, in one

week alone, five people died—five precious creations of God! Si, han muerto muchos en una semana en este río, hermanos nuestros y hermanas nuestras, amados miembros

Continued on Page 5



Bishop Seitz crossing the Rio Grande river to deliver the Eucharist to the clergy in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

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God's Word IS Alive

By: Nancy Morales-Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

These times we are currently living in have challenged our faith to say the least. Most recently the headlines that have graced our phones, TVs and social media feeds have mostly been heart breaking and very discouraging. We have seen acts of hate that are beyond our comprehension. We have seen senseless tragic endings to young people's lives and crimes being committed that are unfathomable. We have seen devastating weather, insensitive behavior by the famous and uneasy relations between world nations. Sometimes it seems as though our prayers are not being heard and quite frankly as though maybe the world really has gone mad. It is hard to feel like it is going to be okay.

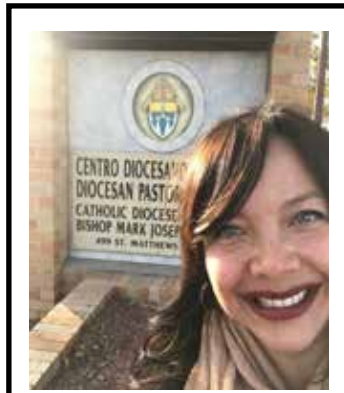
As I take a look back

over this past year I too have faced personal challenges and have had to accept my share of losses. I have lived difficult moments and not so pleasant occasions where things just got a bit tough to put it frankly. Like many of us, I understand the pain caused by change and loss. Sometimes it is hard not to feel a little worn down.

Despite this though I am oddly more hopeful today than I think ever. I guess you could say my optimism is in my newfound perspective or my realignment of my priorities to fit into what God has planned for me.

Or I could just be an overly optimistic fool that can only see the silver lining.

Seriously though, my work here at the Rio Grande Catholic and The Bridge Radio and the work I have been able



Nancy Ramos
Director/Editor

to see in my Diocesan family has given me a sense that our faith, although not perfect, is at work diligently and for the good of all its faithful.

There exists relentless efforts by so many individuals committed to doing God's work daily and I believe this is what keeps me hopeful. Individuals working to glorify God and

lead others to heaven like the Nuns of Perpetual Adoration that pray continuously for our salvation. There exists our women religious doing God's work by choosing to say yes to God and not to mention our diocesan priests and men religious from many different orders also doing God's work as they are committed to live their calling.

I have felt encouraged by having the privilege of getting to learn more about our seminarians as they prepare themselves to be signs of Christ in our communities. I have witnessed remarkable acts of fundraising from our parishes and our Catholic schools to help hurricane victims in Texas and earthquake victims in Mexico. It has been inspiring and an honor to work with ministries and other organizations that

act as advocates for life, the poor, the migrant and the marginalized.

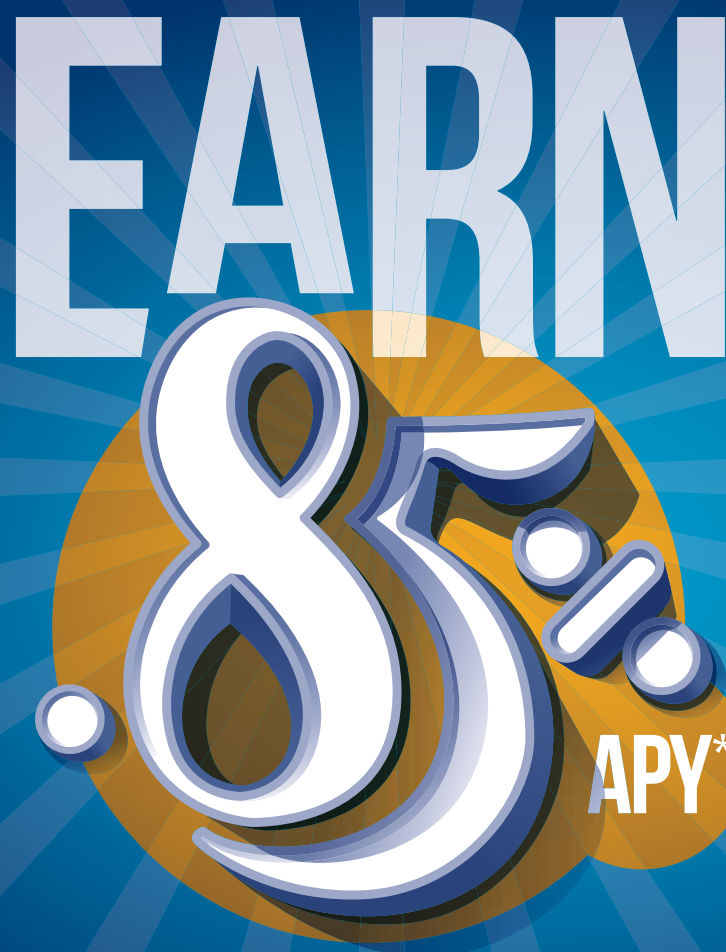
I have had the uplifting opportunity to see faith in action by interacting with several parish staffs about church events and church bazaars that celebrate our faith and our culture. I went out to visit some of El Paso's highest attended events during this summer's Kermes/Bazaar season and saw thousands gathered at Catholic Church celebrations.

Weekly I got a dose of energy when we visited with our Catholic youth and young adults from parish youth ministries celebrating God and life. I have been uplifted by working with our exceptional Catholic schools making their difference for the future of our faith by providing outstanding Catholic faith based education. And who can overlook a most inspiring moment recently when Nike (yes Nike, the world's most recognized athletic brand) documented the international heritage of success our Cathedral High School has earned.

Everyday I am honored to get to work alongside some of the most brilliant lay people working for God as ministry directors and staff at the diocese and at our parishes. We are blessed to work for and have a Bishop that is brave enough to take a stand for all of God's people, even when it is not popular to do so. Every month I put together a newspaper for the thousands that read it with the contributions of so many of these individuals working out in the field spreading the Good News. Daily I see hope resonate with our social media audience as they interact with us and with each other about God and their faith.

These are just a handful of examples of the works and workers of faith that surround me and our community. How can we feel anything but inspired, encouraged and hopeful?

It is the time of year when we welcome the coming of our Christ the Lord and it is a time to celebrate his arrival. Even if the troubles we face as a people of God on this Earth seem to overshadow the good works of so many, our faith tells us that it is in these times when waters are rough that we should cling even more closely to God. Looking back at this year, this Christmas I am reminded that no matter what happens around us or to us, God's Word is alive, true and faithful.



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I'll Be Home for Christmas

One of the songs that is regularly going through my head in this wonderful time of the year as we anticipate the Feast of Christmas is the old melody popularized by Bing Crosby, "I'll Be Home for Christmas". I love the singer and the melody, but more than anything I think the words tap into something deep within me.

A time when the song meant more to me than any other were the years I was studying far away from my home in Wisconsin at the seminary in Dallas. In those first years away from family and friends as well as the beautiful rolling hills and lakes dotting the countryside of Wisconsin I had managed the homesickness pretty well. But the time when the longing became most intense was in those closing days of the fall semester when studies reached a new anxiety producing intensity and Christmas loomed on the horizon.

As I made the long trek by road back home that song would rise from within me and emerge from my mouth with great gusto as I sang along with Bing or did a solo rendition. What joy to finally arrive after 20 hours or more on the road and to be embraced by my parents and brothers and sisters, grandparents and friends! What a wonderful sense of belonging to be at that place which carried the beautiful name, 'home'!

Now, these many years later, the song still moves me whenever I hear or sing it, but the meaning of home has changed. The home in which I grew up was sold long ago. In fact it was torn down to make space for an apartment complex. My mother has died. I love to visit my six siblings who still live in Wisconsin, but clearly Wisconsin is no longer my home. I lived in Dallas for

more than 40 years, but in many different parishes as is common in the life of a priest. It is nice to visit relatives and friends there, but Dallas is not my home.

In the four years I have lived in El Paso I have truly come to love this unique and special place. I have truly felt welcomed here and very much at home. And yet...I hope you will take no offense in me saying El Paso is not my home.

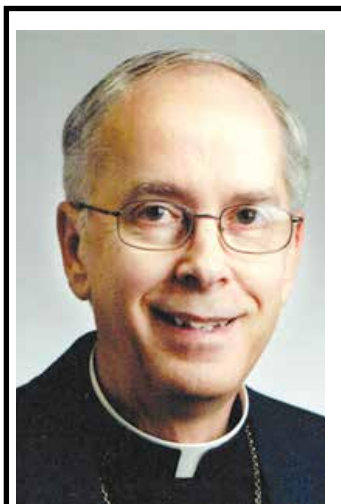
What I have begun to understand is that no place on earth is truly the home for which my heart longs. And that is as it should be. In one of the options for the readings of Christmas morning we may choose from the Gospel of John, Chapter 1, where John tells us according to one translation, "The Word was made flesh and made his 'home' among us...". A more accurate term than the word home, I am told by the scholars, is that he set up his 'tent' among us.

Jesus was not seeking a lasting home when he was born among us in a stable and laid in a feeding trough called a manger. The whole point of a tent is that it can be moved. Jesus was born at Christmas so that he could guide and accompany us to the home that is at the heart of our deepest longings--the place where we all belong, where all God's holy family gather for a never-ending feast. Any place we might build on earth, no matter how comfortable it may seem, is only a tent, a temporary dwelling which shelters us until that lasting home can be ours.

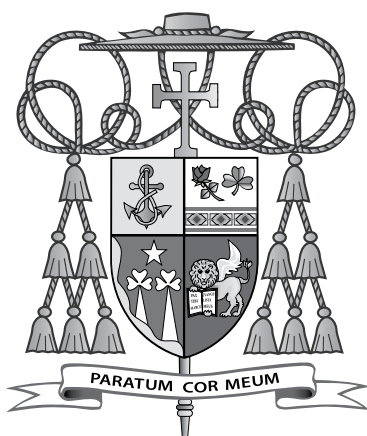
This year when I sing, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" with gusto and joy I will have in mind my one true home in heaven.

Have a very merry and blessed Christmas!

Bp. Mark



*By
Bishop
Mark J. Seitz*



Estaré en Casa para Navidad

Una de las canciones que pasan regularmente por mi cabeza en este maravilloso tiempo del año al anticipar la Fiesta de Navidad es esa vieja canción popularizada por Bing Crosby, "Estaré en casa para Navidad". Me encanta ese cantante y la melodía, pero más que nada pienso que las palabras tocan algo muy profundo dentro de mí.

Un tiempo cuando esa canción significaba más para mí que cualquiera otra fue durante los años en que estudiaba en el seminario de Dallas, muy lejos de mi casa en Wisconsin. En los primeros años lejos de mi familia y amigos, así como de los bellos cerros que rodeaban la vista y los lagos que marcaban el lado rural de Wisconsin; yo había logrado manejar muy bien esa sensación de extrañar mi hogar. Pero el tiempo cuando el extrañar se volvía más intenso, era en esos días finales del semestre de otoño cuando los estudios alcanzaban un nivel de intensa ansiedad y era cuando se veía la Navidad en el horizonte.

Al finalizar el largo viaje por carretera de regreso a casa, esa canción surgiría de mí y saldría de mi boca con un gran gozo, cantándola a dueto con Bing o haciendo una interpretación de solista. Que alegría era llegar finalmente después de 20 o más horas en la carretera; ¡y ser abrazado por mis padres, hermanos y hermanas, abuelos y amigos! ¡Qué sentido tan maravilloso de pertenencia al estar en ese lugar que llevaba un hermoso nombre, 'hogar'!

Ahora, muchos años después, la canción todavía me mueve cuando la escucho o canto, pero el significado de hogar ha cambiado. El hogar donde yo crecí se vendió hace algunos años. De hecho, fue destruido para hacer espacio para un complejo de apartamentos. Mi madre ya murió. A mí me encanta visitar a mis seis hermanos que todavía viven en Wisconsin, pero claramente Wisconsin ya no es mi hogar. Viví en Dallas por más de 40 años, pero en muchas parroquias diferentes

como es común en la vida de un sacerdote. Es agradable visitar familiares y amigos allá, pero Dallas no es mi hogar.

En los cuatro años que he vivido en El Paso he llegado verdaderamente a amar este lugar tan único y especial. Me he sentido verdaderamente bienvenido aquí y me siento muy cómodamente como en mi hogar. Pero, sin embargo... Espero que no se ofendan en que les diga que El Paso no es mi hogar.

Lo que he empezado a aprender es que no hay lugar en la tierra que sea verdaderamente el hogar que mi corazón extraña. Y así es como debería de ser. En una de las opciones de las lecturas de la mañana de Navidad podemos escoger del Evangelio de Juan, Capítulo 1, donde Juan nos dice de acuerdo a una traducción, "La Palabra se hizo carne y puso su 'hogar' entre nosotros...". Un término un poco más preciso que la palabra hogar, según dicen los eruditos, es que él puso su "tienda" entre nosotros.

Jesus no estaba buscando un hogar duradero cuando nació en un establo y fue puesto en un canal de alimentación llamado pesebre. La razón de tener una tienda es que se puede mover. Jesus nació en Navidad para poder guiarnos y acompañarnos a el hogar que está en el corazón de nuestras más profundas añoranzas —el lugar al cual todos pertenecemos, donde toda la familia de Dios se reúne para una nueva y eterna fiesta. Podríamos construir cualquier lugar en la tierra, pero sin importar que tan a gusto pueda parecer, es solo una tienda, una morada temporal que nos protege hasta que podamos llegar finalmente a nuestro hogar.

Este año cuando cante, "Estaré en casa para Navidad" con gusto y alegría, tender en mente mi hogar verdadero en el cielo.

¡Que pasen una feliz y bendecida Navidad!

Obispo Mark



Happy Birthday

Rev. Cong Vo	12-2
Rev. Rolando Fonseca	12-3
Rev. Jose Emilio Flores, OFM	12-5
Rev. John Telles	12-28
Rev. Roberto Coyne, MM	12-31

Ordination Anniversary

Rev. Gleen Carpe	12-6
Rev. Apolinar Samboni	12-6
Rev. Juan Victor Gamino Trejo, MNM	12-8
Rev. Allan Oluoch Alaka	12-14
Rev. Wilson Cuevas	12-20
Rev. Antonio Mena	12-20
Rev. (Francis) Dennis O'Mara, SSC	12-21



Special Collections Month of December

Give to the Retirement Fund for Religious on December 16-17

The Special Offering for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17, 2017.

This national appeal, which began in 1988, is to help religious congregations care for their elderly and infirm sisters, brothers, and older priests. Religious women and

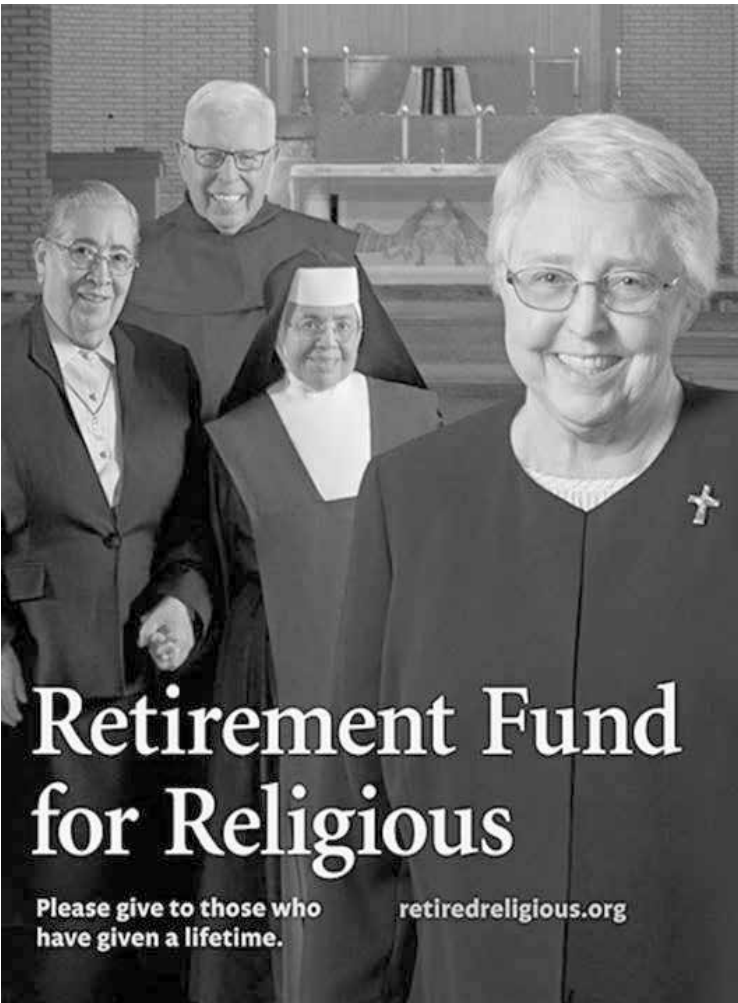
men have served the Church in our area for more than 300 years. There are many Catholics who have benefited from Catholic schools, hospitals, and other institutions staffed and supported by our nation's religious. Giving to the collection for retired religious is a wonderful way to mark Advent.

Colecta Especial para el Fondo de Jubilación de Religiosos Dic 16-17

La Ofrenda Especial para el fondo de la Jubilación de Religiosos se llevará a cabo el sábado 16 de diciembre y el domingo, 17 de diciembre 2017.

Este esfuerzo, a nivel nacional, que empezó en el año 1988, ayuda a congregaciones religiosas en el cuidado de sus hermanas y hermanos sacerdotes, quienes son ancianos, están enfermos

y están jubilados. Los religiosos, tanto hombres como mujeres, han servido a la Iglesia en nuestra área por más de 300 años. Hay muchos católicos que han beneficiado en escuelas, hospitales, y otras instituciones católicas en donde trabajan los religiosos. Durante la celebración del Adviento, por favor sea generoso al dar al Fondo de la Jubilación de Religiosos.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

retiredreligious.org

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Spanish Translator - Deacon Jesus Cardenas
Advertising - Nancy Ramos (915)872-8414
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Fr. Wilson Cuevas

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 newspaper 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.
Printer - PDX Printing.

Rio Grande Catholic on the Web at
www.riograndecatholic.org
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Continued from Cover

de sus familias, ellos vinieron buscando una vida aquí y se murieron en esta agua.

Yes, this has been a river of death, though we know what this river can be. Si sabemos lo que puede ser este río. Es por este río que vivimos aquí. Porque necesitamos la agua para regar regularmente el desierto. We need this river. It has been for centuries a place of life, long before most of our ancestors arrived...this was always a place of life. The native people fished in this river, they drank from this river, they grew things because of this river and we have seen, even today, if you drive along this valley, you can see wherever it goes it brings life. Este es también el río de la vida.

Pero, ahora hemos notado, por nuestros asuntos políticos, hemos creado un jardín de la muerte de este lugar de vida.



**Many Carried Signs on US Side-
*We Are All Immigrants***

¿Que podemos hacer? ¿Qué debe de hacer esta frontera?

Bueno, si consideramos las lecturas de hoy podemos ver claramente algunas maneras en que podemos entender mejor. In the first Reading today, we hear about the body. Saint Paul speaks about the body. Habla Pablo acerca del cuerpo, cada

cuerpo, tiene fronteras, ¿no? Sí, hay muchas fronteras en un cuerpo. Cada cuerpo tiene una pared celular. Every cell has a wall. If it didn't have wall, it wouldn't work. Pero esa pared tiene un secreto para funcionar: es permeable. Permeable, porque las cosas que tienen que pasar pueden pasar. Las cosas que necesitan entrar a la célula pueden entrar. Las cosas que necesitan salir, pueden salir en una manera ordenada y controlada. Si es permeable y ordenado nuestro cuerpo puede ser saludable. Every cell has a wall but that wall has a secret, it is permeable. What needs to enter enters. What needs to go out goes out.

And that allows for the health in our body to be organized, that is controlled, but it allows for free flow in the body and that makes for the health for the body. Podemos esperar que aunque tenemos miles, millones de células ¿somos cuántos cuerpos? Solamente un cuerpo, ¿no? Saint Paul speaks about the body having different functions, different roles, but also being united, being indeed one body. So when we look at a border we acknowledge that there needs to be more than a barrier. That this border more than any body really shows that the place where vital substances cross over should be a place of life that allows passage just as this place allows the passage of this

water, turning green and fertile everything that it touches. So we learn something from Saint Paul and he reminds us that while each of us has our own role to play, we are all part of one body, somos, de verdad, un cuerpo, un cuerpo sano, un cuerpo de mucho valor.

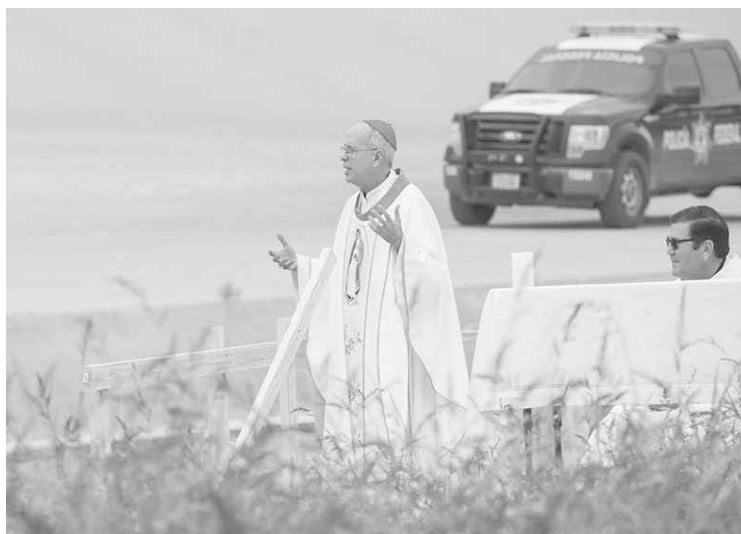
And Jesus in the Gospel



Bishop Seitz-Walking in Water of the Rio Grande (Photo Courtesy Catholic Extension Rich Kalonick)

reminds us that he is not only our brother in the body, he is also our Good Shepherd. El Señor dice que es el Buen Pastor, ¿El Buen Pastor de quién? ¿Solo de algunos? ¿De un grupo pequeño? ¿De un grupo separado? ¡No, de todos! De todos que son hijos y hijas de su Padre Celestial. Somos cómo células. Parte de un Cuerpo de Cristo. Esta no es solamente una manera de hablar, esa es la realidad. Una realidad que podemos ser. No somos dos pueblos totalmente separados. Eso es lo necesario, que necesitamos reflejar esta realidad, cómo estamos sentados aquí en esta misa, sentados como una comunidad de dos lados. And no matter what forces try to divide us, we need to remember that we are one body under one Shepherd, one Creator that has made all and given us each a place in the Body of Christ. Ninguna frontera debe de dividirnos.

Hermanos, tenemos nuestro trabajo. No es suficiente que nos congregamos una vez al año. Para hablar de esta realidad necesitamos trabajar, necesitamos vivir esta creencia nuestra. It's not enough just to talk about it; it's not enough to just gather here at the river once a year. We need to seek to live



Bishop Seitz delivering a heartfelt homily

the strength of this reality so that we can share with the world a different way of seeing, so that they can hear the truth that we are indeed one. We're not just talking about political promises here, were talking about decisions that are life and death for those young people that cross this river, life and death for so many that die in the desert; the life and death for thousands of people seeking an opportunity to live in peace. Entonces, necesitamos compartir lo que experimentamos aquí en el río, y nosotros como iglesia de Dios, todos nosotros, necesitamos

vivir esta realidad. Enseñar y demostrar lo que queremos, demostrar nuestro servicio a inmigrantes y refugiados.

Today as we celebrate this Mass, I have rededicated myself to this work.

Ustedes, ¿están listos para de nuevo dedicar su vida a servicio de nuestros hermanos y hermanas? ¿Sí o no? (Crowd Response: "Si!")

¡Excelente! ¡Gracias! I, for my part, promise to do what it takes; to walk on water if necessary...or, if I can't do that, to walk through water in service to our migrant brothers and sisters.



Signs Held Across The Border
Ella Va A Planchar Muy Humildemente La Ropa Que Goza La Mujer Hermosa del Terrateniente



Procession included a UTEP student carrying a backpack to represent the plight of The DREAMers

Maryknoll Missionaries In Our Midst

By: Sister Janet Gildea, SC, Liason for Women Religious

What are Maryknoll Missionary Sisters doing in El Paso? Aren't they for the foreign missions? Does El Paso need missionaries? The Maryknoll Missionary Sisters were founded in 1912 as the first U.S.-based congregation of Sisters to serve in the foreign missions. Sisters Lelia Mattingly and Margaret Mary Sierra arrived in El Paso two years ago to help serve the refugees arriving from Central America and also to offer support for the women's cooperative, Centro Santa Catalina. Sisters Janet Miller and Kathi Barbee followed this past spring. All are inspired by their congregational mission imperative that "requires partnering, collaborating and networking...to respond effectively to emerging and urgent needs, particularly on the margins of society" (Maryknoll Sisters Mission Statement). Each Maryknoll Sister's story gives witness to the power of God's love at work in a life open to the mission of Jesus, doing more than she could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Sister "Lil" grew up in Louisville, KY with her mom, dad and four brothers. "I think part of my draw to religious life was the desire to have some sisters!" she quipped. She joined Maryknoll in 1960 at age 19 with almost 130 other postulants. Her first "mission" assignment was to the finance office of the Maryknoll Fathers! In fact, it would be almost eleven years until her first foreign mission in Bolivia. By then she had acquired a nursing degree and some experience at the Frontier Nursing Service in the hills of eastern Kentucky. In 1971 Sister Lil joined her Sisters in Bolivia, delayed in Peru because of a violent coup. She studied Spanish for four months before moving to another mission in the Amazon region of northern Bolivia that she had dreamed about. Over the next six years she learned of the joyfulness and simplicity of the people but also the isolation and the exploitation they experienced working for the rubber and nut merchants.

"How blessed I was to be in Latin America during those years!" Sister Lil remarks. I fell in love with the people but I also realized the economic and military oppression they experienced and the connection to the policies and actions of the United States. El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua were all embroiled in civil wars. "Our Sisters were on mission there, accompanying the

people amid all the violence." On one trip back to the mission in Bolivia she stopped over in El Salvador where she spent time with the missionaries who were martyred less than a year later on December 2, 1980. The memory of the love, commitment and sacrifice of Maryknoll Lay Missioner Jean Donovan, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and the Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke brings Sister Lil to tears.

Over the next years there were several stints of service in Bolivia, now accompanied by Sister Maggie, interspersed with service at Maryknoll and time with her ailing mother in Kentucky. Near Louisville she volunteered with numbers of immigrants from Mexico, displaced due to the impact of NAFTA, who came to work in the tobacco industry and stayed for factory work. These experiences of accompaniment and solidarity led her to engage in the effort to raise consciousness in the United States and eventually to go to prison for six months in 2005 for civil disobedience at the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. It was the 25th anniversary of the deaths of the women martyrs of El Salvador whose murders were linked to the school.

"We need to do more mission in the United States and that's why I have come to the border." She worked with Borderlinks in Arizona for four years before returning to Bolivia one more time to serve in pastoral care and prison ministry. When she realized that it was time to come back to the U.S. it occurred to her that "El Paso is as close as I can get to Latin America!"

Sister Maggie grew up in Albuquerque, NM hearing the stories of a retired Maryknoll priest who came to raise money for the missions. Her aunt was his cook and Maggie spent summers with her. "But he never mentioned the Maryknoll Sisters to me!" she grins. It was the experience of an acquaintance who entered Maryknoll that led Maggie to consider the congregation while she was working as a nurse in Albuquerque. The aspect of foreign mission was not a particular draw for Maggie in choosing Maryknoll but the progressive nature of the congregation drew her and she entered in 1977. "I didn't know exactly what I was saying 'yes' to. I didn't know what would happen to me in Bolivia or Nicaragua or in the missions." She went to Bolivia in 1979,



Maryknoll Sisters

serving among the Aymara people of the altiplano for five years. Sister Maggie professed her perpetual vows in Bolivia in 1986. Before accepting a temporary assignment in Nicaragua, she decided to study karate in La Paz for four months "just in case" she needed a way of defending herself at her new mission. The time in Nicaragua was difficult but Sister didn't have to use her karate! She did use her talents as a puppeteer, entertaining children and those who begged for food in the marketplace of Ocatál. "People need food and they need clothing sometimes, but the human spirit also needs to play and to laugh and to have something beautiful touch them."

Sister Maggie returned to the States for service at Maryknoll and then studied chaplaincy at a mental health facility in Texas. Bolivia beckoned again and she returned to La Paz in the Altiplano with Sister Lil, using her pastoral and nursing skills there for the next five years. She returned to the States to help again at Maryknoll, this time as a social worker, before going home to Albuquerque to care for her mother over the following ten years. Sister also served as a chaplain at the University of New Mexico children's cancer unit and ICU. She carried a supply of jumping frogs that she made from business cards that were part of her "pray and play" toolkit. With her mother's passing, Sister Maggie was able to help other family members with childcare until she and Sister Lil together discerned the call to mission in El Paso. Being close to her family in New Mexico was a definite draw for Sister Maggie. There are many avenues for service and

now Sister assists at Centro Santa Catalina, a cooperative for women living in poverty in Juarez. She is also developing contacts to build solar ovens that will decrease the women's need to purchase gas or wood for cooking and help the environment as well.

Sister Janet felt the call to mission while in a high school formation program with the Franciscan Sisters in Oldenburg, Indiana. "I wanted to go to their mission in New Guinea. That's where my passion for mission began. I used to pop popcorn for the missions!" She finished her college education and took a teaching position in Indiana but her passion for the foreign missions persisted. Her first contact with the congregation was through the Maryknoll mission magazine. She sent a request for information and the next thing she knew she was entering the Maryknoll Mission Sisters in 1974! "We could put down our top two choices for world areas of mission and I got my first choice: Tanzania in Africa." It would be her overseas training program to develop skills for community and overseas mission. She served at a rural secondary school for two years, teaching in English but learning Kiswahili. She served as a pastoral minister for two years in another part of Tanzania before returning to Maryknoll to prepare for making her perpetual vows.

Sister Janet responded to the call for Sisters in the new mission in Zimbabwe which had just become an independent nation. "At that time we would go into a country at the invitation of the Church or the government or both," she explained. "We

waited for the invitation- the call to mission." Sister Janet served in Zimbabwe for the next thirteen years. It was there that she discovered her passion for care of the Earth where she taught Agriculture to prepare students to live in the rural areas. "I took a teacher training course in agriculture and I learned all aspects of gardening, raising chickens and pigs...all practical subjects..." These practical hands-on skills Sister shared with the students to improve their lives as subsistence farmers. Eventually there were enough Zimbabweans trained as Agriculture teachers and so as is the way of Maryknoll, Sister Janet looked for the next unmet need.

From that point onwards Sister's ministry has been about care of creation. She was recruited by another Maryknoll Sister for a biodiversity project in the rainforests of Panama. After five years, just as she was just settling in, as much as any missionary ever settles, she was asked by the congregational leadership to return to Maryknoll, in New York for the project of "greening" the Sisters' center. "If it had been anything but the environment I would have said 'no' immediately." For the next ten years Sister Janet helped direct the Sisters' efforts to live more in harmony with the environment. For the hundredth anniversary of the congregation in 2012 they put 43 acres into a land conservation easement. Sister was also charged with maintenance of the grounds to institute sustainable land practices at Maryknoll.

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Misioneras de Maryknoll en Medio de Nosotros

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

¿Qué están haciendo las Hermanas Misioneras de Maryknoll en El Paso? ¿No son para las misiones en el extranjero? ¿El Paso necesita misioneros? Las Hermanas Misioneras de Maryknoll se fundaron en 1912 como la primera congregación de Hermanas con sede en los EE. UU. para servir en las misiones extranjeras. Las Hermanas Lilia Mattingly y Margaret Mary Sierra llegaron a El Paso hace dos años para ayudar a servir a los refugiados que llegaban de América Central. Las hermanas Janet Miller y Kathi Barbee siguieron esta primavera pasada. Todas están inspiradas en el imperativo de su misión congregacional que “requiere asociación, colaboración y trabajando entre la red ... para responder de manera efectiva para las necesidades emergentes y urgentes, particularmente en los márgenes de la sociedad” (Declaración de Misión de Hermanas Maryknoll). Cada historia de la Hermana Maryknoll da testimonio del poder del amor de Dios en el trabajo en una vida abierta a la misión de Jesús, haciendo más de lo que ella podría pedir o imaginar (Efesios 3: 20-21).

La hermana “Lil” creció en Louisville, KY con su madre, su padre y sus cuatro hermanos. “¡Creo que parte de mi atracción por la vida religiosa era el deseo de tener hermanas!”, ella bromeó. Se unió a Maryknoll en 1960 a los 19 años con casi otros 130 postulantes. ¡Su primera misión como misionera fue para la oficina de finanzas de los Padres de Maryknoll! De hecho, pasarían casi once años hasta su primera misión en el extranjero en Bolivia. Para entonces había adquirido un título de enfermería y una cierta experiencia en el Frontier Nursing Service en los cerros del este de Kentucky. En 1971, la Hermana Lil se unió con sus Hermanas en Bolivia, retrasadas en Perú a causa de un golpe violento. Estudió español durante cuatro meses antes de llegar al hospital de la jungla con el que había soñado. “La gente llegaron a nosotros por el río en canoas. Nos ocupamos de las mordeduras de serpientes y heridas de machete. ¡Esa fue toda una experiencia!”

Se mudó a otra misión en la frontera con Brasil durante seis años, comentando “¡Qué bendición tuve de estar en América Central durante esos años!” El Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua estaban todos involucrados en guerras civiles. “Nuestras Hermanas estaban en misión allí, acompañando a la gente en medio de toda

la violencia”. En un viaje de regreso a la misión en Bolivia se detuvo en El Salvador donde pasó tiempo con las misioneras que fueron martirizadas poco tiempo después de un año del 2 de diciembre, 1980. El recuerdo del amor, el compromiso y el sacrificio de la Misionera Laica Maryknoll Jean Donovan, la Hermana Ursulina Dorothy Kazel y las Hermanas Maryknoll Ita Ford y Maura Clarke hacen llorar a la Hermana Lil.

Durante los años siguientes hubo varios períodos de servicio en Bolivia, ahora acompañados por la Hermana Maggie, intercalados con el servicio en Maryknoll y el tiempo con su madre enferma en Kentucky. Cerca de Louisville se ofreció voluntariamente con un número de inmigrantes de México, desplazados debido al impacto del TLCAN, que vino a trabajar en la industria del tabaco y se quedó para trabajar en la fábrica. Estas experiencias de acompañamiento y solidaridad la llevaron a involucrarse en el esfuerzo de crear conciencia en los Estados Unidos y, finalmente, a ir a la cárcel durante seis meses en 2005 por desobediencia civil en la Escuela de las Américas en Ft. Benning, Georgia. Era el 25 aniversario de la muerte de las mujeres mártires de El Salvador cuyas asesinadas estaban vinculadas a la escuela.

“Necesitamos hacer más misiones en los Estados Unidos y es por eso que he llegado a la frontera”. Trabajó con Borderlinks en Arizona durante cuatro años antes de regresar a Bolivia una vez más para servir en la pastoral y el ministerio de prisiones. Cuando se dio cuenta de que era hora de regresar a los EE. UU., se le ocurrió que “¡El Paso está lo más cerca que puedo llegar a Centroamérica!”

La hermana Maggie creció en Albuquerque, NM escuchando las historias de un sacerdote jubilado de Maryknoll que vino a recaudar dinero para las misiones. Su tía era su cocinera y Maggie pasaba los veranos con ella. “¡Pero nunca me mencionó a las Hermanas de Maryknoll!”, ella decía sonriendo. Fue la experiencia de una conocida que ingresó a Maryknoll lo que llevó a Maggie a considerar a la congregación mientras trabajaba como enfermera en Albuquerque. El aspecto de la misión en el extranjero no fue una atracción especial para Maggie al elegir a Maryknoll, pero la naturaleza progresiva de la congregación la atrajo



Hermana Maggie and Hermana Kathi con Horno Solar

y ella ingresó en 1977. “No sabía exactamente a qué le estaba respondiendo que” sí “. No sabía lo que me sucedería en Bolivia o Nicaragua o en las misiones “. Se fue a Bolivia en 1979, sirviendo entre la gente Aymara del altiplano durante cinco años. La Hermana Maggie profesó sus votos perpetuos en Bolivia en 1986. Antes de aceptar una asignación temporal en Nicaragua, decidió estudiar karate en La Paz durante cuatro meses, “por si acaso”, necesitaba una forma de defenderse en su nueva misión. ¡El tiempo en Nicaragua fue difícil, pero la Hermana no tuvo que usar su karate! Ella utilizó sus talentos como titiriteros, entreteniendo a los niños y a los que suplicaban comida en el mercado de Ocatál. “Las personas necesitan comida y a veces necesitan ropa, pero el espíritu humano también necesita jugar y reír, y tener algo hermoso que les toque”.

La hermana Maggie regresó a los Estados Unidos para el servicio en Maryknoll y luego estudió capellanía en un centro de salud mental en Texas. Bolivia hizo señas nuevamente y utilizó sus habilidades pastorales y de enfermería en el altiplano durante siete años. Ella regresó a los Estados Unidos para ayudar nuevamente en Maryknoll, esta vez como trabajadora social, antes de regresar a su hogar en Albuquerque para cuidar a su madre durante los siguientes diez años. La hermana también se ofreció como capellán en el hospital infantil de la unidad de cáncer. Llevaba una provisión de ranas saltarinas que hizo con tarjetas de visita que formaban parte de su juego de herramientas “Orar y jugar”.

Con la muerte de su madre, la Hermana Maggie pudo ayudar a otros miembros de la familia con cuidado de niños hasta que ella y la Hermana Lil juntas discernieron el llamado a la misión en El Paso. Estar cerca de su familia en Nuevo México fue un atractivo definitivo para la Hermana Maggie. Hay muchas avenidas para el servicio y ahora la Hermana asiste al Centro Santa Catalina, una cooperativa para mujeres que viven en pobreza en Juárez. También está desarrollando contactos para construir hornos solares que disminuirán la necesidad de las mujeres de comprar gas o madera para cocinar y también ayudan al medio ambiente.

La Hermana Janet sintió la llamada a la misión mientras estaba en un programa de formación de la escuela secundaria con las Hermanas Franciscanas en Oldenburg, Indiana. “Quería ir a su misión en Nueva Guinea. Ahí es donde comenzó mi pasión por la misión. ¡Solía hacer palomitas de maíz para las misiones! “Terminó su educación universitaria y tomó un puesto de maestra en Indiana, pero su pasión por las misiones extranjeras persistió. Su primer contacto con la congregación fue a través de la revista misionera Maryknoll. Ella envió una solicitud de información y lo siguiente que supo fue que estaba ingresando a las Hermanas Misioneras Maryknoll en 1974. “Podríamos dejar nuestras dos opciones principales para las áreas mundiales de misión y obtuve mi primera opción: Tanzania en África”. Sería su programa de capacitación en el extranjero para desarrollar habilidades para la comunidad

y la misión en el extranjero. Ella sirvió en una escuela secundaria rural durante dos años, enseñando en inglés pero aprendiendo kiswahili. Sirvió como ministra pastoral durante dos años en otra parte de Tanzania antes de regresar a Maryknoll para prepararse para hacer sus votos perpetuos.

La hermana Janet respondió al llamado a las Hermanas en la nueva misión en Zimbabwe que acaba de convertirse en una nación independiente. “En ese momento iríamos a un país por invitación de la Iglesia o el gobierno o ambos”, explicó. “Esperamos la invitación, la llamada a la misión”. La hermana Janet sirvió en Zimbabwe durante los siguientes trece años. Fue allí donde descubrió su pasión por el cuidado de la Tierra, donde enseñó Agricultura para preparar a los estudiantes para vivir en las zonas rurales. “Realicé un curso de capacitación docente en agricultura y aprendí todos los aspectos de la jardinería, la cría de pollos y cerdos ... todas las materias prácticas ...” Estas prácticas prácticas que Sister compartió con los estudiantes para mejorar sus mentiras como agricultores de subsistencia. Eventualmente hubo suficientes zimbabuenses entrenados como profesores de agricultura y, como es el camino de Maryknoll, la hermana Janet buscó la siguiente necesidad insatisfecha.

Desde ese momento en adelante, el ministerio de la Hermana se ha centrado en el cuidado de la creación. Ella fue reclutada por otra Hermana Maryknoll para un proyecto de biodiversidad en las selvas tropicales de Panamá. Después

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Coming to the border has offered a new bioregion for Sister Janet to discover. While helping Sister Lil offer hospitality for the refugees, she also enrolled in the Master Gardeners program run by the County Extension Services. She volunteers at the Mustard Seed Café community garden which has been a great place to network with others who share her interest in sustainability and care for creation. From farming in Zimbabwe to the rainforests of Panama, now Sister Janet is learning how to make the desert blossom! She pointed out the connection between care of migrants and care of the earth in the opening of Bishop Mark’s pastoral letter, Sorrow and Mourning Flee Away: “The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water...And the ransomed of the Lord shall enter Zion singing...” (Isaiah 35:7) It all comes together here at the border.

Sister Kathi came to her vocation as a Maryknoll Missionary Sister in Africa

via a fascinating path. Raised in the Methodist faith in the Pacific Northwest, she wanted to teach as a missionary in Africa but wasn’t sure how that could happen. She responded to an advertisement for teachers in Australia and was assigned to a school in Melbourne administered by Sisters of Mercy. “That was the first time I met Catholic nuns and they were all in habit!” After three years she learned of an opportunity to teach in Zambia on the African continent at a Catholic mission with the Marianist priests and brothers. It was on that mission that Kathi took instructions. “I left Africa a Catholic!” she smiled. Also, while sifting through the donations for the school library, she came across Safari by Jet, a book written by Maryknoll Sister Maria Del Rey. “What is this Maryknoll? That’s the first time I ever heard of it!” she recalled. While traveling in the Holy Land on the way back to Seattle after two years in Zambia, Kathi met two Maryknoll Sisters at a hostel in Bethlehem. They were on their way to their mission assignments in Tanzania. The encounter eventually led to Kathi’s entrance to the congregation in

1981, but not before a teaching stint in a village among the native peoples of Alaska near the Arctic Ocean! Sister Kathi eventually returned to Africa as a Maryknoll Sister, to a new mission in Kenya in the desert near the border with Somalia. For five years she worked in adult education using the methods of Paolo Freire, “Training for Transformation”. Then she joined up with Sister Janet in Zimbabwe. “She taught agriculture and I taught English.”. On another mission, when the HIV/AIDS epidemic created special needs for children whose parents were unable to provide for their education, Sister Kathi helped establish a learning center to assist them in re-entering the public school system. In 2013 she returned to Maryknoll Sister’s center to serve in the mission educational programs offered by the congregation. As she began to discern the next call to mission, Sister Kathi was drawn to the opportunities at the border to assist women at the margins in vulnerable situations. “The core of Christianity is being with the marginalized as Jesus was,” she reflects, “and there is so much healing that needs



Sister Maggie with Solar Oven

to be done here. It’s also about breaking down barriers.” “Mission is everywhere. It is about solidarity and raising awareness,” Sister Lil concludes. The Church is

missionary by her very nature. These Maryknoll Missionary Sisters are here among us to remind us that every baptized Christian is called to share in the mission of Jesus.

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de cinco años, justo cuando acababa de establecerse, tanto como cualquier misionero se calmaba, el liderazgo congregacional le pidió que volviera a Maryknoll, en Nueva York para el proyecto de “enverdecimiento” del centro de las Hermanas. “Si hubiera sido otra cosa que el medio ambiente, hubiera dicho” no “inmediatamente”. Durante los siguientes diez años, la Hermana Janet ayudó a dirigir los esfuerzos de las Hermanas para vivir más en armonía con el medioambiente. Para el centésimo aniversario de la congregación en 2012, pusieron 43 acres en una servidumbre de conservación de tierras. Hermana también fue acusada de mantener los terrenos para instituir prácticas de tierras sostenibles en Maryknoll.

Llegar a la frontera ha ofrecido una nueva biorregión para descubrir a la hermana Janet. Mientras ayudaba a la hermana Lil a ofrecer hospitalidad a los refugiados, también se inscribió en el programa Master Gardeners administrado por los Servicios de Extensión del Condado. Ella es voluntaria en el jardín comunitario Mustard Seed Café, que ha sido un gran lugar para establecer contactos con otras personas que comparten su interés en la sostenibilidad y el cuidado de la creación. Desde la agricultura en Zimbabwe hasta las selvas tropicales de Panamá, ¡ahora la Hermana Janet está aprendiendo a hacer

florecer el desierto! Señaló la conexión entre el cuidado de los migrantes y el cuidado de la tierra en la apertura de la carta pastoral del Obispo Mark, Sorrow and Mourning Huir: “Las arenas ardientes se convertirán en estanques, y el suelo sediento, manantiales de agua ... Y los rescatados de el Señor entrará en Sión cantando ... “(Isaías 35: 7) Todo se junta aquí en la frontera. La Hermana Kathi llegó a su vocación como Hermana Misionera de Maryknoll en África a través de un camino fascinante. Educada en la fe metodista en el noroeste del Pacífico, quería enseñar como misionera en África, pero no estaba segura de cómo podría suceder eso. Ella respondió a un anuncio para maestros en Australia y fue asignada a una escuela en Melbourne administrada por Sisters of Mercy. “¡Esa fue la primera vez que conocí a monjas católicas y todas estaban de hábito!”. Después de tres años, se enteró de la oportunidad de enseñar en Zambia en el continente africano en una misión católica con los Sacerdotes y Hermanos Marianistas. Fue en esa misión que Kathi tomó las instrucciones. “¡Dejé África como católica!”, ella sonrió. Además, mientras revisaba las donaciones para la biblioteca de la escuela, se encontró con Safari by Jet, un libro escrito



por Maryknoll Hermana Maria Del Rey. “¿Qué es esto Maryknoll? ¡Es la primera vez que oigo hablar de eso! “, ella recordó. Mientras viajaba en Tierra Santa en el camino de regreso a Seattle después de dos años en Zambia, Kathi conoció a dos Hermanas Maryknoll en un albergue en Belén. Estaban en camino a sus misiones asignadas en Tanzania. El encuentro eventualmente condujo a la entrada de Kathi a la congregación en 1981, ¡pero no antes de una temporada de enseñanza en un pueblo entre los pueblos nativos de Alaska cerca del Océano Ártico! La hermana Kathi finalmente regresó a África como una hermana de Maryknoll, a una nueva misión en Kenia en el desierto cerca de la frontera

con Somalia. Durante cinco años trabajó en la educación de adultos utilizando los métodos de Paolo Freire, “Training for Transformation”. Luego se unió a la hermana Janet en Zimbabwe. “Ella enseñó agricultura y yo enseñé inglés”. En otra misión, cuando la epidemia de VIH / SIDA creó necesidades especiales para los niños cuyos padres no pudieron proporcionar su educación, la Hermana Kathi ayudó a establecer un centro de aprendizaje para ayudarlos a reingresar al sistema escolar público. En 2013 regresó al centro de Maryknoll Sister para servir en los programas educativos de la misión que ofrece la congregación. Cuando comenzó a discernir la próxima llamada a la misión,

la Hermana Kathi se sintió atraída por las oportunidades en la frontera para ayudar a las mujeres marginadas en situaciones de vulnerabilidad. “El núcleo del cristianismo es estar con los marginados como lo fue Jesús”, reflexiona, “y hay tanta curación que debe hacerse aquí. También se trata de derribar barreras “. “La misión está en todas partes. Se trata de la solidaridad y la sensibilización “, concluye la hermana Lil. La Iglesia es misionera por su propia naturaleza. Estas hermanas misioneras de Maryknoll están aquí entre nosotros para recordarnos que cada cristiano bautizado está llamado a compartir la misión de Jesús.

Destroying My Freedom-- in the Name of Freedom?

In an August 2015 column in The Washington Post, George F. Will argued in favor of physician-assisted suicide, summing up his perspective this way: "There is nobility in ...affirming at the end the distinctive human dignity of autonomous choice."

His conclusion, however, raises several important questions: Shouldn't death-dealing actions directed against ourselves be seen as a deep repudiation of our autonomy, insofar as suicide eliminates our personal freedom once and for all? If our ability to freely make choices is among the highest of our human faculties, isn't it a radical contradiction to mount an attack on that autonomy through suicidal acts? Isn't there a certain absurdity to marshaling our freedom to obliterate our freedom?

Autonomy is often described as being able to do what we want, being "self-governing" and "self-directing." Authentic freedom, though, doesn't actually mean the ability to do whatever we want; it means the ability to do what we ought, in accord with who we are. To grow in freedom and autonomy means acting in such a

way that we attend to, and respect the designs written into our nature. Otherwise, autonomy collapses into a caricature of its real meaning, or worse, into raw violence and forcefulness against ourselves or others.

We can consider a simple example: exercising autonomy with respect to our car doesn't mean doing whatever we want with it, like pouring milk in the gas tank, and orange juice in the oil reservoir. If we intentionally sideswipe other vehicles as we drive along, and strike pedestrians on the sidewalk, these would be acts of violence, not acts of "autonomy" or "free choice." Authentic freedom with an automobile implies using it in an ordered way to get from A to B, driving safely and legally, and even doing the right maintenance and upkeep on it, maintaining respect for the way the vehicle was designed and intended to be used.

Freedom and autonomy regarding what we eat and drink, to consider another example, doesn't mean we can consume anything at all. We can legitimately choose between apples

and oranges, but not between milk and drain cleaner. If, in the name of autonomy, we were to declare that we're free to do whatever we want with our bodies, and we ingested drain cleaner on purpose to make ourselves ill, we would actually undermine and surrender our personal autonomy. We would no longer be able to do what we might wish to do, as our body rebelled and constrained us to a stretcher on our way to the emergency room or poison control center.

Looking at a misguided choice of this kind reminds us how our autonomy is never absolute. This kind of choice would also raise doubts in the minds of those who cared about us regarding our mental and moral sanity. To deem self-inflicted sickness to be desirable would itself be a sickness, a kind of lie, spoken in the name of a perverted sense of being free to do whatever I want, even to the point of self-harm or self-annihilation.

The decision to intentionally end our own life by an act of suicide (whether alone or with the assistance of others) pivots our uniquely human power to make sound

choices into a seditious power directed against our own good. To self-inflict death in collusion with a physician would constitute a profoundly disordered decision, and a radically corrosive attack on our autonomy. Rather than something dignified, this abuse of freedom is ethically indefensible.

If sane people can recognize that drinking poison to get ourselves sick is wrong, how can we feign that ingesting drugs or using other means to kill ourselves is somehow right and noble? Abusing our own freedom or autonomy isn't free or autonomous; instead, it enslaves and diminishes us. When medical professionals pivot in their role of healing and curing, and instead become accomplices in terminating the sick and vulnerable, they, too, undermine their own autonomy and corrupt their own professional freedom to genuinely care

and "first do no harm."

True autonomy is not limitless or absolute, but is necessarily conditioned by the truth of who we are and the way we function. Properly exercised, our personal freedom manifests a genuine nobility, and a real dignity. We should never will that our final "autonomous choice" be directed against that noble dignity. Rather, we must flee the tyranny of false autonomy if our lives are to be authentically marked by human freedom in its full splendor.

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




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Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

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Returning God's Gifts helps us follow the teachings of Pope Francis by reaching out to those in need.

1,500 COLLEGE STUDENTS AT UTEP AND SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATE IN THE CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

350 FAMILIES HELPED BY CATHOLIC COUNSELING SERVICES

5,000 FAMILIES SERVED BY THE PROGRAMS OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

7,000 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

ALCANCE PASTORAL

Regresar los dones de Dios nos ayuda a seguir las enseñanzas del Papa Francisco, llegando hasta los más necesitados.

1,500 ESTUDIANTES UNIVERSITARIOS EN UTEP Y LA UNIVERSIDAD ESTATAL DE SUL ROSS PARTICIPAN EN EL MINISTERIO CATÓLICO EN CAMPUS

350 FAMILIAS SON ATENDIDAS POR EL MINISTERIO DE SERVICIOS DE CONSEJERÍA CATÓLICA

5,000 FAMILIAS SON ATENDIDAS POR LOS PROGRAMAS DEL MINISTERIO DE MATRIMONIO Y VIDA FAMILIAR

7,000 NIÑOS, JÓVENES Y JÓVENES ADULTOS PARTICIPAN EN LAS ACTIVIDADES DEL MINISTERIO DE JÓVENES Y JÓVENES ADULTOS



EDUCATION AND FORMATION \$462,350

The Bishop's Appeal ensures that we are able to continue the religious education of our children and you.

17,000 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PARISH CATECHISM PROGRAMS

3,100 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

3,000 INDIVIDUALS TAKING COURSES FROM TEPEYAC INSTITUTE

EDUCACIÓN Y FORMACIÓN

La Campaña del Obispo asegura que podamos continuar con la educación religiosa de nuestros hijos y de usted.

17,000 NIÑOS INSCRITOS EN PROGRAMAS DE CATEQUESIS PARROQUIAL

3,100 ESTUDIANTES MATRICULADOS EN ESCUELAS CATÓLICAS

3,000 PERSONAS TOMANDO CURSOS DEL INSTITUTO TEPEYAC

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¡Gracias! MAKE YOUR END OF YEAR GIFT AT ELPASODIOCESEFOUNDATION.ORG *Thank You!*

catholic legacy fund



2017 HIGHLIGHTS

CATHOLIC LEGACY FUND GREW BY **\$1 MILLION** THROUGH GIFTS AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND HITS **\$1 MILLION GOAL** WITH A LEGACY GIFT FROM FRANK + AND BARBARA + GORMAN

LUZ ULRICKSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED FOR CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

FOUNDATION NOW MANAGES **EIGHT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

\$186,775 IN FINANCIAL AID AWARDED TO **81** FOUNDATION SCHOLARS ATTENDING EL PASO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND REACHES **\$2 MILLION**

\$62,668 IN ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTIONS FOR SEMINARIAN EDUCATION

\$741,061 IN NEW GIFTS

\$477,691 AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTIONS TO PARISHES, MINISTRIES, AND SCHOOLS

\$117,845 RAISED AT THE 11TH ANNUAL FOUNDATION OF FAITH DINNER

GROWTH OF CATHOLIC LEGACY FUND



\$13.7 MILLION IN ENDOWED FUNDS

SOFÍA LARKIN | MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER | SLARKIN@ELPASODIOCESE.ORG

stewardship

The Office of Stewardship for the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso provides pastoral resources for parishes in need of stewardship practices, communicates a stewardship way of life throughout the diocese and develops diocesan activities to engage Catholics in the faith life of their parish communities.

La Oficina de Corresponsabilidad para la Fundación de la Diócesis del Paso provee servicios pastorales a parroquias en necesidad de prácticas corresponsables, comunica un estilo de vida corresponsable a través de la diócesis y desarrolla actividades diocesanas para cautivar a los feligreses en su vida comunitaria.

MASS ATTENDANCE COUNT (OCTOBER 21-22, 2017)

The Diocese of El Paso conducted a Mass Attendance Count in all parishes on the weekend of October 21 and 22, 2017. This initiative counted how many parishioners are attending Mass, including all Masses held that weekend in English, Spanish, and Bilingually.

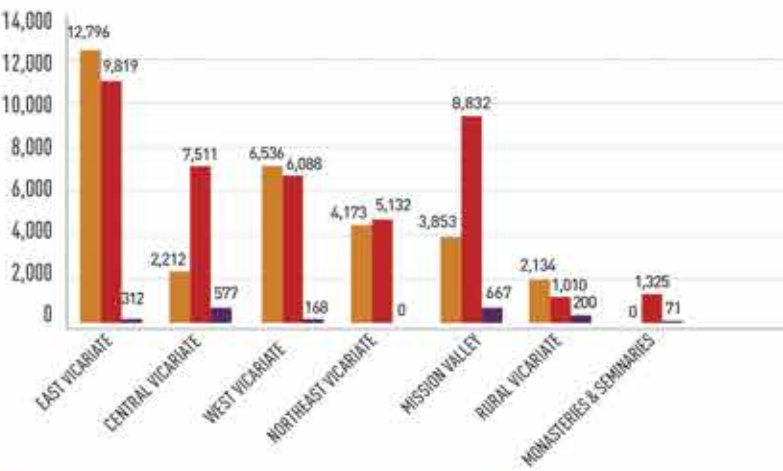
La Diócesis del Paso realizó un Conteo de Asistencia en Misa en todas las parroquias el fin de semana del 21 y 22 de Octubre del 2017. Esta nueva iniciativa hizo un conteo de cuantos feligreses asisten a Misa incluyendo todas las Misas del fin de semana en Inglés, Español y bilingües.

MASS ATTENDANCE TOTAL 73,806



Parishioners Attending English Masses/ Feligreses Asistiendo Misa en Inglés
Parishioners Attending Spanish Masses/ Feligreses Asistiendo Misa en Español
Parishioners Attending Bilingual Masses/ Feligreses Asistiendo Misa Bilingüe
Other/Otra

MASSES IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

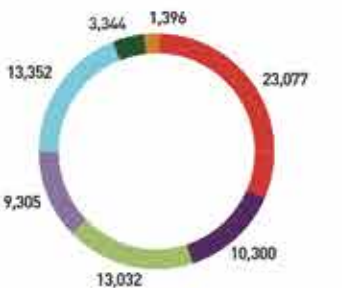


Parishioners Attending English Masses/ Feligreses Asistiendo Misa en Inglés
Parishioners Attending Spanish Masses/ Feligreses Asistiendo Misa en Español
Parishioners Attending Bilingual Masses/ Feligreses Asistiendo Misa en Bilingüe



TOTAL PARISHIONERS ATTENDING MASS

East Vicariate/ Vicariato Este
Central Vicariate/ Vicariato Central
West Vicariate/ Vicariato Oeste
Northeast Vicariate/ Vicariato Noreste
Mission Valley/ Mision del Valle
Rural Vicariate/ Vicariato Rural
Monasteries and Seminaries/ Monasterios y Seminarios



KARINA SANDOVAL | STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR | KSANDOVAL@ELPASODIOCESE.ORG

make an end-of-year gift to support your seminarians

Haga un obsequio de fin de año para apoyar a sus seminaristas

This is an exciting time for St. Charles Seminary! There are 29 men in priestly formation. They are good men from different backgrounds and walks of life with one common goal: to serve God and his people in the Diocese of El Paso. We are grateful that they have all heard the call to a life in the priesthood rooted in intimate prayer and servant leadership.

The blessing of this many vocations comes with a particular challenge: funding. The cost to educate and train one seminarian, including tuition, health insurance, and room and board at a major seminary, averages \$35,000 a year. With 29 men in various stages of their studies, the annual budget has increased to \$1 million.

But we're not done. The Diocese of El Paso needs 40 seminarians to meet the needs of our parishes. If we are successful, every church will have at least priest, large parishes will have two priests, and large parishes with schools will have three priests. A seminarian class of this size will increase the annual budget to \$1.5 million.

¡Este es un momento muy emocionante para el Seminario San Carlos! Hay 29 caballeros en formación sacerdotal. Son buenos hombres de diferentes orígenes y estilos de vida con un objetivo común: servir a Dios y su pueblo en la Diócesis de El Paso. Estamos muy agradecidos de que todos hayan escuchado el llamado a una vida en el sacerdocio enraizada en la oración íntima y el servicio del liderazgo.

La bendición de tanta vocación viene con un desafío muy particular: su financiación. El costo de la educación y capacitación de un seminarista, la cual incluye matrícula, seguro de salud, alojamiento y comida en un seminario mayor, es de un promedio de \$35,000 al año. Con 29 caballeros en varias etapas de sus estudios, el presupuesto anual ha aumentado a \$1 millón.

Pero aún no hemos terminado. La Diócesis de El Paso necesita 40 seminaristas para satisfacer las necesidades de nuestras parroquias. Si tenemos éxito, cada iglesia tendrá al menos un sacerdote y las parroquias grandes y las que tienen escuelas tendrán tres sacerdotes. Una clase seminarista de este tamaño aumentará el presupuesto anual a \$1.5 millones.



Deacon Germán Alzate, 2018
4th Year Theology
Mundelein Seminary



Angel Valdéz, 2020
2nd Year Theology
Sacred Heart Seminary



Aldo Camacho, 2022
1st Year Theology
St. Mary's Seminary



Angel Tarango, 2023
Pre-Theology II
Mundelein Seminary



Deacon Victorino Loresca, 2018
4th Year Theology
Assumption Seminary



Wilbert Colas, 2021
2nd Year of Theology
Sacred Heart Seminary



César García, 2022
1st Year Theology
Assumption Seminary



Luis Rodarte, 2023
St. Charles Borromeo
Introductory Phase



Miguel Pérez, 2019
4th Year Theology
Sacred Heart Seminary



J. Alfonso Coronado, 2021
2nd Year Theology
St. Mary's Seminary



Edrond Jean, 2022
1st Year Theology
Assumption Seminary



Michael Lewis, 2019
3rd Year Theology
Mundelein Seminary



Francisco Enríquez, 2022
3rd Year Theology
Assumption Seminary



Sergio Legarreta, 2022
1st Year Theology
Conception Seminary



Christus Alapini, 2020
3rd Year Theology
St. Mary's Seminary



Samuel Anchondo, 2022
2nd Year Theology
St. Mary's Seminary



Peter Venegas, 2022
1st Year Theology
Assumption Seminary



Iván Montelongo, 2020
3rd Year Theology
Mundelein Seminary



José William Arevalo, 2022
1st Year Theology
Assumption Seminary



Martín Muñoz, 2022
Pre-Theology I
Assumption Seminary

2018-2023 20 Priesthood Ordinations EXPECTED

"WE NEED PRIESTS, FOR WITHOUT PRIESTS THERE IS NO EUCHARIST, AND WITHOUT THE EUCHARIST THERE IS NO CHURCH."
- Most Rev. Robert E. Barron

DONATE ONLINE TO YOUR SEMINARIANS AT WWW.PROGRESS2017.ORG OR WWW.PRAY4PRIESTS.ORG

SUPPORT YOUR SEMINARIANS BY MAKING A GIFT TO THE
SEMINARIAN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND OR TO THE PROGRESS APPEAL

APOYE A SUS SEMINARISTAS HACIENDO UN OBSEQUIO AL FONDO EN DOTACIÓN PARA LA
EDUCACIÓN DE LOS SEMINARISTAS O A LA CAMPAÑA DE PROGRESO

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT MY SEMINARIANS!

- ☐ Progress Appeal for Seminarians
☐ Seminarian Education Endowment Fund

¡SÍ, ME GUSTARÍA SER UN DONATIVO PARA APOYAR A MIS SEMINARISTAS!

- ☐ La Campaña del Obispo para Seminaristas
☐ Fondo de Dotación para Seminaristas

DONOR INFORMATION | INFORMACIÓN DONANTE

Name/Nombre _____

Address/Dirección _____

City, State, Zip/Ciudad, Estado, Código Postal _____

Phone/Teléfono _____

Parish/Parroquia _____

Email/Correo Electrónico _____

Signature/Firma _____ Date/Fecha _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION | INFORMACIÓN DE PAGO

TOTAL GIFT AMOUNT DONATIVO TOTAL	\$
AMOUNT ENCLOSED PAGO INCLUIDO	\$

- ☐ One-Time/ Un Solo Pago ☐ Monthly/ Mensual ☐ Recurring Gift Program (Friends of the Foundation)
Programa de donativo recurrente (Amigos de la Fundación)
- ☐ Credit-Debit Card/ Tarjeta de Crédito-Débito Cash/ Efectivo ☐ Cash/Efectivo ☐ Check/ Cheque
- ☐ Auto Withdrawal (please attach a voided check)/Retiro Automático (Favor incluir cheque cancelado)

Please deduct as noted above from my/ Deduzca de mi cuenta de:

- ☐ Checking/ Cheques ☐ Savings/ Ahorros ☐ Credit-Debit/ Crédito-Débito
on the/ en el día ☐ 5th or ☐ 20th if paying monthly/ si es pago mensual

Credit-Debit Card/ Tarjeta de Crédito-Débito ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Expiration Date (month/year) - Fecha de Vencimiento (Mes/Año) ____/____

INTRODUCING friends of the foundation

Sign Up for the Recurring Gift Program

We invite you to become a member of the Friends of the Foundation, a monthly giving program that allows you to contribute through automatic bank or credit card donations. When you join Friends of the Foundation, you will continue providing support to the Progress Campaign or to your favorite Endowment Fund but in a way that is easier for you and makes your contribution go further.

Automatic funds transfer is secure and convenient. Your monthly bank or credit card statement will clearly show how you have given, and your annual donations will be easy to track for tax purposes. You may change your pledge or quit at any time. Your gift to the Foundation will be automatically renewed each year as long as you are a member of the Friends of the Foundation – no more renew by mail forms!

WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR MONTH-BY-MONTH GIFTS INSTEAD OF ONE-TIME DONATION OR A 12-MONTH PLEDGE?

The work of fostering a sustainable Catholic faith in West Texas requires long-term commitment. The Diocese of El Paso needs predictable, stable funding to increase the number of seminarians, care for our retired priests, provide dynamic and relevant religious education classes for our children, keep our Catholic schools open, spread the Good News through evangelization programs, and care for our brothers and sisters in need.

Automatic monthly gifts provide us with the day-to-day support we need, in a way that's more convenient for you and much more cost-effective for us.

THAT MEANS YOUR CONTRIBUTION WORKS HARDER SUPPORTING THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

Your monthly gift is one of the best ways to support your Church and build up God's Kingdom in West Texas. It is convenient, simple giving that makes a difference.

THANKS FOR BEING A FRIEND.

PRESENTACIÓN DE LOS *amigos de la fundación*

Regístrese para el Programa de Donativos Recurrentes

Le invitamos a que se convierta en miembro de Los Amigos de la Fundación, programa mensual de donaciones que le permite contribuir mediante donaciones automáticas bancarias o a través de tarjetas de crédito. Cuando se una a los Amigos de la Fundación, continuará brindando apoyo a la Campaña de Progreso o, a su Fondo en Dotaciones favorito, pero de una manera que sea más fácil para usted y que permita que su contribución vaya más allá y se aproveche más.

La transferencia automática de fondos es segura y conveniente. Su estado de cuenta mensual de banco o tarjeta de crédito mostrará claramente cómo lo ha otorgado y sus donaciones anuales serán fáciles de rastrear para fines de impuestos. Usted podrá cambiar su promesa o renunciar a ella en cualquier momento. Su promesa de donación a la Fundación se renovará automáticamente cada año, siempre y cuando usted continúe siendo miembro de los Amigos de la Fundación, ¡no más formularios de renovación por correo!

¿POR QUÉ ESTAMOS PIDIENDO QUE SUS DONATIVOS SEAN CONTINUOS MES A MES SIN TENER QUE RENOVAR CADA AÑO, EN VEZ DE PROMESAS ANUALES O DE UNA SOLA VEZ?

El trabajo de fomentar una fe Católica sostenible en el oeste de Texas requiere un compromiso a largo plazo. La Diócesis de El Paso necesita fondos predecibles y estables para aumentar el número de seminaristas, cuidar a nuestros sacerdotes jubilados, ofrecer clases de educación religiosa dinámicas y relevantes para nuestros hijos, mantener nuestras escuelas católicas abiertas, difundir la Buena Nueva, a través de programas de evangelización y cuidado para nuestros hermanos y hermanas más necesitados

Los donativos mensuales automáticos nos brindan la asistencia diaria que necesitamos de una manera que es más conveniente para usted y mucho más rentable para nosotros.

ESTO SIGNIFICA QUE SU CONTRIBUCIÓN TRABAJARÁ MÁS DURAMENTE PARA APOYAR LA FE CATÓLICA.

Su donación mensual es una de las mejores maneras de apoyar a su Iglesia y edificar el Reino de Dios en el oeste de Texas. Es conveniente, simple de dar y hace una gran diferencia.

GRACIAS POR SER UN AMIGO.

ACT NOW!
THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER IS BACK
THIS TIME IT'S PERMANENT



FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF EL PASO

PRAY. SERVE. GIVE.

Make a Donation to the Catholic Foundation from your IRA

- An easy, convenient way to make a gift from one of your major assets
- Reduces tax liability off the top of your IRA
- Counts towards your required minimum distribution

Requirements for your gift to qualify for benefits

- You must be 70 ½ years or older at the time of the gift
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to the Catholic Foundation
- Your total IRA gift(s) cannot exceed \$100,000 each year
- Your gift must be irrevocable

SAVE MONEY AND SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM, CHURCH, SCHOOL, OR MINISTRY

Contact Major Gifts Officer Sofía Larkin at 915.872.8412 or slarkin@delpasodiocese.org to learn more about IRA tax benefits and get started on your gift.

This Advent Children Are Waiting for Homes

By Jennifer Carr Allmon-Executive Director, Texas Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops

Even after news reports of children sleeping on office floors, or worse, their tragic deaths, Texas' foster crisis continues. We need more foster parents ready to serve God's children who are caught in the state's beleaguered child welfare system. It would be so simple if Christians heard the Scripture's call to "let the children come unto me" and opened their homes to the thousands of children needing safe families. But fear and circumstance hinder many of us from answering this call.

During Advent, we wait for our Savior, while these precious children wait for their saviors every day of

the year. The Scripture we read in Advent gives us a clear example to follow when we see a child in need of a parent and shows us what to do when we are paralyzed and can't respond.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us when Joseph learned of Mary's pregnancy, he intended to divorce her quietly and leave the child fatherless. Despite being a righteous man, taking on the care of a child that was not "his" was more than he could bear. The angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream telling him, "Do not be afraid." Through Joseph's courage, he became our Lord's foster father; he became the protector

of Jesus and Mary. Later, another angel tells Joseph, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Egypt." Through obedience to God, Joseph shielded our Lord and our Blessed Mother from Herod's wickedness.

As the foster children of Texas wait, we must have the courage to heed this same message: "Do not be afraid." Yes, the needs of these children are many, and you may not feel adequate. Let's be honest, you probably aren't. But your Church and your community has resources to help you. Like the magi who brought gifts to the Holy Family, ministries and non-profits stand ready to assist you

in providing for the needs of these children. While we may not experience angelic dreams calling us to action, foster children in Texas need us to be attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit telling us to rise up and take care of these beloved children. Will you consider the call?

Follow Joseph's example to become a foster parent
To find a local foster care provider near you, visit Texas Alliance of Children & Family Services at www.tacfs.org. Or, follow the Magi's example and donate to the Rainbow Room (<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>

Child Protection/Rainbow Rooms/), a resource center for children in foster care.

Jennifer Carr Allmon is executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (TCCB), the association of the Roman Catholic bishops of Texas which represents 15 dioceses and 19 active bishops. Through the TCCB, the bishops provide a moral and social public policy voice, accredit the state's Catholic schools, and maintain archives that reflect the work and the history of the Catholic Church in Texas.

Niños Anhelan Hogar este Adviento

Por Jennifer Carr Allmon-Directora Ejecutiva, Conferencia Católica de Obispos de Texas

Incluso después de presentarse noticias sobre niños durmiendo en el piso en oficinas, o peor aún, sobre sus trágicas muertes, la crisis de crianza infantil temporal de Texas continúa. Necesitamos más padres sustitutos listos para servir a los hijos de Dios que están atrapados en el asediado sistema de bienestar infantil del estado. Sería muy simple si los cristianos escucharan el llamado de la Escritura a "dejar que los niños vengan a mí" y abrieran sus hogares a los miles de pequeños que necesitan familias seguras. Pero a muchos de nosotros el miedo y las circunstancias nos impiden responder a este llamado.

Durante el Adviento esperamos a nuestro Salvador, mientras estos preciosos niños esperan

a sus salvadores todos los días del año. Las Escrituras que leemos en Adviento nos dan un claro ejemplo a seguir cuando vemos a un niño que necesita un padre y nos muestran qué hacer cuando estamos paralizados y no podemos responder.

El Evangelio de Mateo nos dice que cuando José se enteró del embarazo de María, tenía la intención de divorciarse de ella en secreto y dejar al niño sin padre. A pesar de ser un hombre justo, cuidar de un niño que no era "suyo" era más de lo que podía soportar. El ángel del Señor se le aparece en sueños diciéndole: "No temas". Gracias a su valentía, José se convirtió en el padre adoptivo de nuestro Señor; se convirtió en el protector de Jesús y María. Más tarde otro ángel le dice a

José: "Levántate, toma al niño y a su madre, huye a Egipto..." Mediante la obediencia a Dios, José protegió a nuestro Señor y a nuestra Santísima Madre de la maldad de Herodes.

Mientras los niños de Texas que requieren crianza temporal esperan, debemos tener el valor de prestar atención al mismo mensaje: "No tengan miedo". Efectivamente, las necesidades de estos niños son muchas y es posible que usted no sienta que tiene la suficiente capacidad. Siendo honestos, probablemente no la tenga, pero su Iglesia y su comunidad tienen recursos para ayudarlo. Al igual que los magos que trajeron regalos a la Sagrada Familia, hay ministerios y organizaciones sin fines de lucro que están

listos para ayudarlo a satisfacer las necesidades de estos niños. Si bien es posible que no experimentemos sueños angélicos que nos llamen a la acción, los niños que requieren crianza temporal en Texas necesitan que estemos atentos a la guía del Espíritu Santo, que nos dice que nos levantemos y cuidemos de estos amados hijos. ¿Considerará usted la llamada?

Siga el ejemplo de José para convertirse en padre adoptivo

Para encontrar un proveedor local de crianza infantil temporal cerca de usted, visite Texas Alliance of Children & Family Services en www.tacfs.org. O bien, siga el ejemplo de los magos y

haga un donativo a Rainbow Room (http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Rainbow_Rooms/), un centro de recursos para niños que requieren crianza temporal.

Jennifer Carr Allmon es Directora Ejecutiva de la Conferencia Católica de Obispos de Texas (TCCB), la asociación de obispos católicos de Texas que representa a 15 diócesis y 19 obispos activos. A través de la TCCB, los obispos ofrecen una voz en materia moral y social sobre políticas públicas, acreditan a las escuelas católicas del estado y mantienen archivos que reflejan el trabajo y la historia de la Iglesia Católica en Texas.

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\$3,995

Includes Round Trip Air

DISCOVER EGYPT w/Nile River Cruise



Oct. 14-23, 2018
\$3,295

Air Not Included

RHINE RIVER CRUISE Christmas Markets 2018



Dec. 10-18, 2018
From \$1,998

Air Not Included



"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

MATTHEW 1:21

May the miracle of Christmas touch your life.

Merry Christmas

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First EMDR Training at Diocese

By Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

EMDR Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy is a powerful psychotherapy approach that has helped millions of people relieve many types of psychological distress. Psychologist Dr. Francine Shapiro discovered this therapy by chance in 1987. Dr. Shapiro observed that eye movements reduced the intensity of disturbing thoughts. She then moved to study this observation scientifically and in 1989 she reported success using EMDR therapy to treat victims of trauma. Today EMDR therapy is used by therapists and studied by researchers all over the world.

Jose Castrellon, Executive Director of Catholic Counseling Services for the Diocese of El Paso, was pivotal in making the training

November, the Diocese of El Paso held its first EMDR training session with over 40 licensed social workers and therapists in attendance. Rick Levinson, a Clinical Social Worker with over 35 years of experience, one of three EMDR trainers in Texas, a certified EMDR therapist, an Approved Consultant and an EMDRIA-Approved Basic Training Provider since 2005, provided the training.

Levinson says, “I learned about EMDR is 1997 when I had been doing trauma work for ten plus years. EMDR is by far the most efficient and effective treatment of trauma. It originally was viewed as a weird or fringe therapy

Levinson said, “Before EMDR we had exposure treatments, we were having people jump into the memory with both feet and relive it so as to work on the awfulness of the experience from inside the memory. This type of therapy was very effective but it was very easy to re-traumatize people and overwhelm them. Some patients will not be able to participate in this type of reliving. This therapy is called Trauma Focused CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy). The military most often used this model.”

“EMDR is different than CBT in that we do not want the patient in the memory and reliving the memory. Instead we want them in the present time, in our office remembering or connecting to the memory. So it is the difference between reliving and remembering,” says Levinson. Levinson explained that as the patient is thinking of the memory they do sets where the patient is asked to make rapid eye movements back and forth.

EMDR therapy seems to have a direct effect on the way the brains processes information. This type of therapy is said to be similar to what happens naturally during dreaming or REM (rapid eye movement) sleep. EMDR therapy helps a person see disturbing material in a new and less distressing way. After EMDR therapy is successful a person getting treated no longer relives the images, sounds and feelings when the event is brought to mind but instead does remember what happened but it is less upsetting.

EMDR has moved from a fringe therapy into a fully integrated therapy due to the extensive research being done on EMDR. The Veterans

Affairs Department most recently made a shift to also endorse EMDR therapy and provide veterans with access to this treatment.

Levinson shared, “EMDR training is really in demand and we often times have trouble meeting that demand. I was asked to come to Alpine for a training and we had close to 30 plus people and 15 of which were from El Paso, one was Mr. Jose Castrellon. Therapists in West

A sessions, role-play demonstrations, group exercises and supervised practice sessions. Each participant experienced EMDR as both clinician and client through practice sessions facilitated during training.

The Diocese of El Paso is the first and only Catholic diocese where Rick Levinson has provided training.



at the diocese a reality. “After I received the training myself with Rick Levinson, I felt it absolutely necessary to bring this type of training to El Paso” shared Castrellon.

because it involved having patients move their eyes back and forth rapidly.”

Levinson explained how an EMDR therapy session differs from how trauma was treated previous to EMDR.



Texas are very impressive and very passionate about their work. We realized there was a need for more training in El Paso and Jose made it very easy to come”.

The future of EMDR training in El Paso includes training in an advanced therapy model and group protocol. This group protocol training will include a training done by the head of EMDR in Latin America and the Caribbean named Ignacio Jarero. Jarero has been training EMDR therapists to handle group therapy sessions for survivors of natural disasters or survivors of traumatic crimes such as mass shootings. Jarero developed this group protocol and is now going to provide group protocol training in El Paso.

El Paso EMDR Training participants learned via lecture, video, demonstrations, Q and



Do We Recognize Him In Those We Meet?

“I am not the Christ,” admitted John the Baptist.

In our Advent readings, John, the Gospel writer, introduces the cousin of Jesus as a man sent by God to testify to the light, so that all might believe after hearing the testimony of John the Baptist. “He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”

“There is one among you whom you do not recognize,” John the Baptist proclaimed.

Is that not still true? Is Christ among us today? Do we recognize Him? Do we see the light of His love shining like a light in the darkness?

Or are we too caught up in searching for enough presents to place beneath the tree that we fail to see the

blessings we receive in the presence of those around us? Are we so busy preparing the Christmas dinner to fill our stomachs beyond the stretching point that we neglect the real feast of this holy season who will nourish our souls beyond comprehension if we would just allow Him into our hearts?

“There is one among you whom you do not recognize.” John the Baptist was not trying to confuse those who questioned him. He was simply stating facts.

That same fact lives on today. When John the Baptist was preaching to the people, Jesus had not yet come forth to begin His ministry. John the Baptist was preparing the path. He was planting seeds of truth, nourishing those seeds, helping

the words to grow and develop within hearts and minds so that when the time was right, the people were ready for Jesus in His public life and ministry.

Is that not also what Mary did for Jesus in the nine months before His birth? While hidden within her womb and beginning His human life in a form no bigger than a mustard seed, Jesus was nourished by His mother’s body, growing and developing until the right time for Him to come forth into the world. As His mother, Mary prepared the way for her Son, for it is God’s masterpiece of creation that forms a child in the womb of his mother.

Like John the Baptist who was not the Christ, a mother helps her child to develop and grow both before and after birth. She

helps the child to shine with God’s light and become who the child is meant to be.

“There is one among you whom you do not recognize.”

Sadly, we often do not recognize the holiness, the sanctity, the precious gift that is given to us in each person created in the image of God. Recently, at Mass, a little baby looked over her mother’s shoulder and gazed at me with eyes so full of innocence that in my heart I knew this truly was one of God’s angels. Moments later that same baby started to fuss, and an active toddler, who had been climbing up and down on a nearby pew, turned and held out his hand to touch

her tiny fingers. Again, one of God’s angels touched my heart in the gentleness shown by the toddler toward the younger child. How is it that even a two-year-old can recognize the preciousness of another child when we adults fail to see the presence of God in each child He creates?

“There is one among you whom you do not recognize.”

The innkeeper did not recognize the importance of the unborn child within Mary’s womb. Will we also fail to recognize the child of God within every pregnant mother’s womb? Or, will we testify to the light by helping her prepare the way for her precious child’s entry into the world?



Sidewalk Jesus
by
Janet M. Crowe

¿Lo reconocemos en aquellos con los que nos encontramos?

“Yo no soy el Cristo,” admitió Juan el Bautista.

En nuestras lecturas de Adviento, Juan, el escritor del Evangelio, nos presenta al primo de Jesús como un

hombre enviado por Dios para testificar a la luz, para que todos pudieran creer después de oír el testimonio de Juan el Bautista. “Él no era la luz, pero vino a testificar a la luz.”

“Hay uno entre ustedes a quien no reconocen,” proclamo Juan el Bautista.

¿Esta Cristo entre nosotros hoy?

¿Acaso no es cierto? ¿Lo reconocemos? ¿Vemos la luz de Su amor resplandeciendo como una luz en la oscuridad?

¿O estamos demasiado ocupados buscando tener los suficientes regalos para poner bajo el árbol que no vemos las bendiciones que recibimos en la presencia de aquellos a nuestro alrededor? ¿Estamos tan ocupados preparando la cena de Navidad para llenar nuestros estómagos más allá de lo necesario que ignoramos la fiesta verdadera de esta santa estación que nutrirá nuestras almas más allá de lo que comprendemos, si tan solo le permitiéramos entrar a nuestros corazones?

“Hay uno entre ustedes a quien no reconocen.” Juan el Bautista no estaba tratando de confundir a los que lo cuestionaban. Simplemente estaba presentando hechos. La misma situación se

presenta hoy. Cuando Juan el Bautista estaba predicando al pueblo, Jesús todavía no había iniciado Su ministerio. Juan el Bautista estaba preparando el camino. Estaba plantando semillas de verdad, nutriendo esas semillas, ayudando a crecer y desarrollarse las palabras dentro de nuestros corazones y mentes para que cuando sea el tiempo correcto, la gente esté lista para Jesús en Su vida pública y ministerio. ¿No fue acaso eso lo que hizo María por Jesús en los nueve meses antes de Su nacimiento? Escondido en su vientre e iniciando Su vida humana en una forma no más grande que una semilla de mostaza, Jesús era nutrido por el cuerpo de Su madre, creciendo y desarrollándose hasta que llegó su tiempo para entrar en el mundo. Como Su madre, María prepare el camino para su Hijo, porque es una obra maestra de la creación de Dios que forma a un niño en el vientre de su madre. Como Juan el Bautista quien no era el Cristo, una madre ayuda a su hijo a desarrollarse y crecer antes y después de nacer. Ayuda a su hijo para que brille con la luz de Dios y se convierta en el niño que debería ser. “Hay uno entre ustedes a quien no reconocen.” Tristemente, nosotros no

reconocemos frecuentemente la santidad, lo sagrado, el precioso don que se nos da en cada persona creada a la imagen de Dios. Recientemente, en Misa, una beba veía sobre los hombros de su madre y me topé con su mirada, sus ojos tan llenos de inocencia que en mi corazón, supe que verdaderamente era uno de los ángeles de Dios. Momentos más tarde, esa misma beba empezó a hacer escándalo, y una niña pequeña muy inquieta empezó a subirse y bajarse de una banca cercana, se volteó y extendió su mano para tocar los diminutos dedos de la beba. De nuevo, uno de los ángeles de Dios tocó mi corazón en la gentileza mostrada por la niña pequeña hacia la beba. ¿Cómo es que aún una niña de dos años puede reconocer la preciosidad de otra niña cuando nosotros los adultos no vemos la presencia de Dios en cada niño que Él crea?

“Hay uno entre ustedes a quien no reconocen.” El posadero no reconoció la importancia de bebe dentro del vientre de María que estaba por nacer. ¿Tampoco nosotros reconoceremos al hijo de Dios en el vientre de cada mujer embarazada? O, ¿testificaremos a la luz ayudándole a preparar el camino para la entrada al mundo de su precioso hijo?

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery is the only cemetery in El Paso established specifically to serve the Catholic community. In your greatest need, Our Lady of Mount Carmel is an extension of the parish family that provides services and support to help you manage the difficult decisions and many practical details that come with end-of-life arrangements.

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- * Peaceful, well-kept grounds maintained with environmentally-responsible reclaimed water

Aside from the immediate need services available at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, staff members can provide assistance with arrangements for future needs

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One in a series of informational presentations

Agradecer Lo Que No Nos Dan

Lo más común es agradecer lo que nos dan. No nos faltan motivos para el agradecimiento. Hay una gran cantidad de cosas que dependen de nuestro esfuerzo y nuestro talento, cosas que podemos lograr a lo largo del tiempo, contrariando incluso lo previsible o que han surgido al final de un proceso laborioso y solitario. Pero eso no contradice lo esencial gratis recibimos el bien más preciado, LA VIDA y del mismo modo gratuito hemos experimentado y lo seguimos haciendo que somos protegidos, cuidados, acogidos, y amados. Si tuviéramos que hacer una lista de todo lo que hemos recibido de los demás (cosa que deberíamos hacer de vez en cuando...) Comprenderíamos que en muchos sentidos somos obra de los otros. Todos lo somos. Nuestra historia empezó antes que nosotros y nos sobrevivirá.

Somos el resultado de una cadena de innumerables encuentros, de gestos, de buenas voluntades, siembras, caricias, afectos. Nos inspiramos y nos apropiamos

del sentido de vidas que no son nuestras, pero que se inclinan pacientemente hacia nosotros y así nos iluminan y nos arraigan en la confianza. Esta bondadosa generosidad como bien sabemos, no tiene precio ni se puede comprar en parte alguna: Solo se consigue mediante el don.

Es por eso que cuando nos falta, su ausencia indeleble se hace sentir toda la vida. Su lugar no puede ser reemplazado, por mucho que abunde una poderosa industria de ficciones de todo tipo con la inútil pretensión de ser olvido y sustitución por los “ídolos” de nuestra sociedad. Me dio por pensar en la importancia de lo que no nos han dado, al recordar las palabras reveladoras de una amiga:

“Me gusta agradecerle a Dios todo cuanto me da, es siempre tanto que no tengo palabras para describirlo. Pero siento que debo agradecerle también lo que no me da, las cosas buenas que no he tenido, e incluso las que tanto he pedido y deseado y no he llegado a disfrutar. El hecho de que no me a concedido

alguna de ellas me ha obligado a descubrir en mi fuerzas insospechadas y en cierto modo, me ha permitido ser yo”.

La que tiene estas palabras, exige una transformación profunda de nuestra actitud interior. Hacernos adultos por dentro no es un parto instantáneo e indoloro. En todo caso, mientras no le agradezcamos a Dios, a la vida y a los demás lo que no nos han dado, parece que nuestra oración es incompleta. Podemos seguir adelante alimentando el resentimiento por lo que no nos ha sido dado, comparándonos con otras personas y considerándonos injustamente tratados, lamentando la dureza de lo que en cada etapa nos corresponde a lo que habíamos imaginado. O podemos mirar lo que nos ha sido dado como la oportunidad, para iniciar un camino de nuevas oportunidades y grandes posibilidades de perfección... Y de resurrección. Así como en un momento tan sombrío en el siglo XX, desde el campo de concentración, la escritora Etty

Hillesum, en su diario dejó escrito: “La grandeza del ser humano, su verdadera riqueza no radica en lo que se ve, sino en lo que lleva en su corazón. La grandeza del hombre no radica en el puesto que ocupa en la sociedad, ni en el cargo que desempeña, ni en el éxito social. Todo eso puede ser retirado de un día para otro. Todo eso puede desaparecer en un instante. La grandeza del hombre está en lo que queda una vez extinguido lo que le confería brillo exterior. Que le queda? El bien que se hizo y nada mas...”

Tenemos tanto que agradecer y tanto que dar, que es fácil perderlo de vista. Si un día amanece con ganas de darle un vistazo al mundo, rápidamente se hace aparente que con todos los avances que se han hecho en la medicina, tecnología, abastecimiento de alimentos, comodidades y diversiones, todavía hay una gran cantidad de sufrimientos en este planeta que llamamos



Vida del Espiritu
por el Padre
Wilson Cuevas

hogar. Pobreza, tráfico humano, terrorismo, egoísmo, avaricia, injusticias, solo para mencionar unos cuantos... Hoy te vas a encontrar y relacionar con muchas personas. Contágalos de alegría que a ti te invade. Es fácil que encuentres en tu camino personas que amanecieron tristes, acongojadas, y con problemas. Trata de ayudarlas con tu optimismo, aunque no les digas nada. Pero que vean que se puede vivir contento a pesar de las dificultades. Trata de vivir alegre todo el día y de alegrar la vida de los demás y cuando llegue la noche sentirás una satisfacción honda por haber pasado y hecho pasar a los demás un día alegre. Esto es lo más importante para llevar a cabo la gran misión que Dios nos ha confiado. “Al que mucho se le ha dado mucho se le exigirá mucho” (Lc. 12,48)

Be Thankful For What Do Not They Give Us

It is common to give thanks to those who give to us. We do not need a motive for gratitude. There are a lot of things that depend on our effort and our talent. Things that we can achieve over time, even contradicting the predictable or that that has emerged at the end of a laborious and lonely process. But that does not contradict the essential precious gift we received free, LIFE and with the same gratitude we experienced we continue because we are protected, cared for, welcomed, and loved. If we had to make a list of everything we have received from others (which we should do from time to time) we would understand that in many ways we are the work of others. We all are. Our story began before us and will continue to live on.

We are the result of a chain of countless encounters, of gestures, of good wills, sowings, caresses, and affections. We are

inspired and we appropriate the sense of lives that are not our own, but that patiently lean towards us, enlighten us and put us in trust. This kind generosity, as we well know, has no price or cannot be bought anywhere: it is only achieved through the gift. That is why when we lack His indelible absence we feel it throughout our life. His place cannot be replaced, no matter how powerful an industry of fictions of all kinds abounds with the useless pretense of being forgotten and replaced by the “ídols” of our society. I thought about the importance of what they have not given us, remembering the revealing words of a friend:

“I like to thank God for all that He gives me, it is always so much that I do not have words to describe it, but I feel that I need to also thank Him for what He does not give me, the good things that I have not had, and even those that I have asked

for so much and the fact that I have not been granted any of them has forced me to discover in my unsuspected forces and in a certain way, it has allowed me to be me.”

The one with these words demands a profound transformation of our inner attitude. Becoming adults on the inside is not an instant and painless delivery. In any case, while we do not thank God, life and others what they have not given us, it seems that our prayers are incomplete. We can go on fueling resentment for what has not been given to us, comparing ourselves with other people and considering ourselves unjustly treated. Lamenting the hardness of what in each stage corresponds to what we had imagined. Or we can look at what has been given to us as the opportunity, to start a path of new opportunities and great possibilities of perfection ... and resurrection.

Just as in a very dark moment in the twentieth century, from a concentration camp, the writer Etty Hillesum wrote in her diary: “The greatness of the human being, his true wealth does not lie in what is seen, but in what he has in his heart. The greatness of man does not lie in the position he occupies in society, nor in the position he performs, nor in social success. All that can disappear in an instant. The greatness of man is in what is left once extinguished. What gave him external brightness? What it left? The good that was done and nothing more...”

We have so much to be thankful for and so much to give, that it is easy to lose sight of it. If one day you wake up wanting to give back to the world, it quickly becomes apparent that with all the advances that have been made in medicine, technology, supply of food,

comforts and diversions, there is still a lot of suffering on this planet we call home. Poverty, human trafficking, terrorism, selfishness, greed, injustice, just to mention a few ... Today you are going to meet and relate to many people. Contaminate them with joy that invades you. It is easy to find people in your way who woke up sad, distressed, and in trouble. Try to help them with your optimism, even if you do not tell them anything. But that they see that you can live happy in spite of the difficulties. Try to live happily each day and brighten the lives of others and when night comes you will feel a deep satisfaction for having made others spend a happy day. This is the most important thing to carry out the great mission that God has entrusted to us. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more. Luke 12:48

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Rosa Guerrero-Disciples Among Us

By Griselda Oaxaca and Rio Grande Catholic

It's been written that Catholics are called by Christ Jesus to care for one another and to use their unique talents for the good of the world. If you're one of the thousands of people across the country that have had the privilege of seeing Rosa Guerrero speak, perform and dance, you may have come away with the sense that you'd just witnessed this calling in action. You'd also be forgiven for wondering if you'd just seen one of our Lord's disciples at work.

Rosa is the founder and first Artistic Director of the International Folklorico Dance Group, a troupe she formed many years ago. As such, her performances are steeped in the Mexican tradition of folkloric dance. It is through this tradition that she entertains and brings messages of love and reconciliation to her audiences. But to know Rosa is to understand that she is much more than an entertainer; she is an ambassador of culture and faith... a spiritual folklorista.

Rosa is a pure spirit who has been on a lifelong mission to spread values anchored in love, family, respect, self-esteem, education, and the list goes on and on. It is because of her conviction that she caught the attention of the Catholic Diocese and then Archbishop Patrick Flores, who after seeing one of her heartwarming performances for the West Texas Denary Group, exclaimed to her, "Why doesn't the world know about you?" He invited her to speak at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio that same year. That was almost 50 years ago.

That wonderful relationship between Rosa and the Catholic Diocese has flourished over those years. "Archbishop Flores was responsible for my success everywhere I went," says Rosa, and she is equally grateful for her spiritual mentors, Bishop Ricardo Ramirez and the late Father Virgil Elizondo, for the guidance and support they've given her through the Catholic church over all those years.

Now, many decades into her mission, she has continued her consulting for the Catholic Diocese all over the United States, providing keynote speeches for youth and adult conferences, at seminaries and retreats, schools and universities. She nourishes children encouraging them to build confidence and achieve great things. And when she ends her talks with loving praise for our Father she does so with courageous faith and no fear of judgment. Bringing the words of love and reconciliation as a true disciple would, we, her audience, come away somehow feeling better... more whole in the spirit.

Rosa's talks are compelling and full of vibrant truth because she is the embodiment of our Lord's teachings. Speaking with such conviction that she becomes a channel of the word of Christ.

Although she has received many accolades, having an elementary school named after her in her hometown of El Paso, Texas and many international honors as a humanitarian bestowed upon her, she is humble and with great humility she takes on God's work. She has even

had a feature film, called "Tapestry," made about her experiences, yet she will gladly take time out to speak to children and most any group that calls on her.

Though now a great grandmother and feeling the effects of decades of dancing, her energy and enthusiasm do not waiver. And though she has lost her loving and supportive husband to illness in recent years, the brilliance of her smile does not fade.



Photo Courtesy of UTEP

The world is filled with such Catholics, selfless people who want nothing more than to make this world a better place.

And here, in our part of the world, we are blessed to have Rosa Guerrero.



Motivational Speaker

Rosa Guerrero is an artist, an educator, a humanitarian and a dance historian.

Mrs. Guerrero has been a motivational speaker for schools, universities and corporations and many other organizations.

She covers a wide range of topics such as spiritual renewal, cultural awareness and identity, leadership, self-esteem and confidence, value clarification as well as dance and music.

Rosa Guerrero has been called "a tapestry of many cultures whose mission is to share this tapestry of cultural diversity and how it is woven with all people." She continues her mission of love, peace, and cultural understanding to this day as an educational consultant giving presentations and lectures.



If you are interested in having Rosa Guerrero speak at an event, please call (915) 566-5084 or Rosaguerrero@me.com.

College Students Get Ready Miner Awakening 7 is Coming Soon!

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Awakening Retreats began at the Newman Center in El Paso in the Spring of 2015, since then over 120 college students have attended this retreat. Awakenings are hosted nationwide by universities and colleges.

This three day overnight retreat are geared toward college students to help teach the true meaning of community, faith, and family through developing new friendships throughout the weekend and sharing their lives with one another.

We would like to invite all college students from UTEP and EPCC between the ages of 18-25 to come and participate in Awakening 7.

Our retreat will be held February 23-25, 2018 at Santa Lucia Catholic Church.

The registration fee is \$25 and covers lodging, meals and more. To register or for more information contact us at ccm.awakening@gmail.com or call (915) 838-0300.

Message of Forgiveness, Healing and Hope Comes to the Cathedral of The Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces


Immaculee Ilibagiza, the New York Times best-selling author of “Left to Tell; Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Genocide” will be at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Friday & Saturday, February 23-24, 2018 (Fri: 5-9 p.m., and Sat: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Immaculee will share her experiences as a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide where members of the Hutu tribe in Rwanda took up arms against the Tutsi tribe. In just 100 days, they slaughtered over 800,000 Tutsis using only spears, clubs and machetes.

It was genocide, and few Tutsis survived - Immaculee was one of the few as she hid with seven other women in a cramped bathroom

for 91 days while killers lurked outside the door. Turning to her faith and the Rosary, it was that turning point towards God and away from hate that saved Immaculee.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience Immaculee's powerful journey through her remarkable personal testimony, inspirational music and prayer. You are encouraged to make your reservation early, as seating is limited. Tickets are on sale at the Cathedral Parish Office, or can be purchased online at www.immaculee.com, click on “Shop/Events” and then select “Retreats” – Las Cruces, New Mexico. Please call Martha at the Parish Office, 575/524-8563, or 575/640-9076, for additional information.



A weekend of

Healing & Hope

with
IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA

Treasures of Our Faith Retreat
New York Times best-selling author of “Left to Tell; Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Genocide”

Witness to the life-saving power of faith and the Rosary, as she huddled with seven other women in a cramped bathroom for 91 days while killers lurked outside the door.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to EXPERIENCE Immaculee's powerful journey through remarkable personal testimony, inspirational music and prayer.

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
1240 S. Espina St.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

REGISTRATION CONTACT
Annette Micek
annette@immaculee.com

LOCAL CONTACT
Martha Beasley
(575) 640-9076
bslmrvls@aol.com

TICKETS
Individual: \$57
For One Plus Guest: \$76

REGISTRATION
Please visit www.immaculee.com, click on “Shop/Events” and then select “Retreats”.

www.immaculee.com

Un Mensaje de Perdón. Sanación y de Esperanza Viene a La Catedral del Inmaculado Corazón de María en Las Cruces


Immaculee Ilibagiza, autora del Libro de mayor venta del New York Times “Sobrevivir Para Contarlo; Como Descubrí a Dios en medio del Holocausto de Ruanda” estará en la Catedral del Inmaculado Corazón de María en Las Cruces, Nuevo México el viernes y sábado, 23-24 de febrero (viernes de 5-9 p.m. y sábado de 9 a 12:30 p.m.)

Immaculee compartirá su experiencia como sobreviviente del holocausto en el país de Ruanda de 1994, en donde los miembros de la tribu Hutu se levantaron en armas en contra de los miembros de la tribu Tutsi. En solamente 100 días, asesinaron a más de 800,000 Tutsis utilizando únicamente lanzas, palos y machetes.

Lo ocurrido fue un genocidio y pocos Tutsis sobrevivieron, Immaculee fue de las pocas sobrevivientes debido a que por 91 días se mantuvo escondida junto con otras siete mujeres en un pequeño baño mientras que los

asesinos las acechaban a unos cuantos pasos. Lo que salvó a Immaculee fue refugiarse en su fe y en el santo rosario. Immaculee se refugió en Dios y se alejó del odio.

No se pierda de esta oportunidad única de experimentar el poderoso testimonio personal de Immaculee. Se le aconseja hacer su reservación temprana, ya que el cupo es limitado. Boletos para el evento están disponibles en la oficina de la Catedral del Inmaculado Corazón de María o por internet en www.immaculee.com, con tan solo seleccionar “Shop/Events” y después “Retreats”- Las Cruces, NM. Para más información puede comunicarse con Martha en la oficina de la Catedral al número 575/524-8563, o 575/640-9076.



Most Reverend Mark J. Seitz
Bishop of El Paso

Appointed to the Office of Vicar Foranes	Effective August 18, 2017
Rev. Anthony C. Celino	Our Lady of Guadalupe Vicariate (East)
Rev. Wilson Cuevas	St. Paul Vicariate (Central)
Rev. Miguel Alcuino	St. Luke Vicariate (Rural) St. Mark Vicariate (Rural)
Appointed to the Office of Deacon	
Deacon Guillermo Jirón	St. Luke Parish – Effective October 10, 2017
Deacon Ken Elsey	Holy Spirit – Effective November 15, 2017
Appointed as Parish Administrator	Effective November 15, 2017
Rev. Michael Gould, MM	St. Patrick – Canutillo Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission - Westway

Vocation Awareness Week Highlights

By: Father Mariano Lopez, Director- Vocation Office

The celebration of Vocation Awareness Week was an opportunity for the Church in the United States to pray for vocations, to become more aware of the calling of God, and to share the message of God’s calling with others. The Diocese celebrated National Vocation Awareness Week at the beginning of last month (November 5th thru 11th, 2017) with several activities in which there was a very fruitful response on behalf of many in the Church.

On Sunday, November 5th, the Pre-Seminario took place. A few high school aged young men attended Saint Charles Seminary for an

afternoon of reflection. They participated in a holy hour and heard the testimony of how one of our seminarians discovered his calling to discern priesthood for the Diocese of El Paso. There are several other young men who have expressed a desire to continue participating in this event which takes place the first Sunday of the month. The next pre-Seminario is scheduled for December 3rd from 1PM to 6PM at Saint Charles Seminary. All high-school aged young men are invited to attend as they reflect what their calling in life might be.

On Monday, November 6th, the ten Saint Charles Seminarians, along with 3 other seminarians who are further into their formation process, attended a mass and dinner with 25 priests from our diocese to celebrate Saint Charles Borromeo’s Feast Day. Saint Charles Borromeo was a cardinal from Italy who founded the seminary system for young men to prepare for the ministry of priesthood. He is also the patron of our diocesan seminary, who carries the name of Saint Charles. The environment was festive, as all gathered to celebrate the calling to the

priesthood, which continues to grow in our diocese (which currently has 29 seminarians who study for the priesthood in El Paso and out of El Paso).

On Thursday, November 9th, a Children’s Mass for Vocations took place at Saint Patrick Cathedral. Children were invited to dress up in the traditional garb of priests and nuns as an expression of how it is possible for God to call them to any vocation in their lives, even the vocation to priesthood or religious life. There were about 40 children, parents, and seminarians who participated. The environment was festive and children were able to listen and experience the message of “vocations” with songs, stories, and images they could relate to.

A prayer vigil for vocations took place at Saint Pius X Parish on Saturday, November 11th, for teens and young adults to reflect on the vocation to the priesthood and religious life. About 80 youth and chaperons were present. There was participation from the youth choirs of Saint Luke Life Teen, Holy Spirit Parish, and Coro Nazareth (from Saint Pius Parish). Sister Siria, from the perpetual adoration sisters,

and Ivan Montelongo, a seminarian on his pastoral internship year at Our Lady of Assumption Parish, shared their vocation stories and shared a reflection on the scriptures during the holy hour. Youth groups from different parishes in the diocese expressed a desire to hear God’s calling and do his will.

During National Vocation Awareness Week, a social media campaign called “#IPRAY4PRIESTS” began.

Periodically, the Vocation Office will be promoting prayer and support for a different priest from our diocese for the period of one week. We encourage all to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Aside from these varied activities, the Church of El Paso, celebrated National Vocation Awareness Week, as many people made it their commitment to pray for vocations and



encourage youth to respond to God’s calling in their parishes, homes, and in the community at large. May the Holy Spirit guide us so that we may all be responsive to God’s calling in spite of the different forces that seek to persuade us in different directions. Jesus keeps calling his youth to himself!!



Puntos Principales de la Semana de Concientización Vocacional

Por: Padre Mariano Lopez, Director-Oficina de Vocaciones

La celebración de la Semana de Concientización Vocacional fue una oportunidad para que la iglesia de Estados Unidos orara por vocaciones, se hiciera más consiente del llamado de Dios, y compartiera el mensaje de Dios con los demás. La Diócesis celebró la Semana de Concientización Vocacional al principio del mes

participaron de una misa y cena con 25 sacerdotes de nuestra diócesis al celebrar el Día de San Carlos Borroméo. San Carlos Borroméo fue un cardenal en Italia quien fundo el sistema de seminario en el cual los hombres jóvenes se preparan para el ministerio del sacerdocio. Él es el patrón del seminario de nuestra diócesis

Misa Vocacional para Niños en la Catedral de San Patricio. Los niños fueron invitados a disfrazarse con la vestimenta tradicional de sacerdotes y monjas para expresar que es posible que Dios los llame a cualquier vocación en sus vidas, aun las vocaciones de sacerdocio y vida consagrada. Hubo aproximadamente 40 niños, padres de familia, y seminaristas que participaron. El ambiente fue festivo y los niños pudieron escuchar y vivir el mensaje vocacional con cantos, historias e imágenes que podían comprender.

Una vigilia de oración por vocaciones se llevó acabo en la Parroquia San Pio X el sábado, 11 de noviembre, para que adolescentes y adultos jóvenes reflexionaran sobre las vocaciones del sacerdocio y la vida consagrada. Aproximadamente 80 jóvenes y chaperones estuvieron presentes. Hubo participación de parte de los coros de jóvenes de Life Teen de San Lucas, la Parroquia Espíritu Santo, y el Coro Nazaret (de la Parroquia San Pio X). La Hermana Siria, de las hermanas de adoración

perpetua, y el seminarista Iván Montelongo, quien participa en su año pastoral en la Parroquia

nuestra diócesis por el periodo de una semana. Todos estamos invitados a seguir la página en



pasado (5 de noviembre al 11 de noviembre del 2017) con diferentes actividades donde hubo participación de parte de muchos en la iglesia.

El lunes, 6 de noviembre, diez seminaristas de San Carlos, en compañía de otros tres seminaristas que están en una etapa más avanzada de su formación,

que lleva el nombre de San Carlos. El ambiente fue festivo, al reunirse todos para celebrar el llamado al sacerdocio, que sigue creciendo en nuestra diócesis (actualmente tenemos 29 seminaristas que estudian para el sacerdocio en El Paso y fuera de El Paso).

El jueves, 9 de noviembre, se efectuó una



Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, compartieron su historia vocacional y compartieron una reflexión sobre las sagradas escrituras durante la hora santa. Grupos de jóvenes de las diferentes parroquias de la diócesis expresaron un deseo de escuchar el llamado de Dios y hacer su voluntad.

Durante la Semana de Concientización Vocacional, inicio la campana de oración en las redes sociales titulada “#IPRAY4PRIESTS”. Frecuentemente, la Oficina de Vocaciones estará promoviendo la oración y el apoyo por los diferentes sacerdotes de

Facebook, Twitter e Instagram. Aparte de estas diferentes actividades, la Iglesia de El Paso, celebró la Semana de Concientización Vocacional, al comprometerse muchas personas a orar por vocaciones y a motivar, dentro de sus parroquias, hogares, y en la comunidad más amplia, a los jóvenes a responder al llamado de Dios. Que el Espíritu Santo nos guíe a todos a responder al llamado de Dios a pesar de las diferentes fuerzas que buscan persuadirnos hacia distintos caminos. Jesús sigue llamando a sus jóvenes a que se unan a él!!

El Paso’s Catholic Youth is Flawless

By Nancy Ramos, Rio Grande Catholic Editor

The El Paso Southwest Youth Conference started 14 years ago with its first conference held at Eastwood High School and just under 200 people in attendance. This year the event was held at the El Paso County Coliseum on November 17, 18 and 19 and drew over 2,000 teenagers. The 3-day event included live concerts, live skits, special guest speakers, mass, confession and so much more.

Hector Clemente, Director



Sarah Hart

for the El Paso Southwest Youth Conference said, “This event would not be possible without the 150 plus volunteers that work on the event’s preparations.” This year the event’s theme was Flawless inspired after a song by well known Christian band Mercy Me. Flawless was chosen to



Bishop and Clergy Celebrating at Conference

remind teens that they have the capability of being Flawless by reconciling themselves to



Jesus. Clemente adds, “Yes we are flawless but we are still sinners. We have the



opportunity to reconnect with God when we fall and he helps to lift us up again. Flawless is how Jesus wants us and it was an act of love that took place on that cross.”

Friday, the first night of the event, was a night of Praise and Worship with local Catholic band Loudate which is made up of youth from several El Paso parishes. Loudate showcased their musical skills as opening act for several major headliners. Performances that night included Andrea Thomas singer, songwriter who enjoyed playing games from stage with the teen audience and Sarah Hart (a The Bridge 1150am favorite) who has written songs for artists like Amy Grant and has had her music appear on television shows and feature films. The night closed with Jon Niven whose prayerfulness is conveyed in his talent as a musician and songwriter.

Michael Bejarano, lead singer of Loudate was organizing an Acts retreat this weekend but came down from Las Cruces just to perform Friday at this event. He shares, “It was definitely the largest venue and audience that I have performed in front of with this band. The feeling that you get when you are leading worship songs is remarkable. It binds people together and the music we play is from popular Christian artists. Everyone was singing along. We have so much talent in the El Paso area, we just have to focus the energy of our youth and know that we are doing it for God and not ourselves. The youth is very much alive in this area and we could see it.”

The rest of the weekend included presentations about scripture that dealt with the topic of being Flawless. The Rosary was prayed as well and teens were encouraged to develop a relationship with Jesus through praise, worship, skits, talks, celebration of Holy Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Guest speakers included



Father Jose Robles Sanchez whose background with Life Teen Camps helped him communicate to the young audience on how to find a true and endless life embedded in the Eucharist. Invited guest speaker Father John Amsberry also provided inspirational messages.

Lanie Bejarano from St.



Father Fabian addresses our youth and tells them, “You Can Change The Church”

Raphael Youth Ministry said, “I think it’s a great experience for everyone that comes. We are able to get closer to God and understand Him truly, of who He is to us youth.”

Twenty-two of our parish priests attended the event to hear confessions. Over 700 teens received the sacrament of reconciliation in one day. Almost 200 more teens went to confession this year than last year. The teens were so excited to see each of their priests and cheered each of them on from their respective parishes. Clemente states, “We have the ability to be flawless but all of us fall short of that glory but we have something that Jesus gave to us, the sacrament of reconciliation, to say I am sorry for my sins and please reconcile me back to my relationship with you.”

Bishop’s Liason to Youth

Ministry and Pastor of Buen Pastor Catholic Church said, “Once a year we get to have the entire youth from El Paso and surrounding areas all together in one place, worshipping and praising. It is so powerful! At this event we can see the church of today and the church of today is alive and well in the young people of the El Paso Diocese! He continued, “These kids are the church of today and we as a church need to believe in our youth. They have great abilities to change and make an impact in the church. Events like this foster the love of God and neighbor in our youth.”

The conference goal is to instill hope in our area youth, to let them know that they are not alone and to remind youth that there are people in our community that care for them. Sunday closed with teen testimonies where attendees have the opportunity to go up and say how the conference changed them. Clemente says, “We need to instill in our teens that they are the church right now,

not just of the future. It is difficult being a teen nowadays and difficult parenting nowadays. If we do not speak to them others will. We need to find innovative ways to bring teens into the church.”




Selfies with Father Fabian



More Selfies with Father Fabian


El Paso Southwest Youth Conference committee plans to have more conference type events throughout the year to continue to motivate our youth. Upcoming events include a Lenten Mission for Teens at St. Raphael Parish on February 21, 22 and 23, 2018.



ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY
EL PASO VOCATIONS OFFICE
8330 Park Haven Ave. / EL Paso, Texas 79907 / (915) 872-8403

Posada Vocacional

Vocational Posada



Martires Hall

(AT THE TEPEYAC CAMPUS)

Habr  meditaciones sobre las vocaciones, procesi n, villancicos, tamales, pi ata y aguinaldos.
There will be meditations on vocations, procession, Christmas carols, tamales, pi ata and candy bags.

6:30 pm

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14

JUEVES

News Around Catholic Schools

Most Holy Trinity Catholic School

Crusader Prayer Ministry Teaches Students to Pray for Others



Most Holy Trinity is conducting the “Crusader Prayer Ministry” this school year. Each week after school mass one class remains in the church and prays for different intentions of our students, teachers, parents and parishioners. “While the Crusader had a sword for a weapon and a shield for protection, our prayer ministers are taught that the rosary is your weapon and your faith is your shield”, said principal Jim Horan. “Our students learn about the ‘Crusader’ and the important part they played in fighting to regain control of the Holy Lands during the 11th , 12th and 13th centuries.

In November the fifth grade offered prayers for the poor souls in Purgatory, our veterans and friends who are in need. The prayer session consists of The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, St. Gertrude’s prayer for the souls in Purgatory and the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. “ I like to pray because it helps get souls to heaven and I want souls to go to heaven even if they don’t believe in God”, said Kimberly De la Torre. “I will also pray for my teacher’s son (who just passed away) because his birthday is on Thanksgiving.”

Taking time to pray to God daily is an important part of our faith life. Through the prayer Ministry we are working to strengthen our children’s prayer life in order for them to build their faith.

St. Patrick Cathedral School

St. Patrick Cathedral School Choir To Sing At Christmas Lights Parade

St. Patrick Cathedral School’s Chamber Choir has been invited to sing at the El Paso Museum of History, 510 N.



Santa Fe, on Saturday, Dec. 2, prior to the city’s Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The group will perform from 3-3:30 p.m. at the museum and will consist of

students in grades fourth through fifth grade, under the direction of Mr. Julian Salcido.

This is the second time that the school’s chorus is invited to sing at this event. The last time was back in 2014. The choir will be singing classic Christmas carols. The choir has performed for several bazaars, Masses, special events, and for our very own Bishop, Mark Seitz. The performance is part of the overall Celebration of Lights and Parade on December 2nd, 2017 which draws upwards of 70,000 people to downtown El Paso.

The Fall season was a busy time at St. Patrick Cathedral School as students, parents and faculty/staff took part in a handful of festivities and celebrations. To kick-off the season, the school held its annual Fall Foliage Festival. Everyone took part in games and enjoying delicious food which was being sold during the carnival. Entertainment and dressing up in costumes were also part of the festivities.



Next, students participated in the annual Parade of Costumes on Halloween morning to showcase a variety of cultures to celebrate the school’s “Viva Nuestra Cultura” theme. Elementary school grades did classroom themes: 3K dressed as Cristeros, 4K dressed in Old El Paso attire, 5K donned Asian outfits, 1st grade dressed up in UTEP gear, 2nd graders dressed



Hawaiian, 3rd grade represented Sisters of Loretto/Christian Brothers (Loretto/Cathedral) with their costumes, 4th grade dressed as Cowboys/Native Americans, and 5th grade dressed in Western wear. Middle school grades also wore costumes representing various cultures.

The next two days, students celebrated Día de los Muertos with All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day celebrations. The students set up decorations throughout the school to honor the dead. Fifth-grade students made altars in memory of the dead and also added “Spoon Saints” to the school’s Día de los Muertos display which were made with wooden spoons, and second-grade students made posters to honor some of the saints. Mr. Emil



Chaparro’s sixth-graders built a Día de Muertos altar, an ofrenda, in prayer and remembrance of friends and family members of St. Patrick who have passed away. The altar was located on the stage inside the multipurpose building. The sixth-graders also presented their Parade of Saints for the lower grades. A student representing “Mother Mary” in costume, interviewed each saint during the presentation about how they became saints and why they were chosen to become patrons of causes. There was also a questions and answers part to the presentation.

Students also got to salute family members who served in the military during the annual Veterans Day Program & Breakfast. The event included a prayer, introduction of family members who have served in the military, poems, singing of patriotic songs and “thank yous” presented by the various grade levels. Veterans were also treated to breakfast served by our students.

Rounding out the month, students and families sat down together to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal complete with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans and cranberry. The luncheon was part of the school’s annual Thanksgiving Celebration.



St.

Pius Catholic School St. Pius X Students attend MitM Workshop

The MitM workshop introduced 4th and 5th grade students at St. Pius X Catholic School to cybersecurity, networking, and embedded computing through the use of Raspberry Pi computers. Cybersecurity is a field that has exploded over the last few years. This workshop introduced students to concepts of cybersecurity by making them aware of how easily an individual



can fall victim to cybercrime, and how to prevent it. Students were also exposed to concepts of networking where they learned how a computer talks to other systems within the Internet. The students were introduced

to embedded computing which is one of the latest computer trends being utilized in modern electronics. They also assembled and configured the Raspberry Pi computer. The Linux Operating System was included in the presentation. The workshop was



presented by U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) Survivability/ Lethality Analysis Directorate (SLAD) who donated their time and talents to work with our students.



Alumni, Miss El Paso Teen Texas 2017, visits St. Pius X School.

St. Pius X alumni, Catalina Bernal, was recently crowned Miss El Paso Teen Texas 2017 and will be representing El Paso in the upcoming Miss Texas Teen Competition. Ms. Bernal paid a visit to St. Pius X School along with Miss El Paso Texas 2017, Christa Schafer for Red Ribbon Week, Bully Free Month and the annual food drive project. Students brought in over 1,000 items for our local seminarians. The ladies talked to the students about these topics.

St. Raphael Catholic School

St. Raphael School’s Administration, faculty, and students are excited about the installation of several new J-Touch Interactive boards. Teachers and students are certainly enjoying this new technology. Our students are also actively using I-station for reading and math.

Along with our new Math curriculum, we are blessed to have a math curriculum consultant and a math tutor to work with our students. Our

teachers have attended several math trainings regarding our new curriculum.

Our administrators and faculty keep current with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), and STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), and have attended trainings for these programs.

Technology has been advancing here at St. Raphael School with our Robotics Club getting into full swing. Our students are learning about the design, construction, operation, and use of robots, as well as computer systems for their control, sensory feedback, and information processing. These students participate in robotics competitions at UTEP.

St. Raphael students also participate in Team Quest and will compete at UTEP. The Team Quest Academic Competition is designed for Gifted and Talented Students in grades 3-8. In the competition students compete in 5 CORE areas: Math, Teamwork, Engineering, Creativity, and Trivia.

We have had several activities happening here at St. Raphael School: We dressed as our patron or favorite saint on All Saints Day; we have had Thanksgiving Lunch with our parents; and have collected and donated canned goods and non-perishable items for those less fortunate. Those items were presented at Mass on Friday, November 17.

Our annual car raffle has begun. We will be raffling a 2017 Nissan Sentra from Nissan of Las Cruces. The Raffle will take place after the 8:15 a.m. Mass on December 15. Tickets may be purchased in the school office.



As we wind down our first semester of school, we welcome the Advent season with our annual Advent Program featuring our PreKinder – 3rd grade students. Our program takes place on December 14 at 1:00 p.m. What a wonderful



way to start our Christmas Vacation!

St. Matthew Catholic School 7th & 8th Graders Come Together to Raise \$3,000 for Scholarships

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

7th & 8th grade students who attend St. Matthew Catholic School were challenged by the Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso to raise at least \$1,000 per class over their summer break for the school's endowed fund, managed by the Catholic Foundation. The endowment fund is a permanent fund for the school that provides needed scholarships and financial aid annually to students attending St. Matthew Catholic School.

St. Matthew Catholic School students met the challenge and together raised \$2,000

under the leadership of Olga Macias, who served as principal from 2011 until October of this year. The students raised the money through snack sales, yard work, babysitting, and good old-fashioned fundraising. The Foundation matched the gifts with \$1,000. This is the 3rd year of the "Challenge" tradition at St. Matthew.

The Foundation currently manages 87 separate endowment funds for diocesan charities, ministries, parishes, and schools. Of these, 25 funds are designated for Catholic schools with a combined value of close to \$7 million

and 8 are named scholarship funds, including the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, the Luz Ulrickson Scholarship Fund for Cathedral High School, Miles Scholarship Fund, Nancy Mendez Saucedo Scholarship Fund for Father Yermo High School, the Cathedral Alumni Association Endowment Fund, and the Loretto Academy Scholarship Fund. Each one of El Paso's schools has at least one endowed fund for scholarships. Every spring, the Foundation distributes 4% of the fund's value to schools.

If you're interested in providing scholarships, gifts to endowment for scholarships and financial aid, making a donation to the Foundation from your IRA, or you and your family want to sponsor a scholarship fund, contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at slarkin@elpasodiocese.org or 915.872.8412.

To learn more about the Catholic Foundation's work and to donate easily and securely, visit elpasodiocesefoundation.org. Your continued generosity makes this work possible.

The Foundation's

aim is to work with Catholic school students to build community and inspire philanthropy. Congratulations to St. Matthew Catholic School for their acts of compassion and stewardship!

You can reach Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at 915.872.8412 or slarkin@elpasodiocese.org. The Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso is located at the Pastoral Center at 499 St. Matthews Street and office hours are Monday – Friday, 9-12, 1-5, and by appointment.

**St. Matthew
Catholic School
8th Grade Class**



**St. Matthew
Catholic
School
7th Grade
Class**



HOLY TRINITY RETREAT CENTER

14548 Simpson

El Paso, Texas 79938

holytrinityregistry@gmail.com



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THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!